

Lesson 3. Special days of the planet

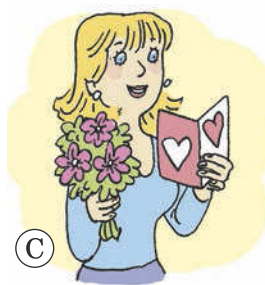
1a. 📻 🎧 Listen and read the texts. Match them with the pictures.
Where do people celebrate the holidays?



(A)
April Fool's Day



(B)
the Queen's Official Birthday



(C)
Valentine's Day



(D)
Easter

1 It is a day of fun and jokes. On this day people play jokes on their friends and relatives. But you can play a joke only before noon¹. If you play a joke after noon, you become an April Fool. The Internet, TV and radio programmes play jokes on people, too.

¹ before noon – до полудня

2 The British Queen has two birthdays – one in April and one in June. The Queen's real [riəl] birthday is on 21st April. She was born in 1926. On the day of her real birthday there is a gun salute¹ at 12 o'clock in Hyde Park, London, and at 1 o'clock in the afternoon at the Tower of London².

In 1805 people began to celebrate the King's or the Queen's birthday publicly ['pʌblɪkli] in summer, when the weather is better than in spring. It is on the second Saturday in June. There is the Queen's Birthday Parade in London. It is a military ['mɪlɪ(ə)ri] parade. Thousands of people come to watch it.

They celebrate the Queen's Birthday in other countries, too – in Australia [p'streɪliə], New Zealand [ˌnju: 'zi:lənd] and Canada ['kænədə].

3 On this day people celebrate romantic [rəʊ'mæntɪk] love. They give presents to the people they love – flowers, often red roses, or heart-shaped³ chocolates and cakes. In the evening they decorate their houses with heart-shaped balloons, light candles and have dinner. On this day people send a lot of cards to the people they love: to their friends, mothers, brothers and sisters, parents and teachers. They wish them happiness and love.

¹ **a gun salute** [sə'lʊt] – орудейный салют

² **the Tower** ['taʊə] **of London** – Лондонский Тауэр, одно из старейших зданий Англии

³ **heart-shaped** ['hɑ:t ʃeɪpt] – в форме сердца

4 This day is a public holiday in Britain. People paint eggs in bright colours and give them to each other¹ as a present. They often hide these eggs or chocolate eggs for little children to find.

1b. Answer the questions in pairs. Check with the class.

1. When is the Queen's Birthday?
2. When, where and how do people celebrate the Queen's Official Birthday?
3. What can you see on the Queen's Official Birthday?
4. What do people usually hide at Easter?
5. What presents do people get at Easter?
6. What do people celebrate on Valentine's Day? How?
7. What can you get on Valentine's Day?
8. When can you play a joke on April Fool's Day?
9. Who plays jokes on April Fool's Day?

at Easter on Easter Day

1c. Play the "Last sentence" game. *What's common and what's different about these days in Britain and in Belarus?*

Model. Both in Britain and in Belarus people play jokes on April Fool's Day. In Britain you can play jokes only before noon, but in Belarus you can play jokes all day.

¹ to each other – друг другу

2a. Speak about holidays in Belarus. Follow the model and use the words below to make up your stories. Work in pairs.

Model. We celebrate this public holiday on 9th May. It's Victory Day. On this day we ...

celebrate
watch
decorate
sing and dance
give
...

this (public) holiday
flowers and cards to
veterans
fireworks
the streets with flags and
balloons
in the streets and parks
a parade

on 9th May
on 3rd July
on 8th March
in the morning
in the evening

2b. Speak to your classmate. Make up stories about two Belarusian holidays. Whose story do you both like? Share it with the class.



2c. Write about two Belarusian holidays for a brochure.