



April Fools

1 There is one day of the year when many people think it is OK to play tricks and jokes on others. This special day is April Fools' Day. April Fools' Day is the first day of April. On that day, people play tricks and tease each other. They try to get someone to fall for a joke or a trick without realizing it is April Fools' Day. You might say to your best friend, "Oh my goodness, there's a huge bug on your shoe." When your friend looks down and sees that there is no bug, your friend knows he or she has been tricked. And then you say, "April Fools!" Hopefully, your friend is a good sport and laughs at your trick.



History of April Fools' Day

- 2 Many people don't know how April Fools' Day came to be. A long, long time ago, the calendar was different from the one we use today. The first day on the calendar was April 1. In the year 1582, the calendar was changed, and the first day of the year was moved. The first day of the year became January 1, which is still the first day of the year on our calendars today.
- 3 Back in 1582, the year the calendar changed, people didn't have television, radios, the Internet, or newspapers like we have today. Because of this, people did not always get important news. It often took a long time for news to travel by word of mouth. When the first day of the year was changed, many people didn't know about it. These people kept celebrating April 1 as the first day of the year. They



didn't know any better and they became known as "April Fools." The people who knew that the calendar was different and that January 1 was the first day of the year laughed at the "April Fools."

- 4 As time went on, more and more people came to know about the change in the calendar. Even though only a few people still celebrated April 1 as the first day of the year, the tradition of playing tricks and jokes continued. April 1 became known as All Fools Day or April Fools' Day. This fun holiday is still celebrated today all over the world.

How April Fools' Day is Observed

- 5 In France, school kids play tricks on each other, and the kid who gets fooled is called the April fish. It might not seem funny to call someone a fish, but there is a



good reason for it. Think about when you go fishing, a fish gets tricked by a worm or some type of bait and is caught on a hook. On April Fools' Day, kids are hooked or fooled by one of their friends. That is why people who get tricked in France are called April fish.

- 6 In America, kids and adults both play tricks on one another. The tricks are meant to be fun, not mean or hurtful. And whenever someone gets fooled, the person who has pulled off the trick gets to say, "April Fools!"
- 7 Next April 1, think about April Fools' Day and how it came to be. See if you can make someone an April fish, but make sure the trick is fun for both you and your April Fool!



41 What day is April Fools' Day?

- A** January 1
- B** April 1
- C** April 15
- D** May 1

Analysis

- A** *Choice A is incorrect.* January 1 is the first day of the calendar year, which was revised in 1582.
- B** *Choice B is correct.* April Fools' Day is the first day of April.
- C** *Choice C is incorrect.* April 15 is the day that income tax returns are due to the United States government.
- D** *Choice D is incorrect.* May 1 is sometimes celebrated as Mayday. This holiday began in Europe and celebrated the first spring planting.



- 42** Which is the best summary of how April Fools' Day came to be?
- F** April Fools' Day is the day when people play tricks on each other and is celebrated all over the world. This happens because the calendar was changed in 1582, but not everyone knew because news did not travel as fast as it does today. The people who didn't know were called "April Fools."
- G** April Fools' Day began in 1582 when the calendar changed and January 1 became the first day of the year instead of April 1. People who were poor and could not afford calendars still celebrated the first day of the year on April 1.
- H** On April Fools' Day, people play tricks on one another. In France, the person who falls for a trick is called an April fish because they took the "bait" of the joke, just like a fish is tricked by bait and gets hooked.
- J** April Fools' Day tricks are meant to be fun for the person playing the trick and the April fool. They are not meant to be mean or harmful.

Analysis

- F** *Choice F is correct.* This is the best summary of the selection.
- G** *Choice G is incorrect.* This summary is missing information that is important to the selection.
- H** *Choice H is incorrect.* This summary is missing information that is important to the selection.
- J** *Choice J is incorrect.* This summary is missing information that is important to the selection.



43 Look at the following diagram of information from the selection.



What belongs in the empty box?

- A** Say “April Fools!”
- B** Go fishing
- C** Begin a new calendar year
- D** Celebrate the spring weather

Analysis

- A** *Choice A is correct.* People say “April Fools!” after playing tricks on other people on the first day of April.
- B** *Choice B is incorrect.* People might go fishing on April Fools’ Day, but that is not mentioned in the selection.
- C** *Choice C is incorrect.* The new calendar used to begin on April 1, but the first day of the year was changed to January 1 in 1582.
- D** *Choice D is incorrect.* People might celebrate the spring weather on April Fools’ Day, but that is not mentioned in the selection.



- 44** The author includes the headings in bold print to —
- F** organize important information in the selection
 - G** convince the reader that the history of April Fools' Day is important
 - H** show how April Fools' Day began
 - J** demonstrate why people observe April Fools' Day

Analysis

- F** *Choice F is correct.* The author includes the headings in bold print to organize important information in the selection.
- G** *Choice G is incorrect.* The headings do not try to convince the reader that the history of April Fools' Day is important.
- H** *Choice H is incorrect.* The headings do not show how April Fools' Day began.
- J** *Choice J is incorrect.* The headings do not show why people observe April Fools' Day.