

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

Unit 3 Asian and Western cultures

Read the following article about St George's Day. Match the words in bold to the correct definitions on page 2.

St George's Day

St George's Day is of great **significance** to British people. The feast is **celebrated** every year on 23 April in England and also some other countries, such as Greece, Italy and Portugal.

Not much is known about the **sacred** Saint but one thing is for sure — he was not an Englishman. It is believed that he was born in the third century in Cappadocia, which is now a part of Turkey. When George joined the Roman army, Emperor Diocletian, a fierce opponent of Christianity, ordered the **persecution** of Christians living in Rome. St George refused to take part. He was imprisoned, tortured and executed. His bravery **inspired** a lot of Christians to hold fast to their faith. His **fame** soon spread throughout Europe and he was made the patron saint of England in the 14th century by King Edward III, who was **captivated** by St George's stories. Soon after he made the St George's cross his military banner, the English army won three **battles**. People **associated** the victories with St George, and started to circulate **myths** about him. The most well-known one was that he once slayed a fire-breathing dragon.

Although it is not an official holiday, celebrations are held in different parts of England. St George's Quarter in Liverpool, for instance, holds an annual three-day event from 24 to 26 April. The festive atmosphere attracts a lot of **tourists** every year; while in Manchester, there is a parade on the day. People put on traditional costumes, wearing a red rose on their lapels and flying flags, each has a red cross in the middle. In some places, it is a **ritual** for people to hold shields with a red cross and even wear clothes with the cross to symbolize how St George fought with the dragon.

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

Match the words in the box with the meanings below. Write the words in the spaces provided.

associate (v)	battle (n)	captivate (v)	celebrate (v)
fame (n)	inspire (v)	myth (n)	persecution (n)
ritual (n)	sacred (adj)	significance (n)	tourist (n)

1.	a ceremony which has been practised for many years as tradition
2.	someone who visits a place for pleasure
3.	holy; something related to religion
4.	a widely held but false belief; an ancient story
5.	the state of being known by many people
6.	to do something on special occasions to show that the day is important
7.	importance
8.	to attract people very much
9.	to make someone have a strong feeling about something; to make someone want to do something and believe that he / she can do it
10.	a fight, usually between two groups of people or two countries
11.	oppression; unfair treatment because of race, political or religious beliefs
12.	to connect something or someone with other things or people

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Set A*Read the following fact sheet. Change the underlined words to their synonyms in the box below.**Write the words in the spaces provided. You may need to change the form of the words.*

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Fact sheet on the Silk Road***What is it?***

The Silk Road was a network of trade routes established in the Han Dynasty. The Emperor was (1) stimulated by a successful trade experience with the West and decided to open trade. It was of huge (2) importance in the development of civilizations as it allowed the exchange of unique products, ideas and cultures between different countries.

How long is it?

The Northern route of the Silk Road starts from Xian and extends to areas around the Black Sea. The Southern route mainly connects China and Pakistan. It is over 7,000 kilometres long.

Who used it?

In ancient times, merchants and traders travelled through the Silk Road to conduct business. Pilgrims from China also took the route to other countries to search for (3) holy Buddhist insights. Nomads were interested in looking for gold and silver along the routes. Monks were frequent travellers as well to perform (4) ceremonies of different kinds in temples across different cities along the route.

What is it like now?

Instead of merchants and traders, the Silk Road is now filled with (5) visitors. Its (6) reputation has spread beyond China. Every year, thousands of people from around the globe come to experience the route. Many of them are (7) fascinated by the (8) legends that are (9) linked with the Silk Road. Its existence is indeed something worth (10) rejoicing.

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

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Unit 3 Asian Set B

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1. ritual	a ceremony which has been practised for many years as tradition
2. tourist	someone who visits a place for pleasure
3. sacred	holy; something related to religion
4. myth	a widely held but false belief; an ancient story
5. fame	the state of being known by many people
6. celebrate	to do something on special occasions to show that the day is important
7. significance	importance
8. captivate	to attract people very much
9. inspire	to make someone have a strong feeling about something; to make someone want to do something and believe that he / she can do it
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1. inspired	2. significance	3. sacred	4. rituals	5. tourists
6. fame	7. captivated	8. myths	9. associated	10. celebrating

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Set B

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