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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.
THE READING / TAPESCRPT

Many Christians around the world celebrate Ash Wednesday, which marks the first day of Lent. It is the start of a religious period that leads up to Palm Sunday and the Easter holidays. On Ash Wednesday, people traditionally start fasting for 40 days, eating only simple food. The 40 days is because Jesus fasted in the wilderness for a similar period of time. Roman Catholics should only eat one full meal and two smaller ones during this time. Many Catholics will fast completely on Ash Wednesday or just have bread and water. It is one of only two days in the Catholic calendar when fasting is required. The other day is Good Friday. Ash Wednesday falls between February the 4th and March the 10th each year, depending on the date of Easter.

It is called Ash Wednesday because priests draw a small cross on the foreheads of people in church. The cross is a sign that you have regretted your sins and want to cleanse your soul. It is tradition to keep the cross on one’s forehead until the sun sets. In other churches, people write their sins on a small piece of paper, which is then burnt and turned into ash. In Biblical times, people covered themselves in ash to express their sorrow for their sins. Priests say a prayer to show we are all mortal and will return to ashes after we die. A traditional prayer is: “God our Father, you create us from the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be for us a sign of our sins, and a symbol of our mortality.”
PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

1. the start of a religious period that  a. similar period of time
2. people traditionally start  b. when fasting is required
3. Jesus fasted in the wilderness for a  c. full meal
4. only eat one  d. leads up to Palm Sunday
5. two days in the Catholic calendar  e. the 4th and March the 10th
6. Ash Wednesday falls between February  f. fasting for 40 days

Paragraph 2

1. The cross is a sign that you have  a. are all mortal
2. keep the cross on one’s forehead  b. on a small piece of paper
3. people write their sins  c. mortality
4. In Biblical times, people covered  d. regretted your sins
5. Priests say a prayer to show we  e. themselves in ash
6. a symbol of our  f. until the sun sets
LISTENING GAP FILL

Many Christians _______________ celebrate Ash Wednesday, which marks the first day of Lent. It is the start of a religious period _______________ Palm Sunday and the Easter holidays. On Ash Wednesday, people traditionally start fasting for 40 days, eating _______________. The 40 days is because Jesus fasted in the wilderness for a similar period of time. Roman Catholics should only eat one full meal and two smaller ones _______________. Many Catholics will fast completely on Ash Wednesday or just have bread and water. _______________ two days in the Catholic calendar when fasting is required. The other day is Good Friday. Ash Wednesday falls between February the 4th and March the 10th each year, _______________ of Easter.

It is called Ash Wednesday because priests _______________ on the foreheads of people in church. The cross is a sign that you have regretted your sins and _______________ soul. It is tradition to keep the cross on one’s forehead until the sun sets. In other churches, people _______________ a small piece of paper, which is then burnt and turned into ash. In Biblical times, people covered themselves in ash to express their _______________ sins. Priests say a prayer to show we are all mortal and will return to ashes after we die. A traditional prayer is: “God our Father, _______________ the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be for us a sign of our sins, and _______________ mortality.”
WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Many Christians around the world _________ Ash Wednesday, which marks the first day of Lent. It is the start of a religious period that _________ up to Palm Sunday and the Easter holidays. On Ash Wednesday, people traditionally start _________ for 40 days, eating only simple food. The 40 days is because Jesus fasted in the wilderness for a _________ period of time. Roman Catholics should only eat one full meal and two smaller ones during this _________. Many Catholics will fast completely on Ash Wednesday or _________ have bread and water. It is one of only two days in the Catholic calendar when fasting is _________. The other day is Good Friday. Ash Wednesday falls between February the 4th and March the 10th each year, _________ on the date of Easter.

It is called Ash Wednesday because priests _________ a small cross on the foreheads of people in church. The cross is a sign that you have _________ your sins and want to cleanse your soul. It is tradition to keep the cross on one’s _________ until the sun sets. In other churches, people write their sins on a small piece of paper, which is then _________ and turned into ash. In Biblical times, people covered themselves in ash to express their _________ for their sins. Priests say a prayer to show we are all mortal and will _________ to ashes after we die. A traditional prayer is: “God our Father, you create us from the _________ of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be for us a sign of our sins, and a _________ of our mortality.”
CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD
Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

Many Christians around the world *celebrate / celebration* Ash Wednesday, which marks the first day of Lent. It is the start of a religious *periods / period* that leads up to Palm Sunday and the Easter holidays. On Ash Wednesday, people traditionally start *fast / fasting* for 40 days, eating only simple food. The 40 days is because Jesus fasted in the *wilderness / wilder* for a similar period of time. Roman Catholics should only eat one *fully / full* meal and two smaller ones during this time. Many Catholics will fast *completely / complete* on Ash Wednesday or just have bread and water. It is one of only two days in the Catholic calendar when fasting is *required / requirement*. The other day is Good Friday. Ash Wednesday falls between February the 4th and March the 10th each year, *depends / depending* on the date of Easter.

It is called Ash Wednesday because priests *drawing / draw* a small cross on the foreheads of people in church. The cross is a sign that you have *regretted / regret* your sins and want to cleanse your soul. It is *tradition / traditions* to keep the cross on one’s forehead until the sun *sets / set*. In other churches, people write their sins on a small piece of paper, which is then burnt and turned into *cash / ash*. In Biblical times, people covered themselves in ash to express their sorrow for their *sinners / sins*. Priests say a prayer to show we are all mortal and will return to ashes after we die. A traditional *player / prayer* is: “God our Father, you create us from the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be for us a sign of our sins, and a *symbol / symbolic* of our mortality.”
**MULTIPLE CHOICE**

Many Christians around the world (1) **celebrate** Ash Wednesday, which marks the first day of Lent. It is the start of a religious period that leads (2) **to** Palm Sunday and the Easter holidays. On Ash Wednesday, people traditionally start (3) **fasting** for 40 days, eating only simple food. The 40 days is because Jesus fasted in the wilderness for a similar period of time. Roman Catholics should only eat one (4) **meal** and two smaller ones during this time. Many Catholics will fast completely on Ash Wednesday or just have bread and water. It is one of only two days in the Catholic calendar when fasting is (5) **required**. The other day is Good Friday. Ash Wednesday falls between February the 4th and March the 10th each year, (6) **depending on** the date of Easter.

It is called Ash Wednesday because priests (7) **draw** a small cross on the foreheads of people in church. The cross is a sign that you have regretted your sins and want to (8) **cleanse** your soul. It is tradition to keep the cross on one’s forehead until the sun sets. In other churches, people write their sins on a small piece of paper, which is then burnt and turned (9) **into** ash. In Biblical times, people covered themselves in ash to express their sorrow for their sins. Priests say a prayer to (10) **show** we are all mortal and will return to ashes after we die. A traditional (11) **praying** is: “God our Father, you create us from the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be for us a sign of our sins, and a (12) **symbolic** of our mortality.”

**Put the correct words from this table into the article.**

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<th>(b)</th>
<th>(c)</th>
<th>(d)</th>
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</table>
SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. ebrlaetec Ash Wednesday
2. a religious oredip that leads up to Palm Sunday
3. start asfitgn for 40 days
4. one full meal and two arlsmel ones
5. two days in the Catholic ncadrael
6. Ash Wednesday Ifsal between February the 4th and March the 10th

Paragraph 2

7. a small oscsr
8. enslcae your soul
9. a small ieeep of paper
10. express their rwroso
11. we are all oratlm
12. a mblosy of our mortality
religious period that leads up to Palm Sunday and the Easter holidays. On Ash Wednesday, people traditionally start fasting for 40 days, eating only simple food. The 40 days is because Jesus fasted in the wilderness for a similar period of time. Roman Catholics should only eat one full meal and two smaller ones during this time. Many Catholics will calendar when fasting is required. The other day is Good Friday. Ash Wednesday falls between February the 4th and March the 10th each year, depending on the date of Easter. It is called Ash Wednesday because priests draw a small cross on the foreheads of people in church. The cross is a sign that you have regretted your sins and want to cleanse your soul. It is tradition to keep the cross on one’s forehead until the sun sets. In other churches, people write their sins on a small piece of paper, which is then burnt in ash to express their sorrow for their sins. Priests say a prayer to show we are all mortal and will return to ashes after we die. A traditional prayer is: "God our Father, you create us from the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be for us a sign of our sins, and a symbol of our mortality.” Many Christians around the world celebrate Ash Wednesday, which marks the first day of Lent. It is the start of a period of time for us a sign of our sins, and a symbol of our mortality.”
SCRAMBLED SENTENCES
With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. Ash Christians the celebrate Wednesday around world

2. a religious period It is the start of

3. traditionally fasting 40 people start for days

4. wilderness days Jesus the 40 because in The is fasted

5. fasting the is Catholic required calendar days when in

6. cross foreheads priests small the people a on of draw

7. a sign that you have regretted your sins The cross is

8. their a of write on piece people sins small paper

9. Biblical themselves times in , ash people In covered

10. say to are Priests prayer we mortal a show all
DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)
STUDENT A’s QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. __________________________________________________________

2. __________________________________________________________

3. __________________________________________________________

4. __________________________________________________________

5. __________________________________________________________

6. __________________________________________________________

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)
STUDENT B’s QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. __________________________________________________________

2. __________________________________________________________

3. __________________________________________________________

4. __________________________________________________________

5. __________________________________________________________

6. __________________________________________________________
THE ASH WEDNESDAY SURVEY

Write five questions about Ash Wednesday in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.
WRITING

Write about Ash Wednesday for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other’s work.
HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google’s search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about Ash Wednesday. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Ash Wednesday. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.
   Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. POSTER: Make your own poster about Ash Wednesday. Write about will happen on this day around the world.
   Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.