

**5b.** Exchange your ideas and report them to the class.

**Model.** Sasha *thought* that the BBC presenter *would* take part in the pancake race again the following year.

**HELP BOX**

thought, said, answered, was / were sure

**5c.**  Write 6–8 sentences reporting your classmates ideas.

## Lesson 4. Sporting traditions

**1a.** Alesya has been invited to take part in a typical Easter entertainment – egg hunt – with Natalie’s young cousins. Look at the picture and find 6 eggs using the clues.



Look around and you will see – I’m hiding under ....  
You don’t have to go too far – you can find me in this ....  
Can you climb very high? You might find me near the ...!  
Stop looking for me in the tree! Can’t you see me near the ...!  
There’s no need to look for it in the sand, because I’m  
hiding it in my ....  
To find an egg you’re unable? – Look! It’s under the ...!  
When it’s done it will be a pleasure to exchange the Easter  
treasure.

1b. 📁 🎧 Listen and check.

2. 📁 🎧 Read about other Easter entertainments. Are they the same as in Belarus? Explain why egg rolling is popular in Britain, but not in Belarus.

### British fact file

**E**xchanging and eating eggs is a popular custom in many countries, as eggs are a symbol of spring and new life. In the UK real eggs had been used before they were replaced by chocolate eggs. The eggs were hard-boiled and *died* in various colours, which meant spring and light. There is an old traditional game played even today in the north of England, for example at Preston in Lancashire. Hard-boiled eggs are rolled down hills to see whose egg rolls farthest.



far – farther – the farthest (*about distance*)

3a. Look through the texts (ex. 3b) and match them with the pictures.



**3b.** Read these descriptions of sporting traditions in the UK. Some of the customs or rules may seem strange but they have been around for hundreds of years. Divide your class into three groups. Each of them reads one of the texts and gets ready to speak about the following:

A. When the sporting tradition began. B. Where and when it is played. C. What the rules are.

### **Sporting traditions in the UK**

1. Traditionally, forty-one days before Easter Sunday is a special day for Christians, called Pancake Day or Shrove Tuesday. It is the day before **Lent** (Великий пост) starts. Lent is a Christian **fast** (пост) which lasts forty days before Easter. On Pancake Day people used to celebrate the last day before Easter when they could eat what they wanted. Eggs and milk ought not to be eaten during Lent. That's why the eggs, milk and butter left in the house were used for pancakes. All over England there were pancake races on or near Shrove Tuesday. The tradition is still around today. The rules of pancake races are different in different places, but each participant, usually a woman, has to wear an apron and a hat or scarf. They run with a pancake in a frying pan and throw the pancake in the air. They have to catch it again in the pan. The winner gets to the finishing line first having thrown the pancake a pre-decided number of times.

The most famous pancake race takes place at Olney. The Olney pancake race is world famous.

2. The Highland Games is a Championship which began in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the Scottish Highlands. Games are traditionally held in September. Today they include highland dancing, contests in playing the bagpipes and one of the most popular sports – “tossing the caber”. Tossing means throwing. Players have to throw a long and extremely heavy pine trunk (ствол сосны) as far as possible. The average caber weighs ['keɪbə 'weɪz] 68 kilos and is usually about 6 metres long. The heaviest caber in the history of caber tossing weighed 127 kilos. The player who throws his wooden caber the furthest is not necessarily the winner. The style of throwing is more important than the distance. Players are usually very big and strong!

3. St John's Ambulance<sup>1</sup> and first-aid volunteers<sup>2</sup> are always present at the two-day football match held in Ashbourne ['æʃbəʊn] in the Midlands every spring. The Ashbourne street football game is one of many street football matches played out all over the UK. The town is divided into two teams, depending on where the players live. There can be hundreds of players in each team and the two goal posts are nearly five kilometres apart. The ball is not kicked but "hugged" close to the chest (мяч «обнимают» = прижимают к груди). The shopkeepers in the centre of town have to cover their windows with wooden boards<sup>3</sup> to protect them from the crowds (толпы) of players. All locals, both the young and the old, enjoy this very lively and sometimes violent<sup>4</sup> game. The match ends with a few broken arms but people think it is all so much fun. They have been playing this game every year for more than two centuries. It is a bit difficult to get the ball from one end of town to the other and sometimes no goals are scored.

**3c. Tell each other about the sporting tradition you have chosen.**


**3d. In groups answer the questions.**

1. Which sport is practised throughout the UK? 2. Which sport is not usually played by men? 3. Which sport has an incredible number of players? 4. Which sport is the most dangerous? 5. Which sport requires the most physical strength? 6. Which sports involve throwing something?

**3e. Discuss with your class.**

Which sport do you think is the silliest? Which do you think is the most difficult? Which sport would you like to try?

**4a. Do you know of any sporting traditions in Belarus? Discuss with your class to collect ideas.**

**4b.  Write about a sporting tradition in Belarus (10–12 sentences).**

<sup>1</sup> **ambulance** ['æmbjʊləns] – скорая помощь; <sup>2</sup> **first-aid volunteers** ['vɒləntiəz] – добровольцы по оказанию первой помощи; <sup>3</sup> **boards** [bɔ:dz] – деревянные доски; <sup>4</sup> **violent** ['vaɪələnt] – жёсткая