

Unit 4

Special Days

Special days for Kimiko, Brad, and Jing

Student's sheet

Read about Kimiko, Brad and Jing. What days are special for them?

Kimiko



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In the spring, people from all over the world come to Japan to see the cherry trees with their beautiful pink and white flowers. Thousands of people sit in the parks and have picnics under the trees. In Japanese it is called *Hanami*. Kimiko and her friends hang lanterns in the trees and celebrate until late in the evening.

Would you like to celebrate Christmas on the beach? Then you should come and see Brad and his friends on Bondi Beach near Sydney on Australia's east coast. December 25 is in the summer and people celebrate on the beach with a big turkey barbecue. Brad sometimes dresses like Santa Claus and goes surfing in the sea. People sing Christmas songs and decorate their houses, and children find Christmas presents in their stockings hung by the fireplace.

Brad



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Jing



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Jing's favourite time of the year is the Chinese New Year. In her country people don't celebrate this on 1 January, but on a different day at the end of January or the beginning of February. People travel long distances to visit their families and friends and celebrate for several days. There are fireworks, dragon dances and decorations all over China. People wear new clothes and throw out old things to make sure that the new year will be full of new chances – and good luck!

What do people do on these special days?

activity		Hanami in Japan	Christmas in Australia	Chinese New Year
visit	friends and family			X
celebrate	on the beach		X	
.....	presents			
.....	lanterns			
.....	new clothes			
.....	long distances			
.....	old things			
.....	Christmas songs			

Talk to your partner and report:

Which of the activities do you do on a special day?

Which of these special days would you like to celebrate with Kimiko, Brad, or Jing?

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Teacher's notes

Preparation:

Make a copy for each student.

In class:

As a lead-in you might want students to brainstorm special days in other countries. Maybe you have people of different nationalities in your class, or some students might have participated in a celebration in a foreign country as a tourist. You could ask them to make a word wheel around special days around the world.

Hand out one copy to each student or one for each pair or group. Ask students to read the texts and fill in the missing verbs. Then they mark which person does what.

Key

activity		Hanami in Japan	Christmas in Australia	Chinese New Year
visit	friends and family			X
celebrate	on the beach		X	
find	presents		X	
hang	lanterns	X		
wear	new clothes			X
travel	long distances			X
throw at	old things			X
sing	Christmas songs		X	

Finally students talk to a partner about the two questions and then report back to the whole class.