

April Fools' Day.

Read and complete. For each number 1 - 11, choose word A, B or C.



April Fools' Day, sometimes called All Fools' Day, is one of 1 _____ light-hearted days of the year. Its origins are uncertain. Some see it as a celebration related to the turn of the seasons, while others believe it 2 _____ from the adoption of a new calendar. Ancient cultures, including those of the Romans and Hindus, celebrated New Year's Day on or around April 1. It closely follows the vernal equinox (March 20th or March 21st.) In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII ordered a new calendar (the Gregorian Calendar) 3 _____ the old Julian Calendar. The new calendar called for New Year's Day to be celebrated Jan. 1. That year, France adopted the reformed calendar and 4 _____ New Year's day to Jan. 1. According to a popular explanation, many people either refused to accept the new date, or did not learn about it, and continued to celebrate New Year's Day on April 1. Other people 5 _____ to make fun of these traditionalists, sending them on "fool's errands" or trying to trick them into believing something false. Eventually, the practice spread throughout Europe. But there are at least two difficulties with this explanation. The first is that it doesn't fully account for the spread of April Fools' Day to other European countries. The Gregorian calendar was not adopted by England 6 _____ 1752, for example, but April Fools' Day was already well established there by that point. The second is that we have no direct historical evidence for this explanation, only conjecture. Another explanation of the origins of April Fools' Day was provided by Joseph Boskin, a professor of history at Boston University. He explained that the practice began during the reign of Constantine, when a group of court jesters and fools told the Roman emperor that they could do a better job of running the empire. Constantine, amused, allowed a jester named Kugel to be king for one day. Kugel passed an edict 7 _____ absurdity on that day, and the custom became an annual event. "This explanation" was brought to the public's attention in an Associated Press article printed by many newspapers in 1983. There was only one catch: Boskin made the whole thing up. It 8 _____ a couple of weeks for the AP to realize that they'd been victims of an April Fools' joke 9 _____. It is worth noting that many different cultures have had days of foolishness around the start of April, give or take a couple of weeks. The Romans had a festival named Hilaria on March 25. The Hindu calendar has Holi, and the Jewish calendar has Purim. Perhaps there's something about the time of year, with its turn from winter to spring, that lends 10 _____ to light-hearted celebrations. April Fools' Day is observed throughout the Western world. Practices include sending someone on a "fool's errand," looking for things that don't exist; playing pranks; and trying to get people to believe ridiculous things. The French call April 1 *Poisson d'Avril*, or "April Fish." French 11 _____ sometimes tape a picture of a fish on the back of their schoolmates, crying "Poisson d'Avril" when the prank is discovered. Adapted from: www.infoplease.com »Background by cutecolours.com. Clip art by My Cute Graphics.

True or False? Correct false statements.

1. Ancient cultures celebrated New Year's Day on the 1st of January.

2. April Fools' Day may be seen as a celebration of Spring.

3. People celebrate this day sending beautiful gifts.

4. Professor Boskin developed a theory concerning the origins of this tradition.

5. Kugel really existed.

6. April Fools' Day spread throughout the Western countries.

7. In France children tape the picture of a fish on their school friends' back. .

Read the text carefully. Then match the underlined words to their synonyms:

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| 1. Season | a Joke, Fancy |
| 2. Vernal | b Comic |
| 3. Errand | c Attach |
| 4. Account | d Wintry |
| 5. Jester | e Period |
| 6. Prank | f Message |
| 7. Tape | g Report |

Key: 1B 2B 3A 4B 5A 6C 7B 8B 9C 10A 11B

True or False?

1F, They celebrated it around April 1st. 2T. 3F, They celebrate sending funny messages or playing tricks. 4T. 5F, Boskin created this character. 6T. 7T

Synonyms:

1E 2D 3F 4G 5B 6A 7C

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. A more | B the most | C most |
| 2. A grow out | B stems | C originate |
| 3. A to replace | B substituted | C supplant |
| 4. A moves | B shifted | C replace |
| 5. A began | B begin | C begun |
| 6. A for | B from | C until |
| 7. A called for | B calling for | C call for |
| 8. A take | B took | C taken |
| 9. A himself | B itself | C themselves |
| 10. A itself | B himself | C themselves |
| 11. A childrens | B children | C childs |

