

Name:

Date:

Class:

Festivals

Reading Comprehension

Read the following passages carefully and answer the questions.

Reading Passage 1

Reasons to Celebrate

Many holidays and festivals are religious celebrations commemorating the birth of a **prophet** who has gone up to his **heavenly** home. In many parts of the world, people visit the **cemetery**, **mound**, or **coffin** of ancestors to honor and **mourn** them. Believers visit a **shrine** or religious **spire** to perform **rites**, burn **incense**, and make an **offering**. This is common even in China, where laws have **abolished** religious holidays.



Halloween was originally a festival in which the living had to protect the earth as a **sanctuary** against the souls of the dead. People believed that because the dead **coveted** life, they were a problem to living people. It was therefore the duty of the living to wear scary costumes and **chant**, so that the dead would not **haunt** the world of the living. Sometimes the living would use sweet foods and bells to **tempt** the dead back into their graves. This is possibly where the idea of giving candy came from.

Many holidays are national holidays and have nothing to do with religion. These holidays are usually made for celebrating. There are some things that are found almost everywhere when people are celebrating. Both fireworks and **champagne** are popular ways to **awe** people and **elevate** the joyful atmosphere during any holiday celebration.

Vocabulary



abolish: v ('əbəlɪʃ) 徹底廢除	incense: n ('ɪnsɛns) 香
awe: v (ə) 使敬畏	mound: n ('maʊnd) 土墩、土堤
cemetery: n ('semə,teri) 公墓	mourn: v (mɔ:n) 哀悼、哀痛
champagne: n ('ʃæm'pen) 香檳酒	offering: n ('ɔ:fərɪŋ) 奉獻、祭品
chant: v (tʃænt) 唱歌	prophet: n ('prɒfɪt) 先知
coffin: n ('kɒfɪn) 棺材	rite: n (raɪt) 儀式
covet: v ('kʌvɪt) 垂涎	sanctuary: n ('sæŋktʃʊ,eri) 保護區
elevate: v ('elə,vet) 提升	shrine: n ('ʃraɪn) 聖殿
haunt: v (haʊnt) 鬼魂作祟	spire: n ('spaɪr) 尖塔
heavenly: adj ('hevənli) 天國的、神聖的	tempt: v (tempt) 誘惑、引誘

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Multiple Choice Choose the best answer.

1. This land cannot be developed; it is a(n) _____ for the birds in the area.
 (A) mound (B) shrine (C) sanctuary (D) offering
2. Her beautiful voice _____ everyone in the audience.
 (A) abolished (B) chanted (C) haunted (D) awed
3. The _____ correctly predicted that an earthquake would strike her country.
 (A) prophet (B) coffin (C) rite (D) champagne
4. Worshippers _____ and filled the cathedral with beautiful sound.
 (A) mourned (B) tempted (C) chanted (D) elevated
5. The people worked for years to build this _____ in honor of their gods.
 (A) incense (B) spire (C) offering (D) cemetery

Word Families Fill in the blanks with the related words from the vocabulary box.

1. hump, Native American, bury _____ (n)
2. wood, burn, worship _____ (n)
3. scare, trouble, ghost _____ (v)
4. bait, lead, encourage _____ (v)
5. after death, good, beautiful _____ (adj)
6. dead, remains, place _____ (n)
7. get rid of, undo _____ (v)
8. bubbles, wine, celebration _____ (n)
9. ceremony, religious _____ (n)
10. worship, memorial _____ (n)
11. underground, body, box _____ (n)
12. gift, religious, respect _____ (n)
13. desire, want, jealous _____ (v)
14. lift, raise _____ (v)
15. be sad, death, miss, funeral _____ (v)

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Reading Passage 2



Christmas

Christmas is a **cordial** time that is special for people everywhere. However, its popularity can **blur** the origins of this *majestic* holiday. Any Westerner in their **adolescence** is familiar with the **customs** of gift buying, a Christmas tree, milk and cookies with which to **supplement** Santa's diet, and the **joyous banquets** that accompany Christmas. Some people, however, are not aware of the holiday's Christian roots. Christmas takes its name from Jesus Christ, and **commemorates** his **sacred** birth. Christians believe that Jesus was the son of God. Even so, he was born as a **mortal** and was **destined** to die in order to save humankind. The time that he fulfilled this *destiny* is celebrated as Easter.



Christians today still follow many *customary* **rituals** at Christmas time. Many popular Christmas **carols** were originally religious **hymns**, and some Christians use a **wreath** with four candles to count down the weeks until the holiday. Another ritual happens on Christmas Eve, when many Christians will go to hear a **sermon** at a **cathedral**. Santa Claus, that **jolly** man from the North Pole, was originally a Christian **saint**. This man, Saint Nicholas, began the tradition of giving gifts to children who were not yet *adolescents*. The **majesty** of Christmas makes it a special time of the year.



Vocabulary



adolescence: <i>n</i> (ˌædɪˈesns) 青春期	hymn: <i>n</i> (hɪm) 讚美歌、聖歌
adolescent: <i>n</i> (ˌædɪˈesnt) 年輕人	jolly: <i>adj</i> (ˈdʒɔɪl) 興高采烈的
banquet: <i>n</i> (ˈbæŋkwɪt) 宴會、晚餐會	joyous: <i>adj</i> (ˈdʒɔɪəs) 高興的、快樂的
blur: <i>v</i> (blɜː) 使模糊不清	majesty: <i>n</i> (ˈmædʒɪsti) 莊嚴
carol: <i>n</i> (ˈkærəl) 頌歌、讚美詩	majestic: <i>adj</i> (məˈdʒestɪk) 威嚴的、莊重的
cathedral: <i>n</i> (kəˈθɪdrəl) 大教堂	mortal: <i>n</i> (ˈmɔːtl) 人類
commemorate: <i>v</i> (kəˈmemə,reɪt) 紀念、慶祝	ritual: <i>n</i> (ˈrɪtʃuəl) 儀式
cordial: <i>adj</i> (ˈkɔːdʒəl) 真心的、由衷的	sacred: <i>adj</i> (ˈsekrɪd) 神聖不可侵犯的
custom: <i>n</i> (ˈkʌstəm) 習俗	saint: <i>n</i> (seɪnt) 聖人
customary: <i>adj</i> (ˈkʌstəm,erɪ) 習慣上的、慣常的	sermon: <i>n</i> (ˈsɜːmən) 佈道、講道
destined: <i>adj</i> (ˈdestɪnd) 命運注定	supplement: <i>v</i> (ˈsʌpləmənt) 增補
destiny: <i>n</i> (ˈdestəntɪ) 命運、宿命、必然性	wreath: <i>n</i> (rɪθ) 花圈、花環

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Fill in the Blanks Fill in the blanks with the best answer.

1. He is such a good kid, just like a(n) _____ (n).
2. It is the _____ (n) to give red envelopes to one's family during Chinese New Year.
3. The _____ (adj) old man happily sang songs until late at night.
4. She was crying, and her tears _____ (v) her vision.
5. I am _____ (adj) to fall in love with a wealthy prince.
6. Only the President can touch the _____ (adj) statue.
7. We'll use this book to _____ (v) what you've learned from the textbook.
8. If you do not understand a foreign religion, then a common _____ (n) might seem strange.
9. If you are a(n) _____ (n), you will die.
10. The _____ (n) of the large cathedral impresses many visitors.

CLOZE Passage Put the correct letters for the words in the blanks below.

Christmas means different things to different people. To Christians, it is a time to _____ 1 _____ the birth of Jesus. They will listen to a special _____ 2 _____ at the _____ 3 _____ and sing religious _____ 4 _____ of thanks. Christmas is also a time for family. On Christmas Day everyone gets together for a(n) _____ 5 _____ and to sing a(n) _____ 6 _____ or two. The mood is _____ 7 _____, with everyone being kind to each other. Families often put up a Christmas tree and hang a(n) _____ 8 _____ on the door. For those not yet in _____ 9 _____, Christmas is fun because of _____ 10 _____ Santa Claus and the gifts he brings. It is a happy time.

- (A) adolescence (B) banquet (C) cathedral (D) carol (E) commemorate
(F) cordial (G) hymns (H) wreath (I) joyous (J) sermon

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____
6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____ 9. _____ 10. _____