# Grade 11 General

Lessons 7-8  Our Traditions

# OBJECTIVES

- Learners will be able to talk about their traditions.
- Learners will reading for specific details
- Make use of vocabulary in proper context when speaking or writing.

# STARTER

- Can you think of any examples of Emirati traditions? In groups,
- Make a list. Which traditions do you practice in your life?

# What is a tradition?

The transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation.

# EMIRATI TRADITIONS

















# A POPULAR TRADITION



# VOCABULARY

## Vocabulary

**1** Match the words in bold in sentences 1–5 with the definitions (a–e).

1 Hospitality in the UAE is shown through welcoming guests and offering big feasts. a
2 Emirati folklore includes dance, poetry and music. d
3 Dhaya Fort is an ancient building in Ras Al Khaimah. e
4 Emirati values include keeping strong family ties. b
5 In the UAE, people welcome their guests with a long, warm greeting. c

a the friendly, generous reception and entertainment of guests and visitors
b principles or standards of behaviour
c the action of giving a sign of welcome
d the traditional customs and stories of communities passed through generations by word of mouth
e very old: having existed for a very long time

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# READING

**2** Scan the article. How many of the traditions on your list are mentioned?

UAE culture is full of fascinating stories, crafts and traditions. Hospitality is a very important tradition in Emirati culture. The way Emiratis greet each other stems from the religious and cultural make-up of the Gulf region. Long, genuinely warm greetings with handshakes, embraces and generous praise can be expected for male-to-male and female-to-female greetings.

Majlis is an Arabic word for a meeting place. The traditional Majlis was a tented meeting place where businessmen used to meet regularly.

The UAE also has many traditional games, although some of them are not played any more. An example is Al Boom, which was a popular game where children used to build wooden toy boats and then compete against each other in the sea. They used to play this game very often.

On special occasions, such as Eid and for bridal showers, henna is used to decorate women's hands, feet and hair. During Eid holidays, families gather in their new clothes, usually starting with a visit to the grandparents' house. Older family members give the children traditional Eid money – known as Eidiya in Arabic.

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**3** Read the article again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1 Emirati greetings come from the different cultures that live in the UAE. F
2 Emirati greetings are very quick with little talking. F
3 The Majlis was a tent where business meetings took place. T
4 To play Al Boom, children have to know how to sail large fishing boats. F
5 Emirati women use henna when celebrating special occasions. T
6 At Eid, Emiratis give Eidiya money to poor families as a donation. F

# USE OF ENGLISH

## Use of English

**4** Look at the sentences, then match them with the questions on the right.

a The seven emirates formed the Trucial States.

b Different tribes were living across the Emirates before the unity.

c The traditional Majlis was a tented meeting place where businessmen used to meet regularly.

- Which sentence talks about a finished action in the past?
- Which sentence talks about an action in the past that continued for a period of time?
- Which sentence talks about a habit in the past?

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# WORKBOOK ACTIVITIES

**2** Complete the sentences with the words below. There is one extra word.

| hospitality | folklore | ancient | values | greetings |
|---|---|---|---|---|

1 In the Arab world, we provide good hospitality by offering our visitors a meal followed by coffee and dessert.

2 Petra is an ancient place in Jordan.

3 Ancient stories and legends are part of my country's folklore.

4 *Marhaba, Ni hao, Salut* and *Hola* are all greetings in different languages.

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**3** Look at the article on page 17 in your Coursebook. Find the words in Column A below. Which word in Column B do they work best with?

| A | | B |
|---|---|---|
| 1 fascinating | d | a showers |
| 2 popular | b | b games |
| 3 bridal | a | c place |
| 4 traditional | i | d stories |
| 5 meeting | c | e clothes |
| 6 generous | j | f occasions |
| 7 special | f | g boats |
| 8 cultural | l | h members |
| 9 new | e | i game |
| 10 wooden | g | j praise |
| 11 family | h | k greetings |
| 12 warm | k | l make-up |

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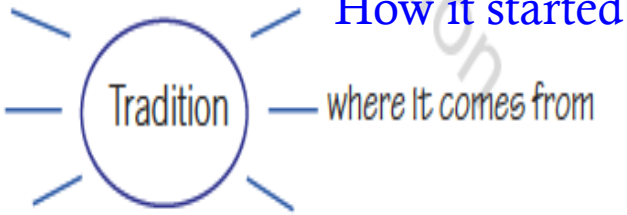
# EXIT TICKET

## Writing

Where it happens?

How it started?

**5** In pairs, look at the article above. What information does it give about a tradition? For example, *where it comes from*. Add other types of information you can find out about a tradition to the spidergram.




**6** In your notebook, write a paragraph about your favourite Emirati tradition.

**Writing tip**

Don't forget: names of emirates, rulers and cities all start with a capital letter.