

## **The Great Romantic (1)**

Lord Byron (1788-1824) didn't live a long life. He was an aristocrat and a fashionable man. But he loved freedom (свободу) and a simple country life. His personality attracted Britain and all Europe. He brought to his poetry romanticism of his times. He was talented and handsome, noble and brave. London admired him. George Gordon Byron was born on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1788. He was the son of John Byron and his wife, Catherine, whose ancestors (предки) were of the royal house of Stuart. He spent his early years outside the capital. He lived in the north. Later his mother took him to Aberdeen. There they lived for several years. George went to Aberdeen Grammar School and there is a monument to him outside the school. Now it is a museum and art gallery. Later he studied at Harrow School and the University of Cambridge. When Byron was 19, he came to London. One day the poet wrote, "I woke up (проснулся) and found myself (обнаружил, что я) famous." It happened after the publication of his autobiographic poem "Childe Harold" in 1812. The fact is that from 1809 to 1811 he had traveled in different parts of Europe and in the poem he described everything that had happened to him. In the summer of 1816 Byron left Britain forever (навсегда). He traveled around Europe and soon he became a member of the Greek liberation movement (освободительное движение), for which he died. But he did not lead the Greeks in battle as he wished. He died of fever (лихорадка).

### **I. Переведите на английский язык.**

- 1) Он любил свободу и простую сельскую жизнь.
- 2) Он принес в свою поэзию романтизм того времени.
- 3) Сейчас это музей и галерея искусства.

### **II. Ответьте на следующие вопросы.**

- 1) When and where was G. Byron born?
- 2) Where did he study?
- 3) What did he describe in the poem?
- 4) When did he die?

## **CHRISTMAS (2)**

The 25<sup>th</sup> of December is Christmas Day. It's a happy holiday for many people in different countries. Some week before Christmas English people are busy. They send greeting cards to all their relatives and friends. You can buy Christmas cards or you can make them. Many children make their cards at school. People buy a Christmas tree and decorate it with toys, coloured balls and little coloured lights.

On Christmas Eve people put their presents under the tree. When children go to bed, they put their stockings near their beds. At night Father Christmas comes. He has got a big bag of presents for children. He puts the presents in the children's stockings. Every year there is a very big Christmas tree in the centre of London, in Trafalgar Square. This is a present from the people of Norway to the people of Great Britain. They send it to Londoners every year and Londoners decorate the Christmas tree. In the evening before Christmas people like to come to Trafalgar Square to look at the tree. On Christmas Eve streets in London are decorated, too.

The shops are very busy at Christmas. People want to buy presents for their family and friends (for their nearest and dearest). And they buy a lot of food and drink for all the Christmas parties. People open their presents on Christmas morning and they all are happy with what they get. For Christmas lunch people eat turkey, potatoes and green vegetables. Then they have the Christmas pudding. At five o'clock it's time for tea and Christmas cake. On Christmas people wish their nearest and dearest a merry Christmas. The day after Christmas is Boxing Day. People usually visit their relatives and friends. They do not work on that day.

**1. Answer the questions.**

- 1) Why are people busy some weeks before Christmas?
- 2) Where can people get Christmas cards?
- 3) Where is a Christmas tree from?
- 4) What are the traditional Christmas dishes?
- 5) What is Boxing Day?
- 6) Do English people like Christmas?

**2. Complete the sentences**

1. Many children make their cards at .....
2. Father Christmas puts the presents in the children's .....
3. There is a very big Christmas tree in the centre of .....
4. On Christmas people wish their nearest and dearest a .....
5. They do not..... on that day.

**Monsters of the sea? (3)**

People have always been afraid of sharks. Films like "Jaws" have shown them as monsters. But now these animals are in danger, like many others. In recent years, shark meat has become a popular food in America. Too much fishing has begun to reduce the numbers of some kinds of shark. Some people say this is a good thing. Sharks kill about twenty-five people a year near the world's beaches. Are we going to help sharks, or are they going to become extinct? It's hard to solve the sharks' "image" problem and change people's minds about them. Sharks are hunters and so they naturally kill. But actually elephants kill more people than sharks every year – and every-one likes elephants. Sharks are very important for the world's oceans. They eat unhealthy fish and keep the numbers of different kinds of sea animals in balance. Now scientists are trying to find way to protect these animals. They have been in the oceans for 350 million years. Perhaps they can survive a little longer.

**Выберите соответствующие содержанию текста предложения.**

1. Films have shown sharks as monsters.
2. Sharks are in danger like others.
3. Shark meat has become a popular food only in Canada.
4. The number of some kinds of shark has reduced because of much fishing.
5. All people say this is good that a number of some kinds of sharks has reduced.
6. Sharks are not monsters because they don't kill anybody.
7. It's not hard to solve sharks 'image' problem.
8. Sharks are hunters so they naturally kill.

9. Elephants kill less people than sharks, so people like them .
10. Sharks are very important for the world's oceans because they kill unhealthy fish.
11. Sharks have been in the oceans for 200 years.

#### **PACKING by Jerome K. Jerome (4)**

Holiday time was near now, and we, that is, Harris and George and I met to discuss our plans. Harris said that the first thing was to discuss what to take with us. He also said that we couldn't take the whole world in a boat. They could take what they really needed. "It is very important," Harris said, "to have everything we need for a long swim every morning before breakfast." He also said that a long swim always gave him fine appetite. "If you're going to eat more than you usually do," George said, "I think we'll let you go swimming not more than once in three or four days. If you go swimming every day, we'll never have enough food for you. We won't be able to carry so much in the boat. " So we discussed the food question. "Begin with breakfast," George said. "For breakfast we must have a tea-pot," Harris said, "ham, eggs, bread and butter and jam. It's easy to prepare breakfast with such things. And for lunch — cold meat, bread and butter and jam — but no cheese. "We agreed. Cheese in a boat in summer, little by little becomes the master of all the food. You may think you're eating sausage or meat and potatoes or cake, but it all seems to be cheese.

#### **Choose the right variant**

1. George, Harris and Jerome decided to discuss ....  
a) future holidays b) the weather c) the newspaper article
2. It happened in ....  
a) summer b) spring c) winter
3. Harris liked ... very much.  
a) boating b) swimming c) playing football
4. He wanted to ... after swimming.  
a) eat b) drink c) sleep
5. They decided ... cheese.  
a) not to take b) to take c) to buy

#### **Answer the questions:**

1. What is the text about?
2. Where did the friends want to go?
3. What could give Harris a good appetite?
4. Why was cheese the "master" of all food in summer?
5. Whose idea was to take few clothes?

#### **The Earth. (5)**

We live on the Earth. It is very, very big. There is a lot of water on the Earth. It is in rivers, lakes, seas and oceans. There are a lot of forests and fields, hills and mountains on it. The Earth is full of wonders. Different animals live on the Earth. Different plants grow on it. The Earth is beautiful. There are large countries and small countries. There are warm countries and cold countries. There are some countries where there are four seasons in a year and some countries where there are

only two. When it is day in one country it is night in another country. When the sun shines it is day, when the sun does not shine it is night. You can see the moon and the stars in the sky at night. People live in different countries. They speak different languages. Our country is Russia. Russia is the largest country in the world. Our country is so large that when it is morning in the east, it is evening in the west. When it is winter in the north it is summer in the south. There are a lot of long rivers, beautiful lakes, large forests and fields and high mountains in Russia. People who live in Russia speak more<sup>1</sup> than one hundred different languages but they can speak Russian too.

## **2) Answer the questions.**

1. Where do people live?
2. Is the Earth big or small?
3. What is there on the Earth?
4. Where is there water on the Earth?
5. The Earth is beautiful, isn't it?
6. Why do we say that the Earth is full of wonders?
7. Why do people speak different languages.?

Every nation and every country has its own traditions and customs. In Britain traditions play a more important role in the life of people than in other countries. They say British people are very conservative. They are proud of their traditions and carefully keep them up. But when we speak about British traditions we always remember that there are four parts in Britain — England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Traditions are different in these parts of the country.

You already know some of the English traditions and holidays. We hope you remember St. Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Halloween which have also become traditional American holidays. Here are some more facts about old English traditions. One of the old English legends says that London can be the capital of the country, rich and great until twelve black ravens live in the Tower of London. Each has got its name and the keepers carefully look after them. If one of the birds dies, another younger raven takes its place. Londoners believe this legend and always bring some food to give to the birds when they come to the Tower. The keepers cut the birds' wings a bit as they are afraid that they may fly away. Another old English tradition is Guy Fawkes Day. Children go out into the streets on the 5th of November with figures like scarecrows. They stand in the streets and squares asking for the usual "Penny for the Guy". Then with the money they have collected they buy fireworks and burn the guy (the figure like a scarecrow) on their bonfire. People watch fireworks and some people go to parties in the evening. Though different countries have different traditions and holidays people all over the world know some of them. They are — Easter, Christmas and New Year.

### **I. True or False.**

1. Every country has its own traditions and customs.
2. There are no common traditions all over the world.
3. English people celebrate Maslenitsa.

1. There are some common holidays in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
2. London can be great until 10 black ravens live in **the** Tower.
3. English people celebrate Guy Fawkes Day on the 5th of November.

## **II. Choose the best title for the text.**

1. BRITISH ARE JUST TRADITIONS CRAZY!
2. MORE ABOUT BRITISH TRADITIONS.
3. GUY FAWKES DAY.

### **SCOTLAND (6)**

Although Scotland forms a part of the United Kingdom, it has a distinct character of its own. In area it is more than half as big as England. Its population is, however, only one-eighth as great — about 5 200 000. Scotland is a land of romance and it has had a most eventful history. The Picts and Celts lived there before the coming of the Romans to Britain. Those Northern tribes worried the Romans so much that the Great Wall was built to protect the Roman camps in the Northern part of England. It was in the 11th century that the Normans began to settle in Scotland. Almost all of Scotland's history is associated with and reflected in many castles and forts that are to be seen all over the country. They are very picturesque, having retained their medieval features: stern, proud, impressive, perched high on a rock or at a hillside. Mary, Queen of Scots, the beautiful Mary Stuart was married in one of them, her son James (who was to become James I of England) was born in another. And now some words about the Highlands. For centuries the Highlands were a strange land, where the king's law common to all the rest of the country, wasn't even known, where wild people spoke a language no one could understand. Long after the rest of Britain adopted modern ways they kept to the old life. In 1603 King James VI of Scotland became King James I of England too, and from then onwards the countries were under the same monarch, though the Act of Union was not passed until 1707. This Act incorporated Scotland with England in the United Kingdom, but the Scots kept their own legal system, religion and administration, centred in Edinburgh. Edinburgh — the capital of Scotland has always been admired as one of the most beautiful cities. Glasgow — its second city — always had a bad reputation. It was too often seen as a dirty, run-down urban area. But no longer. The buildings have been cleaned up, the streets are tidy and the people now take an obvious pride in their city. Glasgow was chosen to be the cultural capital of Europe 1890.

Not far from Glasgow there is one of the most famous of Scotland's many lakes (called «lochs»), Loch Lomond. Scottish numerous valleys are known as «glens». Scotland is a country with an intense and living national tradition of a kind only too rare in the modern world. It has its distinctive national dress, the kilt, worn only by men. It also has its own typical musical instruments (the pipes, sometimes called «the bagpipes»), its own national form of dancing, its own songs, language, traditions and education. Scotland has even its own national drink, a fact so widely known that one need only ask for «Scotch».

*Notes*

The Picts and Celts – пикты и кельты (племена)

tribe — племя

camp — лагерь

to pass the Act — принять Акт/Закон (в парламенте)

**B. Comprehension Check. Complete the sentences.**

1. Scotland forms...
  - a) a part of England;
  - b) a part of the United States;
  - c) a part of the United Kingdom.
2. The Northern tribes...
  - a) began to settle in Scotland in the 11th century;
  - b) lived in Scotland before the coming of the Romans;
  - c) came to Scotland together with the Normans.
3. Mary Stuart...
  - a) was a Queen of the United Kingdom;
  - b) was the Queen of Scots;
  - c) was not a queen.
4. The kilt...
  - a) is a musical instrument;
  - b) is a form of national dancing;
  - c) is a type of national dress.

**C. Answer the questions.**

1. What is the population of Scotland?
2. Why was the Great Wall built?
3. Why are there so many castles in the country?
4. What have you learnt about the Highlands?
5. When was the Act of Union passed?
6. What's the country's second city?
7. What do they call Scottish valleys and lakes?
8. Are national traditions still alive in Scotland?