For Advanced Kid Learners
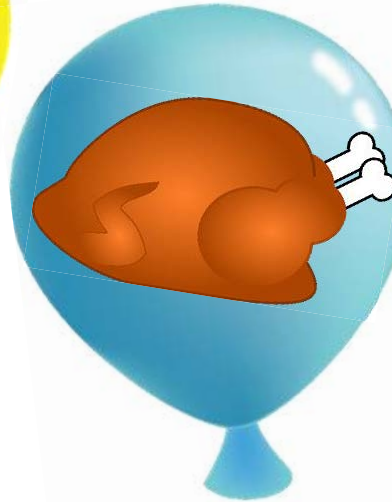
Book 3

Time to Talk

Lesson 7 History of Birthdays

Warm-up questions.

1. When is your birthday?

2. How do you usually celebrate it?

Read and learn.

History of Birthdays

Birthday has a long history in Western culture.

Ancient Egyptians celebrated the birthdays of Pharaohs 4,000 years ago. But the celebrations took place on the day when they were crowned. People believed Pharaohs became gods when they were crowned, so they celebrated their "birth" as a god.

ancient Egyptians
= people in the old times
that lived in Egypt

Pharaoh
= a king of old Egypt

crown
= to put a crown
on the head of a new king or
queen

Read and learn.

The ancient Greeks celebrated the birthdays of their gods and goddesses. To honor the moon goddess, they made round cakes and put candles on top of them. The round cakes and the candles represented the moon and the moonlight.

honor
= to do something that shows great respect for somebody

ancient Greeks
= people in the old times that lived in Greece

goddess
= a female god

Read and learn.

The ancient Romans first started celebrating the birthdays of human beings. But they only celebrated men's birthdays. Public holidays were created to mark the birthdays of the most important people.

ancient Romans
= people in the old times that lived in Rome, Italy

Read and learn.

The Germans marked children's birthdays with birthday cakes and parties during the 18th century. On the morning of a child's birthday, he or she would receive a cake with lighted candles.

Birthday cakes only became popular in the 19th century. At that time, cakes were cheaper to made.

Look, read, and guess the words.

1 to put a crown on the head of a new king or queen
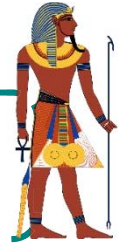
2 the king of old Egypt

3 people in the old times that lived in Greece

4 people in the old times that lived in Egypt

5 people in the old times that lived in Rome

6 a female god

Grammar

take place

to happen,especially planned or arranged

Examples

The celebrations took place on the day when they were crowned.

Our meeting will take place on Wednesday at noon.

The story that she told me took place in the 19th century.

➕ **Give example sentences using "take place".**

1. _____.

2. _____.

Answer the questions.

1 Whose birthday did the ancient Greeks celebrate?

2 How did the ancient Greeks celebrate it?

3 Whose birthday did the ancient Egyptians celebrate?

4 Why did the ancient Romans create public holidays?

5 How did Germans celebrate their birthdays during the 18th century?