

Text D
May Day

1. Find the meaning of the following words: pole, ribbons, crown, roll, steep
2. Then read the text and fill in the table below.

The first of May is called May Day in Britain. This is a very old festival held to celebrate the first day of summer. Many towns and villages still hold traditional May Day celebrations. Some towns and villages decorate the streets and houses with flowers. In others, there is dancing and the people put up a Maypole. This is a tall pole with coloured ribbons hanging from the top. The dancers take a ribbon each and dance around the pole. As they dance, the ribbons make a colourful pattern around the Maypole. It is also traditional to choose a May Queen and crown her. She wears a white dress and a crown of flowers and walks at the front of a procession through the streets. In Padstow, a village in the south-west, two men dress up as horses and everyone follows them through the streets singing an old song. In another village there is a 'Cheese Rolling' competition. Everyone goes to the top of a very steep hill. A big round cheese is rolled down the hill and everyone tries to chase it. The winner gets free cheese for twenty years!

	Snake Festival	Bun Festival	Land Diving Festival	May Day
Where?				
When?				
Why?				
What happens?				
Special Food?				

3. Share your information with your group and complete the table for all the festivals.
4. Discuss in your group: Which festival would you like to go to most?
5. Invent a festival! Work together and invent a festival for one of these events:

Midwinter

The first day of autumn

The longest day

Fill in the table for your festival and then write a description.

Where?	
When?	
Why?	
What happens?	
Special Food?	