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# Haggis

WORKSHEET A

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In Scotland, Burns Night celebrations take place in many places on or near 25<sup>th</sup> January, which is the anniversary of the birth of the country's most famous poet, Robert Burns (1759-96). The celebrations usually include readings from the great man's poems, and traditional Scottish music. Food and drink are also important on Burns Night: a lot of whisky is drunk, and a traditional but rather unusual dish called haggis is eaten.

Even the most patriotic Scot would probably admit that haggis doesn't sound very tasty to most people. It looks like a very fat sausage, with the filling consisting of pieces of sheep's heart, liver and lungs mixed with onion, oats and spices. The skin of the haggis used to be made from sheep's stomach, but that isn't so common nowadays. The haggis is boiled in water for about an hour, then eaten with 'neeps and tatties', which means turnips and potatoes in the dialect that used to be spoken by many people in Scotland.

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2

Haggis can be found in supermarkets in Scotland and other parts of Britain, and some fast-food restaurants in Scotland offer fried haggis with chips, perhaps not the healthiest meal in world, but certainly very filling. A few of the places that sell haggis also offer a meat-free version for vegetarians.

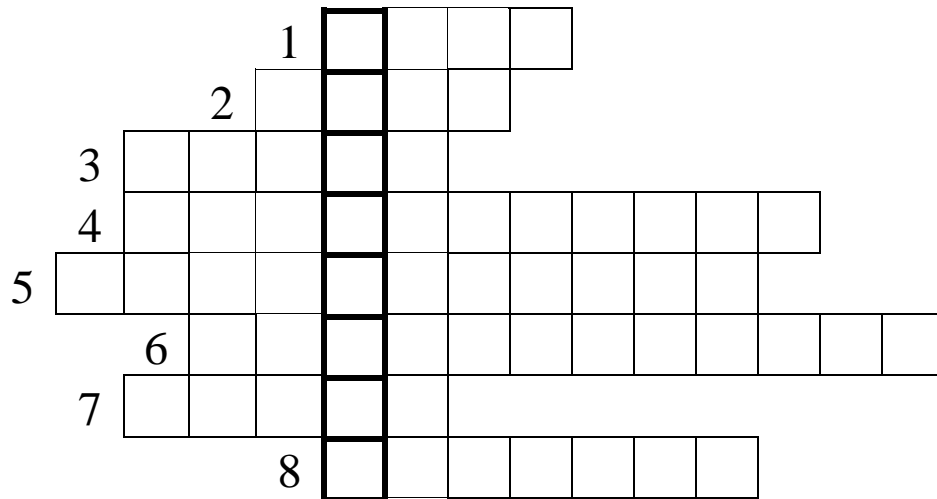
Believe it or not, 'haggis hurling' is an occasional Scottish sporting event which consists of throwing a haggis as far as possible. The world record distance for throwing a 0.7kg haggis is almost 60 metres, achieved by a Scotsman in 1984. There is also haggis juggling, with the annual Scottish Juggling Convention including a competition to see how long people can juggle three, four or five large haggises for. Some Scottish people also enjoy telling foreign visitors that the haggis is a very rare wild animal, only found in Scotland. Every year there are always a few tourists who only realize it was a joke when they arrive at the tourist information office to ask how they can book a place on a 'haggis hunt'.

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## Haggis

WORKSHEET B

Fill the gaps below to complete the crossword and reveal the name of the traditional Scottish musical instrument that is usually played at Burns Night parties.



1. To cook a haggis you need to \_\_\_\_\_ it in water for quite a long time.
2. Some Scottish people tell foreign tourists that the haggis is a \_\_\_\_\_ wild animal.
3. Haggis contains pieces of sheep's \_\_\_\_\_.
4. In Scotland there is an annual haggis juggling \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Haggis is a \_\_\_\_\_ Scottish dish.
6. Haggis can be found in \_\_\_\_\_ in Scotland and some other parts of Britain.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ haggis is sold at some fast-food restaurants in Scotland.
8. Haggis looks like a very fat \_\_\_\_\_.

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# Haggis

WORKSHEET C

The text below, written by schoolchild, contains fifteen mistakes. Can you find and then correct them?

## **Our Burns Night party**

Last week I went to a Burns Night party with my parents and lot of their friends.

Uncle David read some poems by Robert Burns in the old Scot dialect, which was quite funny, and there was tradition Scottish dancing after the meal, which I don't like very much. Uncle Jock played the bagpipe for a long time - he doesn't play them very well, but no one wanted to tell him.

The food at the party was haggis, which is not my favourite plate. Why do we always eat haggis in Burns Night? Everyone say it is taste and filling, but I think it would be better if we have pizza and chips instead. Haggis looks a big, fat sausage, but is not as nice as normal sausage. I'm not sure what the fill is, but I think it is made in strange parts of a sheep with onion and other things. The vegetables we eat with the haggis are potatos and turnips. Two people at the party were vegetarians, so there was a different haggis for them, without meat.

Uncle Jock said me that last year he won a 'haggis hurling' competition. I'm not sure if I believe him, but I do think that seeing how far you can juggle a haggis would be more fun than eating one.

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# Haggis

WORKSHEET D

## Our Burns Night party

Last week I went to a Burns Night party with my parents and **a lot** of their friends. Uncle David read some poems by Robert Burns in the old **Scottish** dialect, which was quite funny, and there was **traditional** Scottish dancing after the meal, which I don't like very much. Uncle Jock played the **bagpipes** for a long time – he doesn't play them very well, but no one wanted to tell him.

The food at the party was haggis, which is not my favourite **dish**. Why do we always eat haggis **on** Burns Night? Everyone **says** it is **tasty** and filling, but I think it would be better if we **had** pizza and chips instead. Haggis **looks like** a big, fat sausage, but is not as nice as normal sausage. I'm not sure what the **filling** is, but I think it is made **from/of** strange parts of a sheep with onion and other things. The vegetables we eat with the haggis are **potatoes** and turnips. Two people at the party were vegetarians, so there was a different haggis for them, without meat.

Uncle Jock **told** me that last year he won a 'haggis hurling' competition. I'm not sure if I believe him, but I do think that seeing how far you can **throw** a haggis would be more fun than eating one.