

Trend Task: Birthdays

Approach: Team

Focus: Cultural customs and traditions

Resources: 2 sets of 6 Tonga cards; 2 sets of 6 New Zealand cards; 1 A4 recording sheet;
2 A3 answer sheets; 2 instruction cards

Year: 4

Questions / instructions:

I'm going to give you two sets of cards. The pictures in one set of cards were taken in a little country called Tonga. The pictures in the other set of cards were taken in New Zealand.

Have a good look at the two sets of cards and talk about what is happening.

You can do that now.

Give the two sets of cards (in correct order) to the students, and allow time.

Now I want you to think about what is happening, and why it is happening.

Some of the things that are happening are the same in Tonga and New Zealand. Some of the things that are happening are different.

On your answer sheet, I want you to write down the things that are the same, and the things that are different.

You can work in pairs. Students 1 and 2 can work together, and Students 3 and 4 can work together.

Here is an instruction card to remind you what to do.

Show and read the instruction card.
Give each pair the cards and answer sheet. Allow time.

Instruction card
1. Write down the things that are the same between the birthdays in Tonga and New Zealand.
2. Write down the things that are different about the birthdays in Tonga and New Zealand.

Now I want all of you to work together. Tell each other what you have on your lists. Decide on the main things that are the same and the main things that are different. Afterwards I will ask you to tell me what you have decided.

Allow time.

To finish off, I am going to ask you to tell me what you decided, and I will write your answers onto one sheet.

What are the things that were the same for Tonga and New Zealand?

Record students' responses.

Things that were the same:

both have special celebrations for birthdays/parties

both involve quite large gatherings of people

both involve obtaining/preparing/cooking special food

both involve several people helping with preparations/getting ready

both involve eating/enjoying special food/food looks yummy

both involve some cooking outdoors/over a fire

% response
2005 ('01)
year 4

38 (42)

8 (7)

43 (42)

21 (30)

58 (52)

13 (3)

both involve going somewhere else for the party

both involve outdoor activities

both involve invited groups (not explicitly stated)

What are the things that were different between Tonga and New Zealand?

Record students' responses.

Things that were different:

explicit mention of invitation for NZ birthday

most of food for NZ birthday bought in shop, probably not true in Tonga

different food for two parties

specially built and decorated table (pola) in Tonga / normal dinner table in NZ

food put on banana leaves in Tonga

food eaten on paper/plastic plates in NZ

lots of adults involved in party in Tonga, only immediate family in NZ

lots of adults involved in food preparation in Tonga, only immediate family in NZ

table (pola) with food taken to party on back of truck in Tonga

party at beach in NZ, not in Tonga/at different places

no mention of cakes/candles in Tonga

Tonga has more decorations

food is cooked underground in Tonga

% response
2005 ('01)

year 4

11 (18)

10 (12)

41 (28)

23 (23)

49 (47)

48 (45)

33 (35)

33 (37)

7 (8)

8 (10)

5 (5)

26 (22)

40 (25)

49 (35)

12 (13)

8 (10)

Total score: 11-22 5 (3)

9-10 10 (7)

7-8 17 (18)

5-6 38 (32)

3-4 23 (32)

0-2 7 (8)

Commentary:

The year 4 teams were able to identify similarities and differences between birthdays in the two cultures but, on average, only identified two to three of the similarities and three to four of the differences. There was little change in performance between 2001 and 2005.



NEW ZEALAND BIRTHDAY

1

Ben is having a birthday party at the beach. He is inviting his friends.



2

Ben goes shopping with his mum to buy the food and drink for the party.



3

Ben's brother and his mum decorate the birthday cake.



4

The sausages are cooked over a fire at the beach.



5

The sausages are ready and wrapped in bread.



6

Ben is lighting the candles on his birthday cake. The cake looks yummy.



1

Amelia is going to her cousin's birthday party. The party is in another village. Amelia is going to the party with her whole family.



2

Everybody helps to get the food ready for the party. There are kumala, talo, yams and poaka (pig).



3

A pola (table) is made and decorated. All of the food will be put on the pola and taken to the party.



4

The cooked food is put on banana leaves on the pola.



5

The pola is taken to the birthday party on the back of a truck.



6

The food is ready to be eaten by everyone at the birthday party. They all think it looks yummy.