

1. St. Swithin's Day

If it's July 15th, it must be St. Swithin's Day! Who? Sadly, the first-century saint is better known for the weather-rhyme which comes around once a year than for his Christian good deeds. This week's worksheet takes a look at the man and why we remember him on July 15th. There is one page to print. Click here to get your copy.

<http://www.insideout.net/warehouse/worksheets/July/IO105S-stswithinsday.pdf>

Level

Intermediate

How to use the lesson

1. Ask your students what rhymes or proverbs they know about the weather. Find out if they know any in English (eg, Red sky at night – shepherd's delight. Red sky in the morning – shepherd's warning).
2. Give each student in the class a copy of the worksheet and ask them to read the four-line verse at the top of the page. Ask your students to discuss the meaning of the rhyme and whether or not they think it is based on fact or if they think it's *an old wives' tale* (a traditional belief that many think is wrong or silly because there is no proof of it).
3. After discussing these points of view, ask your students to read the story and complete it by adding one of the words in the box. The words can be used as often as is necessary.
4. Check answers in open class.

Answers

1. on 2. in 3. on 4. over 5. of 6. to 7. on 8. from 9. for 10. in 11. to
 12. on 13. by 14. in 15. on 16. of 17. on 18. in 19. of / in 20. in 21. of
 22. to 23. on 24. in 25. of

Follow up

The links below present an opportunity to look at a cultural aspect of (mainly British) folklore. You could organise a project on customs and traditions in Britain (the last link below has been created by the children from one school and shows what can be achieved).

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.corsinet.com/trivia/scary.html>

superstitions and old wives' tales listed alphabetically

http://www.all-about-hangovers.com/html/old_wives_tales.html

a couple of hangover old wives' tales

<http://www.oldwivestales.net/>

all sorts of stuff here

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~genepool/sayings.htm>

The origins of English sayings (eg, black market, cold shoulder etc.)

<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/index.html>

for English traditions and customs – prepared by schoolchildren