Birthdays Around the World



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by M. Lee



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT School Publishers

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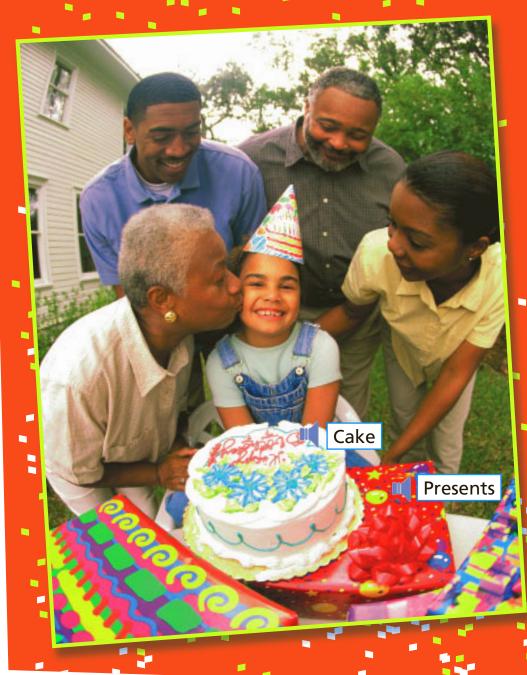
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Happy Birthday!

- Everyone has a birthday.
- A birthday is a good time to do something special.
- Some people spend the day with family and friends.
- Some people have a birthday party. They eat cake and open presents.
- Some people use a camera to take pictures.
- They want to remember their special day.
- What do you do on your birthday?



■ Birthday Food

- People around the world eat special birthday foods.
- In China, children eat long noodles.
- Sometimes friends or family, like cousins, come for lunch.
 - Sometimes people make food for the birthday boy or girl and hide a present inside, like a coin!



- In India, birthday girls wear pretty dresses.
- They give sweet chocolate to their friends.
 - In Ghana, children eat *oto* on their birthdays. People make oto from sweet potatoes and eggs.
 - Do you eat special foods on your birthday?



■ Birthday Cakes

- A long time ago, people in Germany started making cakes for birthdays. In the morning, people put candles on a cake. The candles burned all day long!
- At night, people asked the birthday boy or girl to blow out the candles and wish for something special.
- Now, many people have birthday cakes with candles. Do you blow out candles on your birthday?



■ Birthday Party

- Many girls and boys have a birthday party.
- At a birthday party, some people like to wear special hats. Some people play the piano and sing songs.
- People play games and eat cake. Some people get cake stuck to their faces!
- In the summer, people often sit outside on a porch to eat cold ice cream.

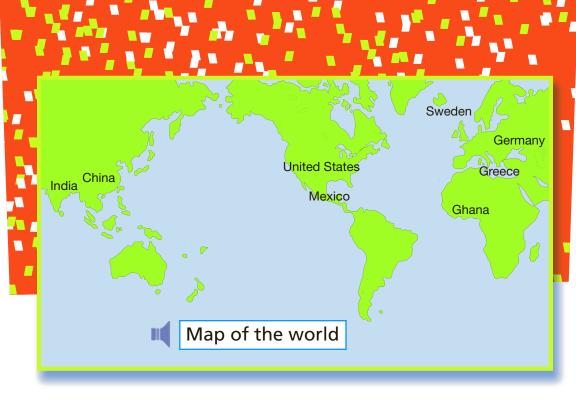


Special Birthdays

- Some birthdays are very special.
- On a special birthday, people often have a big party.
- For some boys and girls, this big party happens when they turn 12 or 13. Friends and family come to visit.



In Mexico, girls have a special birthday when they turn 15. They have a party with lots of food. People dance to music. The birthday girl wears a crown.



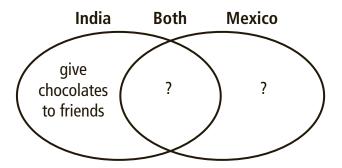
Birthdays are happy days. They are different around the world. Do you do something special on your birthday?

Birthdays are special all over the world!

Responding

TARGET SKILL Compare and Contrast

How is a birthday party for girls in India different than one in Mexico? How is it the same? Use a Venn diagram like this one to compare and contrast the details.





Write About It

Text to Text Have you read other books about birthdays? Write a friendly letter telling someone about a birthday in a story.

TARGET VOCABULARY

cousin remembered

crown spend

piano stuck

porch visit

- TARGET SKILL Compare and
 Contrast Tell how two things are alike or not.
- TARGET STRATEGY Question Ask questions about what you are reading.
- **GENRE Informational text** gives facts about a topic.

Level: J DRA: 18

Genre:

Informational Text

Strategy: Question

Skill:

Compare and Contrast

Word Count: 375



Online Leveled Books







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