EASTER AROUND THE WORLD

EASTER is celebrated in many different ways all around the world. To celebrate the festival, let’s take a look at some of these fascinating traditions from Australia, France, Hungary and Italy:

AUSTRALIA

Down Under, they don’t appreciate bunnies like we do over here. Australians get upset at the little fellows for ruining their crops and land. So, rather than an Easter Bunny, many Australians have an Easter Bilby, which is a rabbit-eared bandicoot (a marsupial) that is native to Australia. Which do you think are cuter: bunnies or bilbies?

HAUX, FRANCE

Omelette, anyone?

In Haux, a town in southern France, a giant omelette made with a whopping 4,500 eggs is served on Easter Monday, making for a tasty Easter lunch for 1,000 people! Apparently, when Napoleon and his army were travelling through France, they stopped in a small town and ate omelettes. Napoleon liked his so much that he ordered the townspeople to gather their eggs and make a giant omelette for his army the next day. This has now become an Easter tradition.

HUNGARY

In Hungary, they take part in the Easter tradition of ‘sprinkling’! While the idea of sprinkling someone sounds a bit gross, it’s actually an Easter Monday tradition where boys playfully ‘sprinkle’ perfume, cologne or just plain water on girls, in exchange for painted eggs.

FLORENCE, ITALY

In Florence, locals celebrate a 350-year-old Easter tradition known as Scoppio del Carro, or ‘explosion of the cart’. A well-decorated cart, packed with fireworks, is led through the streets of Florence by people in colourful 15th-century costumes, before it’s detonated by an archbishop. Pretty!
1) Find the names of the four countries featured in the article.

2) Why do Australians have an Easter Bilby instead of an Easter Bunny?

3) How many eggs are used in Haux to make the giant omelette?
   - 1,000
   - 350
   - 450
   - 4,500

4) What did Napoleon order the townspeople to do?

5) What Easter Monday tradition do they have in Hungary?

6) What does Scoppio del Carro translate to in English?
   - Explosion of the City
   - Explosion of Florence
   - Explosion of the Cart

7) Why do you think the writer chose the word detonated to describe what happens to the cart packed with fireworks?

8) Do you have any special Easter traditions? Write a few lines describing the traditions and then explain why you do them.
WORLD NEWS

SOUTH KOREA
Incredibly fast internet
South Korea’s Ministry of Science and ICT is pushing to create a ten-gigabit internet network across the country. This would make their download speeds ten times faster than the current highest in the world, meaning that HD movies could be downloaded in seconds. South Korea hopes that 50% of the country will have 10Gb internet by 2022.

AUSTRALIA
The quoll returns!
After an absence of 50 years, the eastern quoll has been reintroduced to the mainland Australian wilderness. The mini marsupials had previously vanished because their habitat (where they lived) was destroyed by humans. Also, more predators that hunt quolls, like foxes and cats, were introduced to Australia, further pushing the number of quolls down. Researchers hope that they’ll be able to keep the quolls safe and happy in their new home by checking on them with radio-tracking collars fitted to the creatures’ necks.

CHINA
Panda park
Good news for pandas – a huge new national park is going to be built as a home for the cute creatures in China. The Chinese forestry ministry has confirmed that the Bank of China has pledged at least £1.1bn to create a massive conservation park for pandas in southwest Sichuan province. The park will cover two million hectares (5m acres), and will provide the endangered animals with a home to meet and mate. There are only an estimated 1,864 pandas left living in the wild.
WORLD NEWS

1) Which **country** is pushing to create a ten-gigabit internet network?

2) How much faster would the new internet network make download speeds in this country?
   - [ ] twice as fast
   - [ ] ten times faster
   - [ ] fifty times faster

3) According to the article, what could be downloaded in seconds on the proposed network?
   - [ ] games
   - [ ] music
   - [ ] HD movies

**Look at the news from Australia**

4) What type of animal is a quoll?

5) Which word tells you that the quolls have been put back in the Australian wilderness?
   - [ ] researchers
   - [ ] reintroduced
   - [ ] radiotracking

6) What two reasons did the writer give for the quolls vanishing 50 years ago?

**Look at the news from China**

7) The Chinese forestry ministry has confirmed that they will fund a massive conservation park for pandas. What will this park provide for pandas and why is it so important?

8) Can you think of any **benefits** the Chinese panda park will provide for humans? Explain your answer.
BRITISH QUIDDITCH CUP 2018

A MAGICAL sporting event is flying into Oxford this weekend (24th-25th March).

Muggles from across the country will be coming together for this year’s British Quidditch Cup – inspired, of course, by our favourite boy wizard, Harry Potter!

In the Harry Potter books, Quidditch is a wizarding sport played on broomsticks. It is a popular and well-known game among wizards and witches, and, according to Rubeus Hagrid, the equivalent to Muggles’ passion for football.

Although there’s no flying involved, real life Quidditch is much like the popular game from the Potter books and contestants must come equipped with brooms that they hold between their legs!

Thirty two teams from across the country are taking part in the British Quidditch Cup, with the likes of the Oxford Chimeras, the Norwich Nifflers, the St Andrews Snidgets and the Holyrood Hippogriffs all seeking to win the top prize.

Quidditch is also played across the world. As well as the British Quidditch Cup, there is the European Games and the Quidditch World Cup!
CRAZY BUT TRUE

1) What is the name of the famous boy wizard who inspired Quidditch?

☐ Henry Potter
☐ Harry Potter
☐ Harold Potter
☐ Hagrid Potter

2) Which sporting event is being held in Oxford from the 24th-25th March?

3) What equipment do the contestants need to play Quidditch?

☐ a quidditch robe
☐ magic spells
☐ wings
☐ a broom

4) In the books, what Muggle sport does Rubeus Hagrid compare the wizards’ passion for Quidditch to?

5) In the article, find the names of three of the Quidditch teams that will be competing in Oxford in March.

6) What other international Quidditch competitions are mentioned in the article?

7) Find one similarity and one difference between real world Quidditch and wizard Quidditch.
NEW laws approved this week mean that rockets, satellites and other spacecraft could be launched from the UK for the very first time.

The Space Industry Bill was given Royal Assent (approval) this week. Jo Johnson, the transport minister, said: “The Space Industry Bill gives companies the ability to launch satellites from UK soil, putting us at the forefront of the new space race and helping us to compete as the destination of choice for satellite companies worldwide.”

Various coastal aerodromes across England, Scotland and Wales have been shortlisted as potential locations for a spaceport. They include Glasgow Prestwick, Newquay and Llanbedr in Wales.

The news is very exciting for the British space industry, and work is already underway to ensure the next generation of children are involved. The space sector and Government’s Year of Engineering campaign is championing engineering careers for young people. Engineering jobs involve designing, building and maintaining machines, structures and engines. You can find out more about the Year of Engineering, including events happening throughout 2018 at yearofengineering.gov.uk
1) According to the article, which of the following could be launched from the UK for the first time?

- solar panels
- satellites
- aeroplanes
- rockets

2) What bill was given Royal Assent (approval) this week?

3) Why do you think the writer chose ‘Space Base’ as the headline for this story?

4) Which of these phrases best explains the meaning of the word “forefront” in the article?

- behind all the other companies in the world
- the leading or most important position or place
- following the example of other companies

5) What is an aerodrome?

- a small port or harbour
- a small airport or airfield
- a small rail terminal or depot

6) Several places have been chosen as possible site for the new space base. What do all these locations have in common?

7) What skills do you think you need to work in engineering?

8) Imagine you have become a leading space engineer. What special features would you design for a rocket or a satellite?