

Fantastic festivals

We all know about Christmas, Dragon Boat Festival and New Year. But there are many other interesting festivals around the world!

England

Cheese Rolling Festival

You are standing at the top of Cooper's Hill in England with a lot of excited people. A wheel of cheese is sent rolling down the hill. And you are off! Try to catch that cheese! The cheese can roll much faster than you can run down the slope so it is almost impossible. If nobody catches it, the first person to cross the finish line wins the cheese!

How did this festival begin? We don't really know, except that cheese rolling is a very old tradition that goes back over 600 years.

The slope is very steep. People tumbles head over heels chasing after the cheese!



United States

Balloon Fiesta

This festival began in 1972 with just 13 hot-air balloons. Now it has over 500! One of the biggest events of the festival happens at sunrise. Hundreds of balloons rise up into the sky one after another in an incredible sight.

Some balloons are a bit unusual!



La Tomatina

La Tomatina (The Tomato) is the biggest food fight in the world. It takes place every August in a small Spanish town.

In 1945, someone in a parade got angry. He grabbed tomatoes from a market stall and started throwing them. The next year, some young people did the same but this time for fun. Now, around 20,000 people take part and about 145,000 kilograms of tomatoes are splattered all over the town! Fire trucks come in when it is over and use their water hoses to clean up.

What about all those wasted tomatoes? Well, the tomatoes are very low quality and nearly rotten. In other words, if they weren't used for the festival they would be thrown away.



Complete the table.


Festival	Country	Activities
Cheese Rolling Festival	_____	People try to _____ a wheel of _____ down the _____.
Balloon Fiesta	_____	People gather at _____ to watch hundreds of _____ rising up in the sky.
La Tomatina	_____	People _____ tomatoes that are nearly _____ at each other.

Green buildings

We know that the earth needs our help. So even buildings are going 'green'! People are trying to construct buildings that are better for the environment. What features do green buildings have?



It uses renewable energy

Renewable energy means power from a source that will never run out, like the sun or the wind. This type of energy doesn't create pollution. More and more houses use solar panels and wind turbines  for power.

The Eiffel Tower in Paris uses solar panels for power.



It uses light from the sun

To save electricity, a green building lets in as much natural light as possible.



The Passenger Clearance Building at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge uses skylights (roof windows).



It doesn't waste water

Some green homes reuse water from showers, washing clothes or doing the dishes. Others collect rainwater.



In Singapore, Jewel Changi Airport has the tallest indoor waterfall in the world. Water is collected and recycled to reduce water waste.



It has a green wall

Also called vertical gardens, green walls have many benefits. They help to remove pollution from the air and reduce noise. They also help to keep an even temperature indoors — not too hot in summer or too cold in winter. A green wall is a living wall. It can attract birds and bees!

Currently, the world's tallest vertical garden is One Central Park in Sydney, Australia. It has about 100,000 plants.



Which green feature do you want to include in your school building? Explain your reasons.



Complete the sentences. Write ONE word only for each blank.

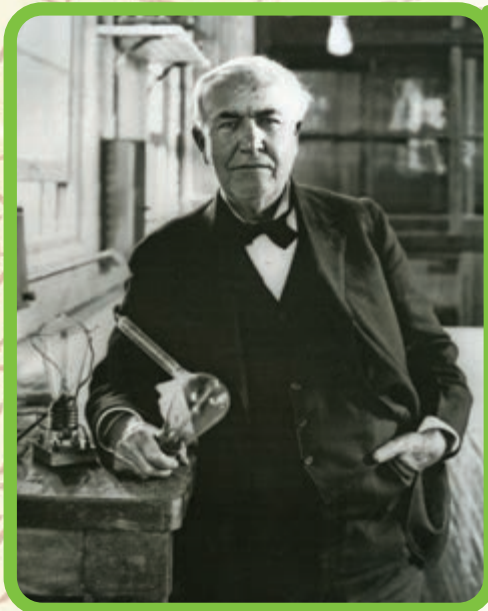
Green buildings can use power from the sun as well as (a) _____ turbines. Sometimes they have green (b) _____. These can help clean the air and keep the (c) _____ comfortable for the people inside. Green buildings can also collect (d) _____ on rainy days.



Inventors

who never gave up

What do scientists and inventors need to succeed? Hard work, definitely. Imagination helps. Maybe even some luck. Do you know what else? Failure!



Thomas Edison is one of the most important inventors ever. One of his best-known (and most useful) inventions is the light bulb. He failed at least 1,000 times to create a light bulb before succeeding in 1879. Can you imagine trying to do something that many times? When a reporter asked him about failure, Edison said, 'I haven't failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that will not work.'

This is Edison's light bulb. Electricity passes through a metal wire. It heats to a high temperature until it glows.



The brothers **Wilbur** and **Orville Wright** had a goal: to invent a flying machine. Over the years they tested over 100 wing designs. But in 1903, they finally got an aircraft six metres off the ground for 12 seconds. It flew about 36 metres. This changed everything in the world of flight!



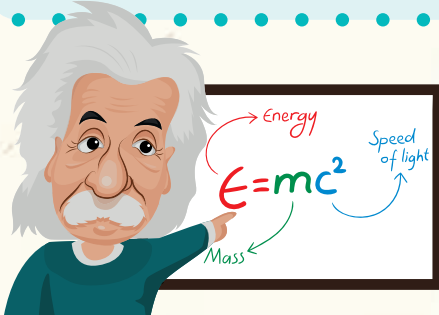
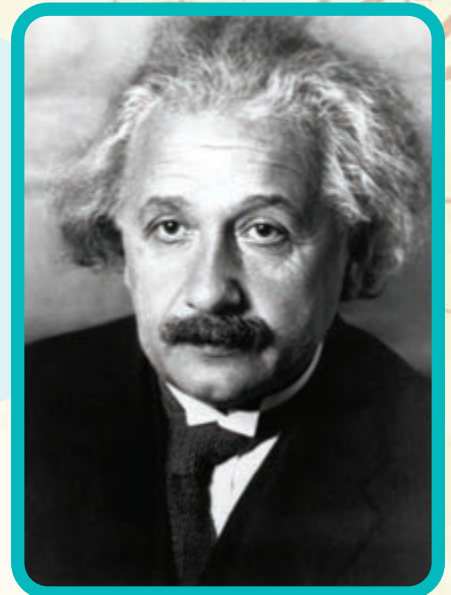
The Wright Flyer was made of wood, cloth and aluminum.



Orville Wright

Wilbur Wright

Albert Einstein helped us to understand the universe we live in. Isn't it amazing to know that he did not speak until he was four years old? In primary school, his teachers thought he was lazy and not at all clever. He probably felt that no one believed in him, but that did not stop him. He continued to work hard and became one of the greatest thinkers that ever lived.



This is Einstein's most famous theory. It helps us understand gravity, space and time in the universe.

Overcoming failure

If we fear failure, we will never enjoy success! Remember:

- 1 Don't be afraid of **hard work**.
- 2 **Learn** from your mistakes.
- 3 Failure is a **part of success**.



If at first you don't succeed, try again!

Answer the questions. Choose the best answers and write.

- 1 Thomas Edison believed that to invent something, you need to ____ .

<input type="radio"/> A. find out how things don't work	<input type="radio"/> B. find out what people need
<input type="radio"/> C. stop making mistakes	<input type="radio"/> D. use your imagination
- 2 What did the Wright brothers do in 1903? _____
- 3 When Einstein was young, ____ .

<input type="radio"/> A. children did not learn much at school
<input type="radio"/> B. he talked a lot in class
<input type="radio"/> C. he was not very clever
<input type="radio"/> D. people did not know how smart he was



When was the last time you failed at something? What did you learn from it?