

• What is a public holiday?

A public holiday is... a special day when we observe a significant historical or religious event / when people have a paid day off work / when schools / shops are closed. Public holidays are also called bank holidays in the UK and Canada.

• What national holidays do we celebrate in the Czech Republic?

The Czech national holidays include Liberation Day, celebrating the end of German occupation during WWII in 1945 (May 8) / The Day of Slavonic Apostles Cyril and Methodius who brought Christianity to Great Moravia (July 5) / Jan Hus Day (July 6) when we remember the Czech church reformer who was burnt at the stake for his beliefs / St. Wenceslas' Day (28 September) who is the patron saint of the Czech Republic / On October 28 we celebrate the establishment of the common state of Czechs and Slovaks, Czechoslovakia, in 1918 / November 17 commemorates the student demonstration against the Nazi regime in 1939 and a student protest march in 1989 that led to the fall of communism.

• What are some of the public holidays in the US and UK?

The most popular holidays in the US are... Thanksgiving in November / Independence Day on July 4. In Britain there are bank holidays on New Year's Day (January 1) / Good Friday / the first Monday in May / the last Monday in May / the last Monday in August / Christmas Day (December 25) / Boxing Day (December 26).

• What are some of the public holidays celebrated in countries other than the UK and US?

In Australia they celebrate Australia Day on January 26 and Anzac Day on April 25. Australia Day commemorates / celebrates the establishment / setting up of the first colony in Australia by the British. People mark the day by going to the beach / having a barbecue / watching fireworks. Anzac Day is a serious day, which commemorates / remembers the soldiers who have died / served in battles / wars. In Canada on July 1 they celebrate Canada Day with various / different events like... parades / carnivals. An important public holiday in New Zealand is Waitangi Day on February 6. It marks / celebrates the day the Treaty of Waitangi was signed / the moment the Maori people gained equal rights in the British Commonwealth.

• Do you know any festivals / holidays in English-speaking countries?

In America and Britain they celebrate Halloween (October 31) / St. Patrick's Day (March 17), a festival important to the Irish / Valentine's Day (February 14), a holiday for love. Most English-speaking countries also celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day, but on different days of the year.

• What is your favourite holiday and why?

I enjoy Easter because... the weather usually starts to get warmer / I like decorating eggs. My favourite holiday is

Christmas because... it is when my whole family gets together / I like to bake cookies. New Year's Eve is the best because... of all the parties that happen / it's like a new start. November 17 is a good day to remember the country's history.

• Are traditions still kept or are they disappearing in your country?

I think traditions are disappearing here because... young people don't care about traditions anymore / there is too much commercialization of holidays / people are too busy to get together with friends and family to celebrate traditional customs. I think traditions are still kept, especially in the country because people have closer relationships there / our parents and grandparents spend time doing traditional things and pass them on to their grandchildren.

• How do people celebrate Christmas? What customs do they keep?

In our country we celebrate Christmas on December 24, unlike many other countries. We always decorate the Christmas tree with glass or straw ornaments / Our traditional Christmas dinner is fried carp and potato salad / Many people fast all day before Christmas dinner.

• How do we celebrate Easter in our country?

We don't celebrate Easter too much, but always have the Monday off / Boys like Easter, they go around and whip girls with willow sticks and get eggs in return / Easter isn't celebrated too much in our country anymore.

• What special occasions are important to people in their lives? Which event has been the red-letter day for you / your family?

I think... a wedding / birthday / graduation / funeral / the birth of a baby / first communion / baptism / wedding anniversary / class reunion are important events in one's life. A red-letter day for me has been... my graduation from high school / my 18th birthday / when I could drive.

• What do people do on their birthday? What are some special birthday customs?

Often / Usually children get a birthday cake and have a birthday party with their friends. At the party they get gifts and play games such as hide-and-seek. Adults may also have birthday parties. Instead of games they... go dancing / go out for dinner / celebrate in a pub.

• What are some of the customs for weddings?

There are many customs depending on the couple. Some people have a religious ceremony in a church / others have a civil ceremony / get married in a registry office. The bride and groom have a witness each / the maid of honour for the bride / the best man for the groom. The bride can throw her wedding bouquet / flowers to be caught by unmarried women. In the Czech Republic many customs signify the union of newlyweds such as feeding each other during the reception / sweeping up a broken plate together.



img 01



img 02



Bridge

img 03



img 04



img 05



img 06



img 07



img 08



img 09



img 10