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it's festive

information
+
sample activity



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it's **activity books**

introduction

IT'S FESTIVE contains a collection of teaching activities related to special days and holidays. IT'S FESTIVE includes material for Christmas and the New Year. There are also activities for Valentine's Day, April Fool's Day, Earth Day and Halloween, as well as the national days of Australia, Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, and the United States. In IT'S FESTIVE your students can send cards, organise a party, learn to dance and complete the Four Seasons Pizza Puzzle.

The book comes with a CD of interactive exercises from the its-english Internet site, audio activities, and ready-to-print pages from the book in PDF format.

LEVEL

The material in this book is suitable for all levels from elementary to upper-intermediate. Each activity has a level indicator that includes the COE level.

A1 Elementary
A2 Pre-intermediate

B1 Lower- to mid-intermediate
B2 Upper-intermediate



INTERACTIVE CD

On the IT'S FESTIVE CD you will find:

- interactive exercises
- audio material including Christmas songs
- PDF files of selected pages ready to print including additional pantomime scripts

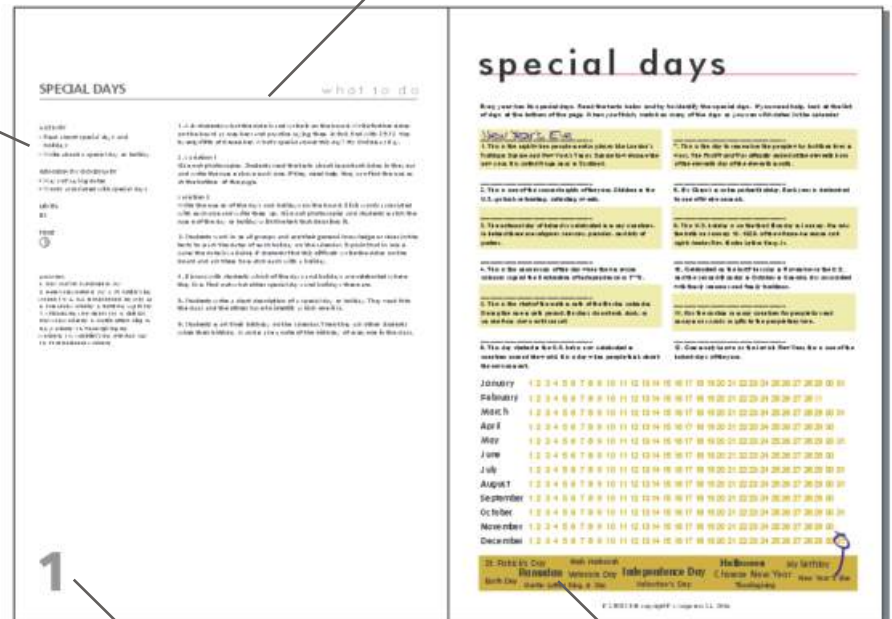
how to use the material

All the activities in IT'S FESTIVE are presented in an easy-to-use format. The material to photocopy appears on the right page, while the left page includes an activity key and step-by-step teaching notes. Selected activities can be printed in colour directly from the accompanying CD.

activity key includes

- ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION
- GRAMMAR/VOCABULARY
- LEVEL
- LENGTH OF ACTIVITY
 - short
 - medium
 - long
 - very long
- PREPARATION REQUIRED
- CD ACTIVITIES & PAGES TO PRINT FROM CD
- ANSWER KEY

teaching notes



activity number

page to photocopy

activity index level

1	SPECIAL DAYS	A2
2	CARDS FOR EVERY OCCASION (1)	A2
3	CARDS FOR EVERY OCCASION (2)	B1
4	HAPPY BIRTHDAY	A2, B1
	Birthday quiz	B1
	Music quiz	A2
5	IT'S MY PARTY	A2
6	LET'S DANCE	A2
7	THE PIZZA PUZZLE	B1
8	THE FOUR SEASONS	B1
9	CHINESE NEW YEAR	B2
10	WHAT ANIMAL?	B1
	January/February (Chinese New Year)	
11	WILD AUSTRALIA QUIZ	A1
	January 26 (Australia Day)	
12	VALENTINE'S DAY	B1
	February 14	
13	PUT ON A MASK	A2
	February/March (Carnival)	
14	IRELAND	B1
	March 17 (Saint Patrick's Day)	
15	PUTTING MERETRICIOUS ON THE MAP	B2
	April 1 (April Fool's Day)	
16	THE ENGLAND QUIZ	B1
	April 23 (Saint George's Day)	
17	ALWAYS? SOMETIMES? NEVER?	B1
	April 22 (Earth Day)	
18	THE GREAT WHITE NORTH QUIZ	B1
	July 1 (Canada Day)	
19	IT'S AS AMERICAN AS	B1
	July 4 (U.S. Independence Day)	
20	HALLOWEEN	A2, B1
	October 31	
21	SCOTLAND THE BRAVE	B1
	November 30 (Saint Andrew's Day)	
22	CHRISTMAS SONGS	A2
	December	
23	THE CHRISTMAS CRACKER QUIZ	B2
24	CHRISTMAS SHOPPING	A2
25	PANTOMIMES	B1
26	NEW YEAR	A1
	December 31 (New Year's Eve)	
27	BEST AND WORST	A1
	December	
28	PREDICT THE FUTURE	B1
	December/January	

activities by level

A1 Elementary

WILD AUSTRALIA QUIZ 11

Do a quiz about Australia

NEW YEAR 26

Imagine midnight on New Year's Eve
Read about New Year's Eve celebrations in Scotland
Make New Year resolutions

BEST AND WORST 27

Vote on the best and worst in the past year

CD activities

Party invitation: Could you write a party invitation?
Find out here.

Make an invitation: Enter the details of your party,
print an invitation, and send it to friends.

Party chat: Go to a virtual party and make some virtual
friends.

Valentine's Day: Put the missing lines back in three
valentine poems.

Australia: How much do you know about the country
the British call "down under"?

Christmas activities: Learn how to talk about some of
the typical things that happen at Christmas.

New Year resolutions: Write your New Year resolutions,
and then print a copy to help you remember them.

A2 Pre-intermediate

SPECIAL DAYS 1

Read about special days and holidays
Write about a special day or holiday

CARDS FOR EVERY OCCASION (1) 2

Talk about sending and receiving cards
Identify special occasions that cards celebrate

IT'S MY PARTY 5

Talk about parties
Play a party game

LET'S DANCE 6

Read about popular dances
Follow dance steps

PUT ON A MASK 13

Identify types of masks
Read about masks
Design a carnival mask

CHRISTMAS SONGS 22

Sing Christmas carols

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING 24

Plan what presents to buy and where
Talk about attitudes to Christmas

CD activities

Holidays and festivals: Find out about some special
days celebrated in different parts of the world.

Carnival: People wear masks at Carnival. Can you
match these masks to the descriptions?

Earth Day: Celebrate Earth Day by taking our green
survey to find out how environmentally friendly you
are.

Ireland: Test your knowledge of Ireland and try to
speak in Irish.

United Kingdom: Find out what you know about
Scotland and England.

Canada: Take a quiz about the Great White North.

The USA: Celebrate Independence Day with an exercise
to test what you know about the USA.

Predict the future: Roll three dice and discover what
the future holds for you.

B1 Lower- to mid-intermediate

CARDS FOR EVERY OCCASION (2) 3

Talk about sending and receiving cards
Identify special occasions that cards celebrate

HAPPY BIRTHDAY 4

Answer a birthday quiz
Answer revision questions
Research your birth year

THE PIZZA PUZZLE 7

Do a crossword puzzle
Associate words and seasons

THE FOUR SEASONS 8

Describe pictures showing the four seasons
Talk about seasons

WHAT ANIMAL? 10

Discover your Chinese animal sign
Read your character description

VALENTINE'S DAY 12

Do a quiz about love
Do a picture dictation

IRELAND 14

Do a crossword about Ireland

THE ENGLAND QUIZ 16

Do a quiz about England

ALWAYS? SOMETIMES? NEVER? 17

Talk about environmental problems
Do a questionnaire: "How green are you?"

THE GREAT WHITE NORTH QUIZ 18

Do a quiz about Canada
Read about Canadian English
Prepare a dialogue in Canadian English

IT'S AS AMERICAN AS 19

Do a quiz about the USA

HALLOWEEN 20

Do a Halloween crossword
Read a horror story
Write a horror story

SCOTLAND THE BRAVE 21

Do a quiz about Scotland
Identify images associated with Scotland

PANTOMINES 25

Prepare and perform a pantomime

PREDICT THE FUTURE 28

Play a dice game and read predictions

CD activities

Four seasons: Look at some words and phrases connected to the four seasons.

Summer recipes: Learn how to make some simple summer food.

Christmas figures: Can you sort out the Christmas facts and figures?

Christmas cracker quiz: Put your knowledge of Christmas traditions to the test.

Chinese New Year: Find out about the Chinese New Year and see what animal you are in the Chinese horoscope.

B2 Upper-intermediate

CHINESE NEW YEAR 9

Read about the Chinese New Year
Read a Chinese legend

PUTTING MERETRICIOUS ON THE MAP 15

Read about an island paradise

THE CHRISTMAS CRACKER QUIZ 23

Do a Christmas quiz

ACTIVITY

- Read about special days and holidays
- Write about a special day or holiday

GRAMMAR/VOCABULARY

- Ways of saying dates
- Words associated with special days

LEVEL

B1

TIME



ANSWERS

1. New Year's Eve (December 31);
2. Halloween (October 31); 3. St Patrick's Day (March 17); 4. U.S. Independence Day (July 4);
5. Ramadan (variable); 6. Earth Day (April 22);
7. Veterans Day (November 11); 8. Chinese New Year (variable); 9. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (variable); 10. Thanksgiving Day (variable); 11. Valentine's Day (February 14);
12. Rosh Hashanah (variable)

1. Ask students what the date is and write it on the board. Write further dates on the board as numbers and practise saying them in full. End with 25/12 the twenty-fifth of December. What's special about this day? It's Christmas Day.

2. Variation 1

Give out photocopies. Students read the texts about important dates in the year and write the name above each one. If they need help, they can find the names at the bottom of the page.

Variation 2

Write the names of the days and holidays on the board. Elicit words associated with each one and write them up. Give out photocopies, and students match the name of the day or holiday with the text that describes it.

3. Students work in small groups and use their general knowledge or clues in the texts to mark the dates of each holiday on the calendar. Explain that in some cases the date is variable. If students find this difficult, write the dates on the board and ask them to match each with a holiday.

4. Discuss with students which of the days and holidays are celebrated where they live. Find out what other special days and holidays there are.

5. Students write a short description of a special day or holiday. They read it to the class and the others have to identify which one it is.

6. Students mark their birthday on the calendar. Then they ask other students when their birthday is and make a note of the birthday of everyone in the class.

special days

Every year has its special days. Read the texts below and try to identify the special days. If you need help, look at the list of days at the bottom of the page. When you finish, match as many of the days as you can with dates in the calendar.

New Year's Eve

1. This is the night when people meet in places like London's Trafalgar Square and New York's Times Square to welcome the new year. It is called Hogmanay in Scotland.

2. This is one of the scariest nights of the year. Children in the United States go trick-or-treating, collecting sweets.

3. The national day of Ireland is celebrated in many countries. In Ireland there are religious services, parades and lots of parties.

4. This is the anniversary of the day when the American colonies signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

5. This is the start of the ninth month of the Muslim calendar. During the one-month period, Muslims do not eat, drink or smoke from dawn until sunset.

6. This day started in the U.S. but is now celebrated in countries around the world. It is a day when people think about the environment.

7. This is the day to remember the people who lost their lives in wars. The First World War officially ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

8. It's China's most important holiday. Each year is dedicated to one of 12 animals.

9. This U.S. holiday is on the third Monday in January. It marks the birth on January 15, 1929, of the African-American civil rights leader Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

10. Celebrated on the last Thursday in November in the United States and the second Monday in October in Canada, it is associated with family reunions and family traditions.

11. It is the custom in many countries for people to send anonymous cards or gifts to the people they love on this day.

12. Commonly known as the Jewish New Year, this is one of the holiest days of the year for Jewish people.

January	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
February	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
March	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
April	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
May	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
June	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
July	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
August	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
September	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
October	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
November	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
December	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

St Patrick's Day

Rosh Hashanah

Halloween

My birthday

Earth Day

Ramadan

Veterans Day

Independence Day

Chinese New Year

New Year's Eve

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Valentine's Day

Thanksgiving