



Later, the president read to another group of children from the book *Where the Wild Things Are*. The first White House Easter Egg Roll took place in 1878 when President Rutherford Hayes invited local children to roll eggs on the South Lawn.

1. What do we learn about the Easter Egg Roll?
2. Who was invited to the first White House Easter Egg Roll?
3. What is the news report mainly about?

Part III Test yourself

Questions 1 and 2 will be based on the following news item.

The Chinese Lantern Festival this year coincides with Valentine's Day. People across the country are planning to celebrate the combined festivals in traditional and new ways.

Well-known dancers and singers from Shanghai are visiting Taipei as people across the strait warm up for the coming Lantern Festival. The Shanghai troupe are singing, dancing and performing acrobatics in Taipei, before also visiting Taoyuan, Penghu and Yunlin. Back on the mainland, a dragon lantern parade is essential for ushering in the festival. And in Zhejiang Province, people are lighting lanterns days in advance.

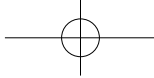
This year, Lantern Festival coincides with Valentine's Day. And as the festival atmosphere builds up, sales of flowers and chocolates, as well as traditional Lantern Festival treats, are heating up fast. But because of snow and low temperatures in Yunnan, China's major flower farming region, prices of flowers are much higher than usual.

1. What is essential for ushering in the festival on the mainland?
2. Why are prices of flowers much higher than usual?

Questions 3 and 4 will be based on the following news item.

This is Columbus Day, the second Monday in October. In the United States, it is a federal holiday. That means most federal offices are closed. The holiday honors the first visit to America by the Italian explorer Christopher Columbus.

Columbus thought he could reach the Far East by sailing west across the Atlantic Ocean from Europe. He was right. But he was also wrong. He thought the world was much smaller than it is. He did not imagine that another continent — and another huge ocean — lay between Europe and East Asia. Columbus and his crew arrived in October 1492 on an island they called



San Salvador, in today's Bahamas. They explored that island and nearby islands now known as Cuba and Hispaniola. Columbus believed these were the coastal islands of East Asia, and then called the Indies. That is why he called the people who lived on the islands "Indians."

3. What does Columbus Day honor?
4. What do we learn about Columbus?

Questions 5 to 7 will be based on the following news item.

"Bollywood" is the name of the film industry in India. The country is the world's largest filmmaker. "Nollywood" in Nigeria is now the world's second-largest filmmaker. It produces 2,000 or more movies every year. Some of the best Nollywood films are showing at a film festival in Paris. The festival is called "Nollywood Week." This is the third year the festival has taken place.

Many different types of movies are part of the festival. They include dramas, comedies and also a film about zombies. Festival goers can also see the popular Nigerian TV series called *Before Thirty*. The show is about how Nigerian women feel forced to get married by the time they are 30 years old. The festival began with a film called *Jimmy Goes to Nollywood*. It is a documentary about Haitian actor Jimmy Jean-Louis discovering the film industry. Rachid Dhibou helped direct the movie. Mr. Dhibou says Nigerian movies were first made with very little money. Now the quality of the movies is much better. The newer movies are drawing international attention to Nigerian filmmakers.

5. Which of the following is the world's largest filmmaker?
6. What do we learn about the film festival?
7. What is this news report mainly about?

UNIT 8

Part II Listen to the news

News item 1

Our commercial-free coverage starts on the Korean Peninsula today. Large parts of it have been coated in yellow dust. It is not uncommon in this part of the world. The Korean Peninsula has a yellow dust season. It typically runs from March to May and though it started early this time around, this year's yellow dust season isn't expected to be as bad overall as it has been