

# CELEBRATIONS

one stop english

## Coming Of Age

Teacher's notes

Age: Adults

Level: Intermediate (B1)

Time: Approx. 90 minutes

**Activity:** In this lesson, students will:

1. read four short texts about four different coming of age celebrations around the world;
2. look at and use the language involved, and compare and contrast the information;
3. talk about coming of age traditions and special birthday celebrations in their own country, religion or culture.

**Language focus:** vocabulary related to *coming of age* celebrations and traditions.

**Materials:** one copy of the worksheet per student.

## Procedure

### 1. Warmer

Students briefly discuss their answers to the questions. If they are not sure about the answers, get them to look them up.

Ask them whether the age at which young people can legally do these things in their country is very much different to any other countries and cultures that they know well.

### 2. Key words

Students search for the words below and underline them in the four short texts. Then they write them next to the definitions while noticing how the words are used in context.

To make this more communicative, have students do this task in pairs.

#### Key:

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. mass         | 9. filing        |
| 2. ball gown    | 10. character    |
| 3. tiara        | 11. symbolic     |
| 4. commandment  | 12. purification |
| 5. accountable  | 13. prayers      |
| 6. participate  | 14. heirloom     |
| 7. prayer shawl | 15. responsible  |
| 8. liberal      | 16. trust        |

### 3. Understanding the text

Students answer the questions with the names (or letters) of the appropriate celebrations.

#### Key:

1. a, b & d
2. Bar mitzvah
3. Quinceañera and bat mitzvah
4. a, b & c
5. a & b
6. c
7. a & d
8. c

### 4. Using the key words

a. Students use some of the words from task 2 to fill the gaps in the sentences.

#### Key:

1. symbolic
2. mass
3. heirloom
4. trust
5. prayers
6. responsible
7. liberal
8. participate

b. Students use any of the 16 key words from task 2 to form 6 sentences of their own.

Get them to exchange their sentences with other students, who should read them and make or suggest any corrections they feel are necessary. Then ask students to read out some of their sentences (choosing the ones they are proudest of).

### 5. Discussion topics

Students talk about special birthdays and coming of age ceremonies and celebrations in their country and/or that they have experienced.