

# Bullfighting

WORKSHEET A

On 25<sup>th</sup> September, fans of bullfighting went to the Monumental arena in Barcelona for the last time. It was the final day of the 2011 bullfighting season, and because the parliament of Catalonia (the region in the north-east of Spain of which Barcelona is the capital) voted last year to ban bullfighting from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012, the fans knew no more bulls would follow the six animals the bullfighters (*toreros* in Spanish) fought and killed that day.

Bullfighting will continue, however, in other regions of Spain, as well as in Portugal, a few areas of southern France, and some countries in Latin America (including Venezuela, Peru and Ecuador).

Different countries have different kinds of bullfighting, but in all of them the bullfighters (usually men; very few are women) go into an arena with a large, aggressive bull that will try to attack them. In some countries the bullfighters might ride horses but usually they move around the arena on foot. They often have weapons similar to spears that they try to thrust into the bull's body (usually between the shoulders): doing so causes the animal to lose blood and become weaker. In this kind of bullfighting the bull always dies. There is also danger for the bullfighter, of course, as they could be badly injured – perhaps even killed – if hit by one of the bull's horns. One of the most well-known pictures from bullfighting is that of a *torero* holding a red cape and waiting for the angry bull to run towards it. (Many people believe the colour red makes a bull especially angry, but this is a myth because bulls are colour-blind.)

Those who like bullfighting often say it is an important cultural tradition – a kind of art, even – that has taken place for hundreds of years, as well as an exciting show in which the *toreros* have to be skilful and brave.

Those who oppose it usually say that causing an animal to have a slow death is cruel – and that turning it into entertainment for the public makes it even worse. They often add that just because something has happened for a very long time, that doesn't make it right.

The vote by the Catalanian parliament to ban bullfighting came after around 180,000 people signed a petition saying it was cruel. But that probably wasn't the only reason for the ban: for a long time bullfighting had been less popular in Catalonia than in most other parts of Spain; and some politicians, knowing that many Catalonians see their region as separate from the rest of Spain, probably used the issue to send the popular message that Catalonia is different.

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## Exercise 1

### Team A

Here are the answers to some questions about the text on Worksheet A, but what are the questions? When you have prepared the questions, Team B will have to answer them as part of a quiz.

1. It will begin on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012.
2. It means 'bullfighter' in Spanish.
3. In Europe it will continue in other regions of Spain, in Portugal, and in a few areas of southern France.
4. It was in September / on 25<sup>th</sup> September.
5. Barcelona is the capital.
6. They believe it makes bulls especially angry.
7. There are very few women.
8. They signed a petition (against bullfighting).

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### Team B

Here are the answers to some questions about the text on Worksheet A, but what are the questions? When you have prepared the questions, Team A will have to answer them as part of a quiz.

1. The parliament / Politicians in Catalonia.
2. It is in the north-east of Spain.
3. In Latin America it will continue in Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru and Ecuador.
4. It tries to attack the bullfighter.
5. On foot.
6. Because they are colour-blind.
7. Weapons that are similar to spears.
8. Six.

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## Exercise 2

**Student A:** You and your partner have the same crossword, but with different words completed. Take it in turns to describe the words to each other and fill in the gaps. The name of two other Latin American countries where bullfighting takes place should then read from top to bottom.

						1	M	Y	T	H				
						2								
						3	E	X	C	I	T	I	N	G
4														
						5	C	R	U	E	L			
6														
						7	A	T	T	A	C	K		
						8								
						9	S	K	I	L	F	U	L	
10														
	11	P	A	R	L	I	A	M	E	N	T			
						12								
13	A	G	G	R	E	S	S	I	V	E				
						14								

**Student B:** You and your partner have the same crossword, but with different words completed. Take it in turns to describe the words to each other and fill in the gaps. The name of two other Latin American countries where bullfighting takes place should then read from top to bottom.

						1							
						2	W	E	A	P	O	N	
						3							
4	E	N	T	E	R	T	A	I	N	M	E	N	T
						5							
6	P	E	T	I	T	I	O	N					
						7							
						8	H	O	R	N			
						9							
10	T	R	A	D	I	T	I	O	N				
						12	B	R	A	V	E		
13													
						14	A	R	E	N	A		