

APRIL Fools' DAY around the world

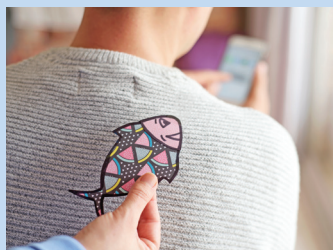
There are a lot of theories about how April Fool's Day or All Fools' Day started. Some historians believe it started in France when they switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar. Other people believe that it was a day to celebrate the changing of seasons. Whatever the reason, people all over the world celebrate it every year.

Brazil



Brazilians call 1st April 'dia da mentira', which means 'day of the lie'. People tell each other white lies – small, unimportant lies that aren't hurtful – rather than playing pranks on each other. However, just like in many other countries, the media often make up fake stories on 1st April for people to enjoy.

FRANCE



French children like to play a particular prank on each other for April Fool's Day. They take a piece of paper cut into the shape of a fish and, when their friend isn't looking, they stick the paper on his or her back. Eventually, the victim of the prank finds the piece of paper, and when they do, everyone calls out 'Poisson d'Avril', which means 'April fish, and they all share a laugh together.

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Greece



Greek people have some superstitions about April Fool's Day pranks. For example, some people say that playing a prank on someone means the prankster will have good luck for the rest of the year. Similarly, some farmers believe that playing a prank on someone means they will have a good harvest that year, as well. Pranks in Greece are generally harmless fun, like sticking a picture of a celebrity in someone's photo frame or putting a fake bug on their desk.

Scotland



In Scotland, people love April Fool's Day so much that they actually celebrate it for two days! The first day, 1st April, is known as 'Hunt the Gowk' Day. A gowk is a foolish person in Scottish. On this day, people usually play pranks and hoaxes on their friends and family. On 2nd April — known as Tailie Day — people stick tails or 'KICK ME' signs on each other's backs.

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1 Where did the tradition of April Fool's Day begin? Read the introduction to find out.

2 Read the text and do the quiz.

1 In this country, children stick paper animals on people's backs.

- A** Brazil **B** France
C Greece **D** Scotland

2 In this country, April Fool's lasts for two days.

- A** Brazil **B** France
C Greece **D** Scotland

3 In this country, people make up stories and tell small lies rather than play pranks on this day.

- A** Brazil **B** France
C Greece **D** Scotland

4 In this country, people believe that they will be lucky if they play pranks on others.

- A** Brazil **B** France
C Greece **D** Scotland

5 In this country, pranksters stick signs or tails on people's backs.

- A** Brazil **B** France
C Greece **D** Scotland

3 **ICT** Collect information about how your country or another country celebrates April Fool's Day. Tell the class.