

'More Birthdays! We Are Not Amused'

Comprehension Answers

1. When is Queen Elizabeth's actual birthday?
April 21st.
2. During whose reign were the rules changed to create an 'official' birthday for the monarch? Why?
George II. His actual birthday was in November (or October in the old Julian calendar) and deemed to be too cold a time of year for outdoor celebrations for him and the military.
3. What did the Mad Hatter create in 'Alice in Wonderland'?
The 'unbirthday' – a day to celebrate that wasn't your birthday.
4. What is the 'Trooping the Colour'?
The official inspection of the troops by the reigning monarch during the official birthday. It includes an inspection of the Household Guard at Horse Guards Parade in London and the symbolic moving about of the Regimental Colour (flag).
5. When did Australia begin to officially celebrate the sovereign's birthday?
1788.
6. Which Australian states changed the date of the Queen's official birthday? Why?
Western Australia celebrates differently because they celebrate their foundation day on the first Monday in June and the two weekends would be right next to one another. They have a moveable date based around school holidays and the Perth Royal Show. Queensland has the date correspond to the grand finals of the AFL and NRL.
7. When do Canadians celebrate the Queen's Birthday? What other holiday does this coincide with?
The Monday before May 24th. Corresponds to Victoria Day weekend when Queen Victoria's birthday is still celebrated.
8. Name two animals the Queen has received as gifts in the past.
She has received many gifts but included in the article are a pair of stags, two sloths and an elephant named Jumbo.
9. Why isn't the Queen's Birthday celebrated now in Fiji?
There was a military coup in 1987. The holiday continued to be celebrated for a time but in 2012 the government of the nation indicated that it would no longer be a holiday there.
10. Name one other reason why someone might have more than one birthday. What famous bear has two birthdays?
Students might mention the things in the article or come up with others. Those whose birthdays are on February 29th have a problem. Many Catholics also celebrate their name day as well as their own birthday. Students might also consider the fact that some people don't know for many years when they were actually born – adopted etc. There are also those who emigrated long ago and records were simply not kept properly. Some people who undergo life changing things (operations, joining AA, etc.) celebrate these events as a re-birth.