

May *Day*



Let's celebrate Spring and Labour



May Day

01

What is May Day?

03

Do you know
why we celebrate it?



02

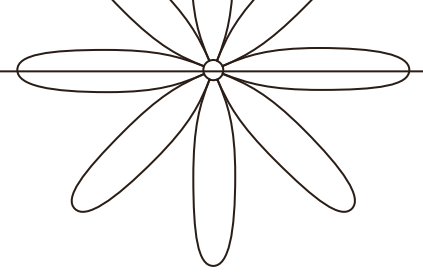
When do we
celebrate it?

04

How do you
celebrate it?



Happy May Day!



What words associated
with May Day can you
recall?

1. s _ r _ n _

2. w _ r _

3. _ a _ o _ r

4. _ o _ i _ a _

Match the words with their Russian equivalents.

1. enshrine
2. blossom
3. garland
4. Middle Ages
5. pagan
6. ribbon
7. maypole
8. dawn



- a. майское дерево
- b. расцветать
- c. языческий
- d. гирлянда, венок
- e. Средние века
- f. лента
- g. прописать
- h. рассвет

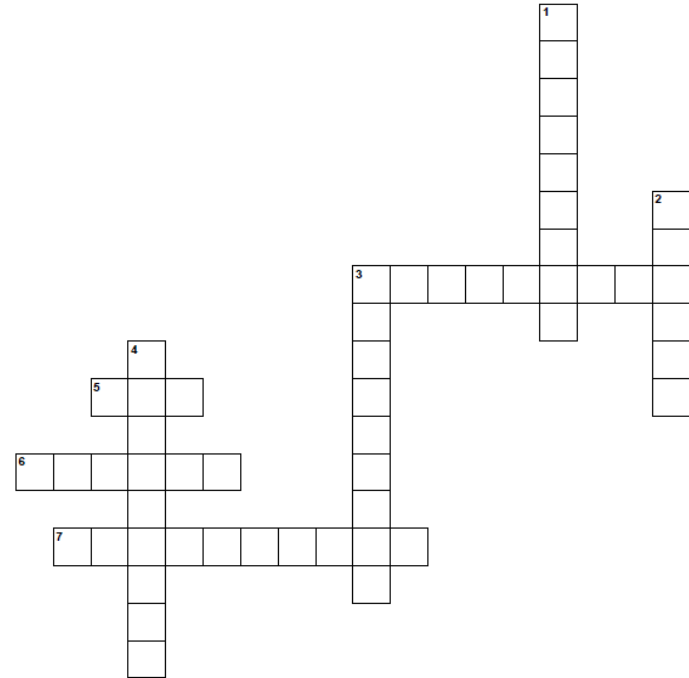
Solve the crossword puzzle. Use dictionary if necessary.

Across

- [3] the people living in one particular area or people who are considered as a unit because of their common interests, social group, or nationality
[5] drops of water that form on the ground and other surfaces outside during the night
[6] a way of behaving or a belief that has been established for a long time
[7] agreement between and support for the members of a group

Down

- [1] the act of starting to understand something or feel something
[2] a day when you do not have to work or do something that you normally do
[3] to take part in special enjoyable activities in order to show that a particular occasion is important
[4] the quality of being able to produce young or fruit



Read the text about May Day

May Day is the holiday of the first day of the month of May. But before 1752, when the calendar was changed, it was 11 days earlier.

It is the time of year when warmer weather begins and flowers and trees start to blossom. It is said to be a time of love and romance. It is when people celebrate the coming of summer with lots of different customs that are expressions of joy and hope after a long winter.

May Day celebrations have their origins in the Roman festival of Flora, goddess of flowers, which marked the beginning of summer. People decorated their houses and villages with fresh-cut flowers gathered at dawn in the belief that the vegetation spirits would bring good fortune.

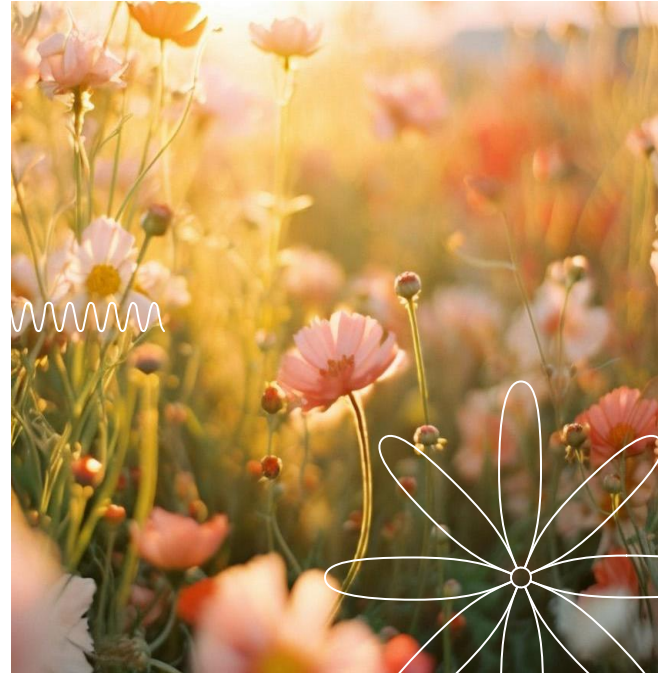
May 1st was an important day in the Middle Ages. In the very early morning, young girls went into the fields and washed their faces with dew. They believed this made them very beautiful for a year after that. Also, on May Day the young men of each village tried to win prizes with their bows and arrows. In some places May Day celebrations begin at sunset on 30 April. They include lots of floral decorations and processions through towns and villages.

May is the month for traditional dancing around the maypole. Many English villages still have a maypole, and on May 1st, the villagers dance around it.

The original maypoles were freshly felled trees, stripped of their branches, brought into the community and adorned with garlands and ribbons. The Maypole was originally a pagan fertility symbol. Today in the Russian Federation, the holiday has lost its political color, is celebrated under the name of the Holiday of Spring and Labor and is a day off. Officially, the Day is enshrined in Article 112 of the Labor Code of the Russian Federation of December 30, 2001. No matter how May Day is called the Day of Workers, Solidarity or the Spring and Labor Holiday, for many, May 1 is traditionally symbolized by the revival and arrival of spring. The great emotional charge that carries with it the sensation of the spring awakening of nature.

Say if the following statements are True, False or Not Stated

1. May Day is celebrated on the first day of May.
2. May Day is the coldest day of the year.
3. The origins of May Day celebrations can be traced back to the Roman festival of Flora.
4. May 1st will become an important day in the future.
5. Young girls washed their faces with water from the river.
6. Young men used to play football on May Day.
7. May Day celebrations start the night before in some locations.
8. May Day is a time of hatred and loneliness.
9. The calendar will change again in the future.
10. People believed that decorating with fresh flowers would bring them good luck.

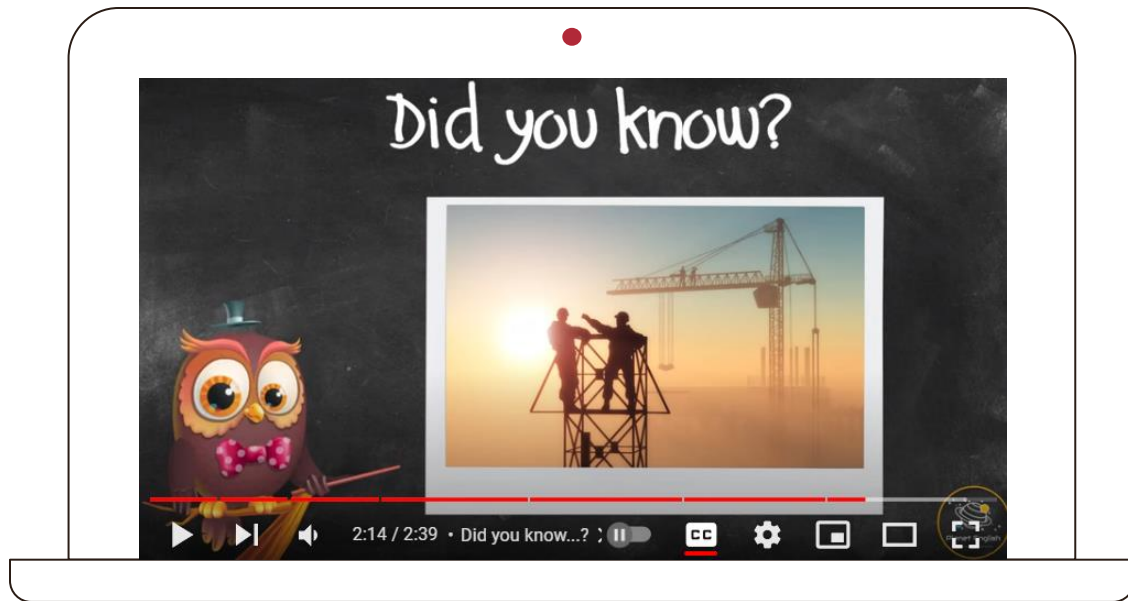


Answer the questions

1. What is the significance of May Day?
2. How has the date of May Day changed over time?
3. What are some customs associated with May Day celebrations?
4. What was the Roman festival that influenced May Day celebrations?
5. Why did people decorate their houses and villages with fresh-cut flowers on May Day?
6. What were some traditions observed in the Middle Ages on May Day?
7. When do some places begin their May Day celebrations?



Watch the video



https://vk.com/video556210500_456239033

Choose the correct answer

1. What is the traditional English celebration associated with May Day?
 - A. Fireworks display
 - B. Morris dancing
 - C. Parades
 - D. Picnics
2. What is the significance of a May Queen in May Day celebrations?
 - A. Crowning the queen as the symbol of spring
 - B. Choosing the most beautiful woman in the town
 - C. Electing a representative for the community
 - D. Honoring the goddess of fertility
3. What is the purpose of dancing around a May Pole?
 - A. To honor the harvest
 - B. To welcome the summer solstice
 - C. To bring the community together
 - D. To celebrate the spring equinox
4. When did the earliest known May Day celebration take place?
 - A. During the 14th century in the UK
 - B. In the 1st century AD by the Romans
 - C. In the 18th century in Europe
 - D. In the 20th century in the US
5. What is the connection between May Day and International Workers' Day?
 - A. They are celebrated on the same day
 - B. They both honor the end of the harvest season
 - C. They both commemorate the labor movement
 - D. They both mark the beginning of spring
6. What is the purpose of gathering cuttings of flowering trees on May Day?
 - A. To decorate homes and bring in spring
 - B. To plant new trees in the community
 - C. To make medicine from the plants
 - D. To offer the flowers to the May Queen
7. Why was the current May Day bank holiday in the UK created?
 - A. To celebrate the coronation of the monarch
 - B. To mark the start of the tourism season
 - C. To provide a day off for workers
 - D. To honor the founding of the UK

Complete the dialogue with the given phrases

have any traditions / have a barbecue with friends and family / we usually make shashlik / You should come check it out! / there any parades / No problem! / That sounds fun /

Kevin: Hey, do you have any plans for May Day?

Rachel: Oh, yeah. It's a big holiday here in Russia. We usually (1) ____ .

Kevin: (2) _____. I've never celebrated May Day before. What is it exactly?

Rachel: Well, May Day is an international workers' holiday, but in Russia, it also marks the start of spring. So we usually spend the day outside enjoying the warmer weather.

Kevin: That sounds nice. Do you guys (3) _____ or special foods for May Day?

Rachel: Yeah, (4) _____, which is basically grilled meat on skewers. And we also paint hard-boiled eggs as a symbol of new life and fertility.

Kevin: Wow, that all sounds really interesting. Are (5) _____ or festivals celebrating May Day?

Rachel: Yes, there are usually parades and concerts in the main squares of cities. There are also traditional dances and performances. (6) _____

Kevin: Definitely. Thanks for telling me about this holiday. I'm excited to experience it firsthand.

Rachel: (7) _____ Just make sure to wear red - it's the color associated with May Day and good luck.

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