

1. Read and discuss in groups.

What Are Holidays?

Many holidays are days when you don't have to go to school and grown-ups don't have to go to work. These are often fun-filled days when your family gets together for a big dinner or a picnic. Sometimes there are *parades* or *fireworks*.

On some holidays people go to church. The very word 'holiday' means a 'holy' day¹ — a day, on which people thank and honour² God. We celebrate all kinds of holidays. Many, such as Christmas, Easter and others are religious³ holidays. Some holidays are the birthdays of famous people, like Taras Shevchenko in Ukraine or George Washington⁴ in the USA. Others, such as Independence Day, are the birthdays of the countries. And there are a number of special days, like Thanksgiving⁵ in the USA and Canada. There are also holidays for special groups of people: Mother's Day or Father's Day. And there is your very own holiday — your birthday.

What way do people celebrate these holidays? It depends on the date itself and the country, its *national traditions* and *customs*.



¹holy ['həʊli] — святий

²to honour ['ɒnə] — вшановувати

³religious [rɪ'lɪdʒəs] — релігійний

⁴George Washington [dʒɔːdʒ'wɒʃɪŋtən] — Джордж Вашингтон (1-й амер. президент)

⁵Thanksgiving [ˌθæŋks'ɡɪvɪŋ] — День подяки