

## The Best Birthday Ever

I was sad. Today was my birthday. 7

That should make me feel happy, but my best 16

friend Maddy was not going to be there. Her 25

family had moved away a few months ago, and 34

I had not seen her for a long time. We always 45

spent our birthdays together and it was not 53

going to be the same without her. When I got 63

home from school, there was a strange car in 72

our driveway. I walked in and opened the 80

door. "Surprise!" Maddy shouted. This was 86

going to be a great birthday after all! 94

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# Comprehension Questions: The Best Birthday Ever

1. Why was the child in the story feeling sad?

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2. How long ago did Maddy and her family move?

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3. What did the friends usually do together on their birthdays?

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4. What surprise did the child get when they got home from school?

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5. Why did the child say it was going to be a great birthday after all?

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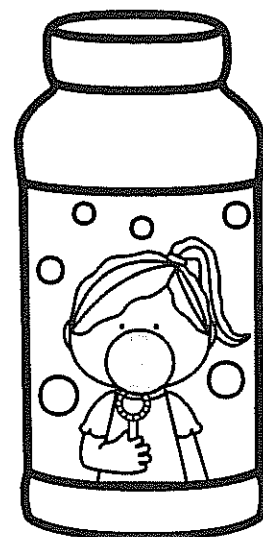
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## Bubble Fun

One day my brother and I were at the store 10  
 with my mom. "Can we buy some bubbles?" 18  
 we asked her. "Sure," she said. "Blowing 25  
 bubbles sounds like a lot of fun." After we 34  
 finished shopping, we could not wait to get 42  
 home and blow bubbles. We blew so many 50  
 bubbles that they were floating all around the 58  
 house. Next my mom came in with some wires. 67  
 We bent the wires into cool shapes like 75  
 squares and hexagons. We even made a giant 83  
 one! Mom blew the biggest bubble ever. It 91  
 was so much fun! 95

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## Comprehension Questions: Bubble Fun

1. Who was at the store together?

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2. What did the child ask to buy at the store?

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3. What did the children do as soon as they got home?

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4. What did mom come in with?

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5. Who blew the biggest bubble?

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## New Year's Eve

My family has a lot of fun traditions. One of my favorites is our New Year's Eve celebration, and I was excited it was finally here! All day long my whole family had been cooking our favorite foods to get ready for our party. We have one every year for all of our friends. The doorbell started to ring and I ran to answer it. "Hi!" I said to our neighbors as I welcomed them in. We all sat down to eat together, and everyone talked and laughed. When it started to get close to midnight we all began to count down together. 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1... "Happy New Year!" we all shouted. I love our New Year's Eve traditions!

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## Comprehension Questions: New Year's Eve

1. What did the child say is one of their favorite traditions?

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2. What had the family been doing all day to get ready?

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3. How often does the family have a New Year's Eve party?

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4. What did everyone do right before midnight?

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5. Why do you think the child likes their New Year's Eve traditions so much?

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## Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was born in 1929, in Georgia. He worked hard in school and started college when he was only 15! He became a minister and a community leader. He thought that people should be treated alike, and that they should not be treated poorly because of the color of their skin. Dr. King taught people that they should use peaceful ways to show their unhappiness over their treatment and he told people not to fight. Dr. King gave many speeches about making America a better place. His most famous speech was the "I Have a Dream" speech. Today we celebrate Dr. King and his ideas on his birthday in January.

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# Comprehension Questions: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

1. When and where was Dr. King born?

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2. How did Dr. King think people should be treated?

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3. What did Dr. King tell people to do to show their unhappiness?

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4. What was Dr. King's most famous speech called?

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5. Why do you think we celebrate Dr. King's birthday?

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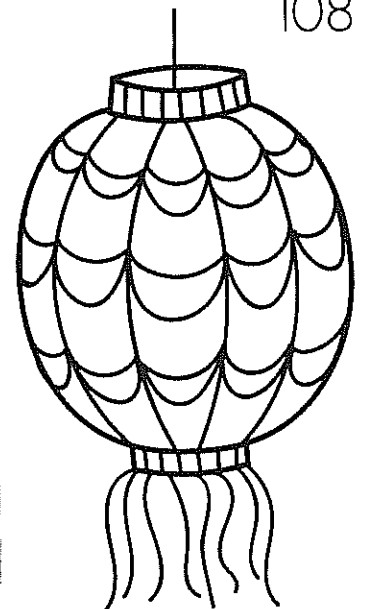
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## Chinese New Year Traditions

Chinese New Year is a holiday that happens each year 10  
 in the Chinese culture. This fun celebration welcomes 18  
 the start of spring. There are many interesting 26  
 traditions that happen during the 15-day celebration. 33  
 On the first night, families have a special dinner 42  
 together. Another important tradition is fireworks. 48  
 People think that fireworks bring good luck. During 56  
 Chinese New Year, there are many parades. During 64  
 the parades, people often perform the Dragon 71  
 Dance. They hold up a large paper dragon and make 81  
 it dance through the streets! People trim their homes 90  
 with beautiful lanterns and other red and gold 98  
 decorations. Chinese New Year is a fun and beautiful 107  
 festival. 108

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## Comprehension Questions: Chinese New Year Traditions

1. What season is welcomed during the Chinese New Year Celebration?

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2. What do families usually do on the first night of Chinese New Year?

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3. Why do people set off fireworks during the Chinese New Year?

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4. How do people decorate their homes during the Chinese New Year?

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5. What Chinese New Year tradition do you think sounds the most interesting?

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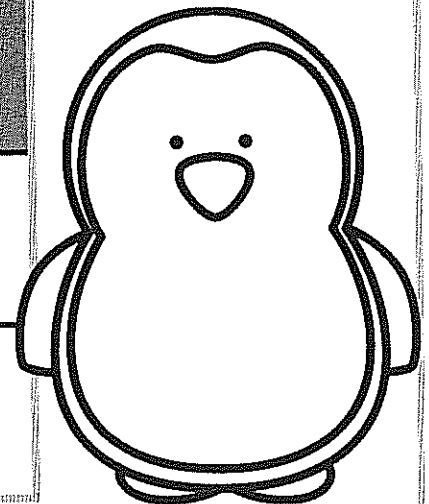
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## Perfect Penguins

Penguins are very interesting birds. Did you know	8
that they are the only birds that cannot fly?	17
They may not be able to fly, but they are	27
excellent swimmers. They spend about half their	34
time in the water and the other half on land.	44
When they are in the water, they find plenty of	54
food to eat. They eat fish and other kinds of	64
sea creatures. There are 17 different types of	72
penguins. The smallest is called the little penguin.	80
It grows to be about 13 inches tall. The largest is	91
the emperor penguin, which can grow up to 48	100
inches tall. Penguins are awesome!	105

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## Comprehension Questions: Perfect Penguins

1. What are penguins really good at?

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2. How much time do penguins spend in water?

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3. What do penguins eat?

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4. How many different types of penguins are there?

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5. How do you think the author feels about penguins?

Why do you think that?

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## Inauguration Day: An American Tradition

Every four years in America, we elect a new president. The president is elected in November, and they take office in January. We celebrate Inauguration Day on January 20th every four years. This is the day that the new president is sworn into office, and takes over the duties of the president. During Inauguration Day, the new president takes the Oath of Office. This means that they make a promise to follow the laws of the land and to be the best president they can be. After that, they give a speech. Finally, the new president participates in a parade where they walk to the White House. This important day is an American tradition.

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## Comprehension Questions:

### Inauguration Day: An American Tradition

1. How often does Inauguration Day occur?

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2. On what date does the new president take office?

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3. What does the president usually do after they take the Oath of Office?

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4. Where does the parade end?

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5. Why do you think this tradition is so important to Americans?

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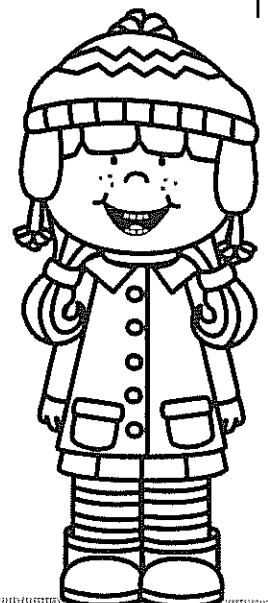
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## Wonderful Winter

Some people do not like winter weather. They 8  
 think that it is too cold, or too snowy, but I love 20  
 it! Yesterday it snowed a lot! I was so excited. 30  
 I called all of my friends and invited them to my 41  
 house. We spent the whole day outside! We 49  
 made a big snow fort and crawled inside. We 58  
 had a giant snowball fight that lasted for an 67  
 hour. We built the biggest snowman you have 75  
 ever seen. Most of my friends were cold and 84  
 tired but I still wanted to stay outside. I made 94  
 snow angels on the ground, and made huge piles 103  
 of snow that I jumped in. I love the wonderful 113  
 winter so much! 116

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# Comprehension Questions: Wonderful Winter

1. How does the child feel about winter?

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2. What was the first thing the children did outside?

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3. How long did the snowball fight last?

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4. Why did the child's friends want to go inside?

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5. What did the child do after their friends left?

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## National Bird Day

Birds are such interesting creatures. 5

There are so many different types of birds 13

that live all around us. There are about 10,000 22

different kinds of birds. Some birds though 29

are in danger of becoming extinct, and we 37

need to help protect them. Every year on 45

January 5th, nature lovers can celebrate birds. 52

National Bird Day is a day planned to help 61

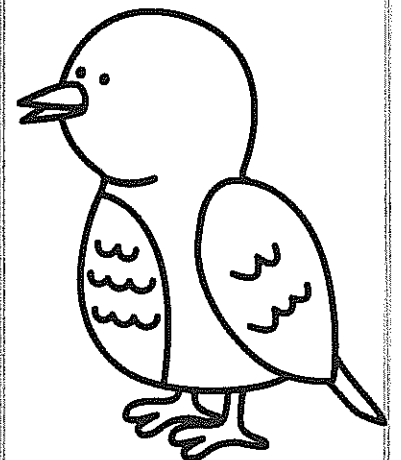
people become more aware of what they can 69

do to help protect birds. If you are a bird 79

lover, then you should tell others about 86

National Bird Day. 89

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## Comprehension Questions: National Bird Day

1. How many different types of birds are there?

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2. Why do we need to protect birds?

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3. When is National Bird Day?

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4. What is the reason for National Bird Day?

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5. Why do you think the author says you should tell others about National Bird Day?

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## The Big Red Sled

On snowy morning, my friend Jake called. 7

“Would you like to go out sledding?” he asked. 16

“I got a great new sled yesterday and we should 26

try it out.” “Sure,” I said. “I will meet you at the 38

sledding hill. After I got on my snow gear, 47

I headed out to meet Jake. He was at the hill 58

with a giant smile and a new big red sled. “What 69

a great sled!” I laughed. “I think we can both fit 80

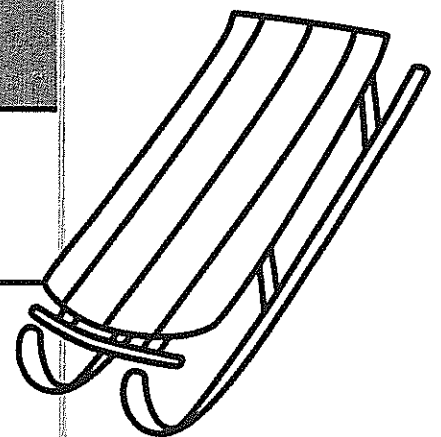
onto it,” he said. We hopped onto the sled 89

together and pushed off. We went down the hill 98

faster than ever before. “This is the fastest 106

sled ever!” I shouted. “I love your big red sled!” 116

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# Comprehension Questions: The Big Red Sled

1. Where did Jake and his friend meet?

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2. What made the big red sled so great?

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3. How many people could fit onto the sled?

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4. What did the child do before meeting Jake?

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5. When did Jake get the sled?

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