

British and American Festivities

Gina D. B. Clemen



Audio CD





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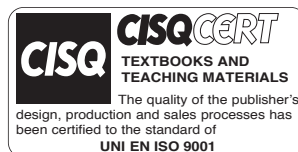
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KET Cambridge KET-style exercises

T: GRADES 3/4 Trinity-style exercises (Grades 3/4)

The text is recorded in full.



These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the extracts linked to the listening activities.



Introduction

In this book you will learn about the most important festivities of the year in Britain and America, their origins and how people celebrate them. Here are some words and expressions you will find in various chapters of this book. How many of them do you know?

Things to see or do at festivities

- a bonfire :



- to give cards :



- costumes :



- fireworks :



- flags :



- a float :



- to march : soldiers walk in this way.
- marching bands : these groups of musicians march and play music in a parade (see below for 'parade').

- a mask :



- a parade : a celebration with a procession of people and floats in the streets.
- to make a speech : to talk formally about a subject in front of a group of people.

Historical background

- **bishop** : an important priest in the Christian Church (see below for 'priest').
- **Celts** (people) / **Celtic** (adjective) : these people originated in West and Central Europe in about 1200 BC. They came to the British Isles in the fifth century (see below for 'BC').
- **colonists** (people) / **colony** (place) : these people went to a different country and started living there. The new country became a colony of the original country they came from.
- **pagans** : these people believed in gods of nature. Pagan religions are older than the major religions of the world today.
- **priest** : this person performs religious ceremonies.
- **the Roman Empire** : this enormous empire included most of Europe, the Middle East and the north coast of Africa. It lasted from the first to the fifth centuries AD (see below for 'AD').
- **slaves** (people) / **slavery** (system) : these people were not free; a master owned them.

Times, days and measurements

- **AD** : abbreviation for *Anno Domini*. A way of counting the years after Christ was born.
- **BC** : abbreviation for *Before Christ*. A way of counting the years before Christ was born. Note: non-Christians sometimes use CE (Common Era) instead of AD, and BCE (before the Common Era) instead of BC. This system counts the years in the same way.
- **century** : 100 years.
- **mile** : 1 mile = 1.609 kilometres.
- **public holiday** : a national holiday.

Others

- **crops / harvest** : crops are plants that farmers grow for food. The harvest is the period of the year when the farmers collect the crops.

BEFORE YOU READ

1 What do you know about Christopher Columbus? Choose the correct answer A, B or C.

- | | | | |
|--|----------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. When was Columbus born? | A | ☐ | 1351 |
| | B | ☐ | 1451 |
| | C | ☐ | 1551 |
| 2. What was his nationality? | A | ☐ | Italian |
| | B | ☐ | Spanish |
| | C | ☐ | Portuguese |
| 3. Which of these things did Columbus believe? | A | ☐ | The world was square. |
| | B | ☐ | The world was flat. |
| | C | ☐ | The world was round. |
| 4. Which continent did Columbus travel to? | A | ☐ | America |
| | B | ☐ | Australia |
| | C | ☐ | Africa |

2 TRAVELLING BY SEA

Do you know these words connected to travelling at sea? Match them to the correct definition.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| a. to sail | i. To travel in order to find new places. |
| b. navigator | ii. To travel across an area of water. |
| c. ship | iii. This is a long journey at sea. |
| d. voyage | iv. This is the area where boats arrive and leave. |
| e. to explore | v. This is a large boat. |
| f. port | vi. This kind of explorer travelled by sea. |

3 GLOSSARY CHECK

You can find definitions of the following words in the glossary on pages 4-5. Check any words that you do not understand.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| • a float | • a mile | • costumes |
| • to march/marching bands | • a parade | • a colony |



Columbus Day

On the second Monday of October Americans celebrate Columbus Day; they remember Christopher Columbus's voyage to America in 1492.

Who was Christopher Columbus?

Christopher Columbus was born in 1451 in Genoa, a city on the north-west coast of Italy. At this time Genoa was a very important commercial port. The young Christopher often went to the port and watched the ships leave: they seemed to go under the horizon.¹ Many people at this time thought the world was flat, but others – Columbus included – believed that the world was round. Columbus wanted to test this idea. He first went to

1. **horizon** : where the sea and the sky meet.

sea when he was only fourteen years old.

Columbus went to live in Portugal. When he was only twenty-three he had the idea of going to India, China and Japan by sailing west. If the world was round, this was possible, he thought. But he needed money, ships and men. He asked a lot of people for support,¹ including the kings of Portugal, England and France, but he got no help. Then he explained his idea to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain. They were interested and, after some years, decided to help him.



Columbus before the Queen (1843) by Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze.

1. **support** [sə'pɔ:t] : (here) financial help.



The first voyage (1893) by Prang Educational Company.

They gave him three ships: the *Santa Maria*, the *Niña* and the *Pinta*. It was difficult to find sailors for the voyage because it was long and dangerous. Finally, Columbus found about ninety men. He was ready to test his theory.

On 3 August 1492, Columbus and the sailors left Palos, on the coast of Spain. Queen Isabella and other important people went to see him leave.

Columbus navigated with a magnetic compass.¹ His ships travelled about 150 miles a day. The voyage was long and difficult, but the three ships arrived at the island of San Salvador in the Bahamas on 12 October 1492. Columbus claimed² these new lands for Spain.

Columbus's voyage changed the future of navigation, and the

1. **magnetic compass** :



2. **claimed** : said they were the property of Spain.



Columbus taking possession of the new country (1893)
by Prang Educational Company.

world. People in Europe called the new lands the 'New World'. When Columbus returned to Spain he told the King and Queen about the new lands and showed them gold, valuable objects and even some natives. They were very happy with Columbus's discovery.

After Columbus, people from other European countries also went to the New World. Spain, Portugal and England established colonies there. They found many new foods, plants and animals in the New World.

Celebrating Columbus Day

The first celebration of Columbus Day was on 12 October 1792, in New York City, three hundred years after Columbus's voyage.

Four hundred years after the discovery of the New World, the city of

Columbus Day

Chicago celebrated Columbus's discovery with the Great Columbian Exposition. This exhibition, starting in May 1892 and finishing in October, attracted twenty-eight million visitors. Many streets, schools and universities all over the world are called 'Columbus'.

Today many Americans celebrate Columbus Day with colourful parades. There is also sometimes a kind of 'Miss Columbus', called a Columbus Day Queen. The parades are very long, with big floats dedicated to Columbus and marching bands. There are multicultural floats, too, and people of different nationalities participate in the parade.

Sometimes there are protests by groups of native Americans on Columbus Day. They remember that the arrival of Columbus meant the beginning of the domination of native Americans.



Columbus Day Parade in New York City.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

KET

1

Are these sentences 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B)? If there is not enough information to answer 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B), choose 'Doesn't say' (C). There is an example at the beginning (0).

- | | | | | |
|---|---|----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 0 | People in the United States and Great Britain celebrate Columbus Day. | A Right | B Wrong | C Doesn't say |
| 1 | Christopher Columbus came from Genoa. | A Right | B Wrong | C Doesn't say |
| 2 | Columbus thought the world was flat. | A Right | B Wrong | C Doesn't say |
| 3 | Columbus's father was a rich man. | A Right | B Wrong | C Doesn't say |
| 4 | Columbus wanted to sail to the West. | A Right | B Wrong | C Doesn't say |
| 5 | King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella gave Columbus a ship for the voyage. | A Right | B Wrong | C Doesn't say |
| 6 | No one lived in the continent of America before Columbus arrived there. | A Right | B Wrong | C Doesn't say |
| 7 | After Columbus, many other people explored the New World. | A Right | B Wrong | C Doesn't say |
| 8 | The Italian population of San Francisco organized the first Columbus Day in 1792. | A Right | B Wrong | C Doesn't say |
| 9 | Not all native Americans are happy about Columbus Day. | A Right | B Wrong | C Doesn't say |

2

Which of these men were great explorers? Circle their names.

Marco Polo	King Arthur	Magellan	Robin Hood	Sir Francis Drake
Captain Cook	King Ferdinand	Vasco Da Gama	Amerigo Vespucci	

Name a famous explorer from your country.
What countries or regions did he explore?

3

TOPIC – JOBS

Columbus became a great navigator. In a port like Genoa, many people worked on ships or at sea. What different jobs did people do in your town? What jobs do they do now? Think about a job you want to do. Bring a photo or picture of someone doing this job to the class and talk about it. Use the following questions to help you.

- a. What job do you want to do?
- b. Why do you like this job?
- c. Is it interesting? Is it dangerous?

4

Look at the picture and read the text below.



In 1893 the city of Chicago held the Great Columbian Exposition. The Exposition was on Lake Michigan.

It was a very important event for the city of Chicago. The city built many new, beautiful buildings. There were buildings to represent the different states of the United States of America and almost 50 foreign countries participated. Inside the buildings there was information about each state or country: its history, culture and art.

Now complete the sentences with the words from the box.

states Lake Michigan Chicago information buildings countries

- a. The Great Columbian Exposition was on in the city of
- b. There were buildings to represent different and foreign
- c. There was about each state or country inside the

BEFORE YOU READ

- 1 It is a Halloween tradition to make a 'jack-o-lantern'. Which vegetable do you think you use to make one?



A ☐ potato

B ☐ pumpkin

C ☐ turnip

D ☐ carrot

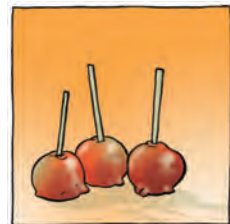
- 2 Do you know these popular Halloween foods? Match them to their names.

candied apples

liquorice

popcorn

pumpkin pie



A

B

C

D

- 3 Match these scary Halloween costumes to their names.

ghost

vampire

skeleton

witch



A

B

C

D