

# culture

## Your Culture

### 1 Reading

- What do you know about the following three types of 'expressive' art:

morris dancing dreamtime haiku

- Match the words below to the three forms of expressive art.

Australia bells poetry folk music Japan stories

- Now read the three short articles and check your ideas.

## Traditional Art Forms

### Morris Dancing

- 1 Morris dancing is a traditional type of folk dancing found in many villages in Britain. The earliest records of morris dancing date from the fifteenth century. The name is quite interesting and one theory is that it comes from the Latin word *mores* which means *a custom*.

For some reason morris dancing seems to be very popular in the spring and early summer.

- 5 Often the dancers are all men and they wear special costumes with bells on. They carry sticks or handkerchiefs which they wave when dancing. They are accompanied by folk music, usually played on an accordion.

### Dreamtime

- 10 Dreamtime is a very important concept for the Aborigine people of Australia. It is the way the Aborigine explain the creation of life and their origins. The *dreaming* connects the Aborigine to their ancestors and to the land. For them, their land, plants and animals are incredibly important. The *dreaming* can be shown through paintings, dance and storytelling. The paintings often consist of lines, circles and specific symbols that represent animals and people.

- 15 The stories are usually about creation but are more than just myths and legends. It is through the stories that the children learn about the traditions, how to behave and where to find food and water. Many of these stories have been handed down from generation to generation for thousands of years.

### Haiku

- 20 A haiku is a particular type of Japanese poem. Many experts say that the first haiku was written by Basho in the seventeenth century, but it may well date from earlier.

The poems consist of three lines adding up to a total of seventeen syllables (or sounds). The first and third lines have five syllables each and the second line seven. One thing that is very different from many forms of poems is that the lines do not need to rhyme.

- 25 Traditionally haiku are about nature and include a *kigo* – a word associated with one of the four seasons.

(page 1 of 2)

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### 2 Comprehension

Read the sentences. Which text do they refer to? Tick ✓ the correct box.

	morris dancing	dreamtime	haiku
1 This expressive art is the oldest of the three.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 People dress up in this art form.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 This is connected to a fixed pattern.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 This is not just one form of art.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Winter, spring, summer and autumn are important in this art form.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 This art form also includes music.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 People use this art form to teach their children.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 A <i>kigo</i> is an important part of this.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 This is usually done just by men.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 3 Vocabulary

Find these words in the texts and choose the correct meaning for each.

- records
  - information written about something
  - the best result so far
- wave
  - to have a strong feeling or emotion
  - to move your hand or an object up and down or side to side
- ancestors
  - friends and relatives
  - someone who is related to you and lived a long time ago
- myths
  - ancient traditional stories
  - a logical explanation for something
- generation
  - a particular style of something such as a story, song or film
  - a group of people who are born and live at around the same time
- expert
  - someone who enjoys doing something for the first time
  - someone who knows a lot about a topic
- rhyme
  - two words that have the same sound
  - something that makes sense

### 4 Speaking

Work in groups and discuss these questions.

- Which of these expressive art forms do you find the most interesting?
- Is there a particular art form that is special for your country or region? Can you describe it?

### 5 Writing

Either

Write a brief description of a particular art form that is special for your country or region.

Or

Find out more about one of the expressive art forms in this lesson and write a short article for a school magazine.