

- 5) put gunpowder under the house next door to the parliament building;
- 6) order that people should celebrate ...;
- 7) commemorate the event by ... , burn effigies, bake ... , eat ... , toast ...;
- 8) discover the plot, arrest ... , question ... about the plotters.

4a. Write *Who*-questions about Bonfire Night.

Model. When **Queen Elizabeth I** took the throne of England, she **made** some laws against Roman Catholics. – **Who made** laws against Roman Catholics?

4b. Ask each other in turn. Who remembers more answers?



Bonfire Night (cloze test on vocabulary)

5. Would do you like to take part in celebrating this tradition? Why or why not? Write at least 10 sentences to explain your point of view.

Lesson 5. Belarus round the calendar

1a. Look through the calendar of the Belarusian holidays and special days for 2021, celebrated in the country, and try to specify them as state (official), public, religious holidays and memorial days. Which of them are days off?

January	
1 New Year's Day	
7 Orthodox Christmas Day	
February	
23 Fatherland Defenders' and Armed Forces Day	
March	
8 Women's Day	
15 Constitution Day	

April

2 Day of Unity of the Peoples of Belarus and Russia

4 Easter (Catholic)

26 Day of Chernobyl tragedy



May

1 Labour Day

1 Easter (Orthodox)

9 Victory Day

10 Day of the National Emblem and Flag of the Republic of Belarus

11 Commemoration Day (Radonitsa)

June

22 Day of National Remembrance of the Victims of the Great Patriotic War

July

3 Independence Day



November

7 October Revolution Day

2 Remembrance Day (Dzyady)

December

25 Catholic Christmas Day

1b.   Listen and check your guesses.

1c. Read and guess what holiday or special day the texts below describe.

1. The day commemorates the victory in one of the most terrible wars in history.
2. This is the day of the main law of the country which goes back to 1994.

3. The day is celebrated annually to commemorate the day when Minsk was liberated from fascist aggressors in 1944.
4. This day is dedicated to women and is aimed at showing love, care and respect for them.
5. This day is dedicated to the main symbols of our country and its independence.
6. This holiday goes back to 1997 when an agreement on the union of two countries was signed¹.
7. On these days people in Belarus attend cemeteries to pay respect to their dead relatives and friends.

2a. Read the beginning of Alesya's interview on the Hill Ridge School radio and think of 5–8 other questions the interviewer could ask. Work in groups or in pairs. Use the ideas from Lesson 1 and ex. 1 of this lesson.

Interviewer: Hi, Alesya! Welcome to our school radio.

Alesya: Hello, nice to be with all of you today.

Interviewer: People in Britain are going to celebrate St Valentine's Day soon. This event has helped me to choose the topic of our talk today. Holidays and special days. In Britain, holidays usually become traditional and we keep celebrating them for years and years. Yet, some new holidays appear in our calendar, some bank holidays are replaced with others. Is it the same in Belarus?

Alesya: Yes, sure. For example, Independence Day. Its history goes back to 24 November 1996, when the republican referendum moved Independence Day to 3 July. I think it's a very important holiday. The day encourages people to remember that we achieved freedom of the country at the cost of great loss in the past. The day is famous for the traditional military parade in Pobeditelei Avenue and a demonstration, which offer an opportunity to show that independent Belarus and its people have achieved great results and success in different spheres [sfɪəz] of life. It's a very popular celebration, attracting crowds of people.

lose (v) – loss (n)

¹ to sign [saɪn] – подписывать

2b. Get ready to role-play Alesya's talk on the Hill Ridge School radio about holidays in Belarus. Use the expressions from the Help box for the interviewer to show interest.

HELP BOX

Really? How interesting! Amazing! It must be fun! It's very important to remember After all, it's great when people have an opportunity to

2c. Listen to all your classmates' interviews. Which is the best?

3a. Complete the text with the words given about a popular Belarusian traditional holiday.

believed holiday loved celebrated food
protect traditional jumping cooked strength
collecting celebration happily dance

Kupalle, summer solstice ['sɒlstɪs] (21 June), is the most ... (1) and celebrated pagan (языческий) ... (2) in today's Belarus, which has been around for centuries. Its celebration offers a whole complex of ... (3) rituals ['rɪtʃuəlz], beliefs, love and magic. Like in ancient times, Kupalle is ... (4) in the night from 6 July to 7 July.



Years ago young girls went into the meadows to collect plants and herbs – cornflowers, ferns¹, etc. during the day of 6 July. It was ... (5) that the plants gathered at that time had special magic and ... (6) and could ... (7) people and their homes from illnesses and evil spirits. That's why some of these plants were used in ... (8), some were put up on the walls of the houses, and some of the plants were used in the wreaths² worn on the head by young men and women during the Kupalle ... (9).

The central part in Kupalle celebration was a fire, which symbolised life and Yaryla and drove away death. During the day young men would prepare the place to start the fire. They

¹ ferns [fɜːnz] – папоротники; ² wreaths [rɪːθs] – венки

would go around the village ... (10) old things – clothes, broken barrels – and would take them out to the place, chosen for the festivity. Usually it would be a meadow, a forest glade (поляна) or a bank of a river. The oiled wooden wheel would be set on fire to symbolise the sun. People would stay up till early morning hours.

They followed a lot of customs on that night, including purification rituals (ритуалы очищения) during the celebration – ... (11) over the fire, bathing in the river, rolling in the grass dew¹. They would join hands and ... (12) in karagods, compete in strength, tell fortunes and look for a blossoming fern flower – “Paparats-kvetka”. It was thought lucky if a couple (пара) could find it: they would live ... (13) ever after.

Special ritual food was ... (14) on the fire – fried eggs (egg symbolised both sun and life), kulaha (a sort of a pudding made of wheat flour), vareniki (dumplings stuffed with berries – blueberries, cherries and raspberries).

A lot of this tradition is followed today.

3b.  **Listen and check.**

4a. Follow the QR code to watch how Kupalle is celebrated today. Share your impressions. Have you ever participated in celebrating Kupalle?



4b. Tell British people about this national holiday, its history, customs, traditions and present-day celebration.

5.  Write about your favourite holiday and how you celebrate it.

Lesson 6. Do you need an invitation?

1. Discuss with your class.

1. Which is your favourite holiday or festival? Why? 2. Do you celebrate it with your friends or with your family and relatives? 3. What do you start with when organising a celebration? 4. On which holidays do you invite guests? 5. Is it polite to come without an invitation to a family celebration?

¹ dew [dju:] – роса