

A

Harbin is the capital city of Heilongjiang province in the north of China. The winter months are extremely cold in Harbin and often reach temperatures of (1) _____. However, the city has been celebrating its frozen winter climate since 1963 by holding an ice festival. This now takes place every year and visitors have been coming to the annual festival for (3) _____. The festival begins in January and lasts for approximately one month. There are two main sections to the festival which occur on opposite sides of the Songhua River. The smaller section consists of beautifully carved snow sculptures. Artists from all over the world have been presenting their work in this section since (5) _____. Teams of artists from different countries enter their snow sculptures into a competition to win the title of snow sculpture artists of the year. The competition has been running since 1995 and has been entered by a variety of nations including Finland, Canada and Germany. The main section of the festival consists of (7) _____ made from blocks of ice. There are trains you can sit on, bridges you can walk over and (9) _____ you can enter and look around. These amazing life-sized constructions are lit up by coloured lights which twinkle in the cold dark sky. For over a month the city is brought to life as it embraces the cold of winter.

B

Harbin is the capital city of Heilongjiang province in the north of China. The winter months are extremely cold in Harbin and often reach temperatures of -30°C . However, the city has been celebrating its frozen winter climate since (2) _____ by holding an ice festival. This now takes place every year and visitors have been coming to the annual festival for the last 21 years. The festival begins in January and lasts for approximately (4) _____. There are two main sections to the festival which occur on opposite sides of the Songhua River. The smaller section consists of beautifully carved snow sculptures. Artists from all over the world have been presenting their work in this section since the annual festival began. Teams of artists from different countries enter their snow sculptures into a competition to win the title of snow sculpture artists of the year. The competition has been running since (6) _____ and has been entered by a variety of nations including Finland, Canada and Germany. The main section of the festival consists of huge structures made from blocks of ice. There are (8) _____ you can sit on, bridges you can walk over and castles you can enter and look around. These amazing life-sized constructions are lit up by (10) _____ which twinkle in the cold dark sky. For over a month the city is brought to life as it embraces the cold of winter.

A winter wonderland

Activity Information gap

Aim To complete a text about the Harbin ice lantern festival by asking a partner questions.

Interaction Pairs

Language focus Present perfect continuous with *for* and *since*; question formation

Skills focus Speaking

Preparation Photocopy one worksheet for each pair of students and cut it in half.

Time 20 minutes

- Procedure**
- 1 Google search 'Harbin Ice Festival' and show the pictures to the students. Tell them to discuss in pairs what they would like to know about the festival. Do some open class feedback and put some of their questions on the board.
 - 2 Explain that students A and B will have the same piece of writing about the festival but that they have different pieces of information missing. Tell them that A has the information B is missing and vice versa.
 - 3 Write on the board *Harbin is the capital of _____ province* and elicit the question *Which province is Harbin the capital of?* Write it on the board.
 - 4 Divide the students into two groups, A and B. Give the students in group A the A card and the students in group B the B card. Tell them to work with another person in their group.
 - 5 Tell the students that before they can find out their missing information they must write all five of their questions. Monitor to offer help and to check the correct formation of questions.
 - 6 When the students have written their questions, tell them to find a new partner from the other group so that A and B students are working together. Explain that they now have to ask and answer the questions and write the answers to their questions in the appropriate gaps. Monitor to correct any mistakes.
 - 7 When the students have finished asking and answering questions, ask them to compare their pieces of writing to make sure they are the same.
 - 8 Ask the students to turn over their papers and see how many of the questions on the board from Step 1 they can answer.