

Summer free-time activities

1 Work with a partner and answer the questions.

- How do you spend your time during the summer holidays?
- Look at the infographic. Do you do some of the activities that British teenagers do in their holidays? What different activities might teenagers in your country do?
- Is there any activity on the list that you find surprising?

2a Read the texts. Find a place or an event where you don't swim.

TOP TEN SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES FOR UK TEENS

Going out with friends	113 hours
Activities with family	100 hours
Chatting online	95 hours
Napping	84 hours
Watching films	79 hours
Catching up on box-sets on TV	75 hours
Playing video games	74 hours
Having fun in the local neighbourhood or park	60 hours
Shopping	59 hours
Working part time	58 hours
Doing sport	58 hours



Here comes summer!

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How do you like spending your holidays?

Many teenagers get bored during the long summer holidays, but there are a lot of fun ways to enjoy your free time. Let's look at some holiday activities popular with teenagers around the world.



Matsuri means 'festival' in my country. It's usually very hot, but people love being outdoors. My favourite festival is the Asakusa Samba Carnival in Tokyo and I go with my family every August. It's a very lively and colourful event and attracts about 500,000 spectators each year. There are thousands of dancers wearing beautiful costumes and musicians playing Brazilian samba music, all parading in the streets. The atmosphere is brilliant and everyone is happy. It's my favourite event of the summer!

Hiroko, Japan

Posted 21st February 12:21 ◀ Reply ♥ Like

I always spend the first two weeks of the summer holidays at an activity camp with a friend of mine. Summer camps are very popular in the USA and there are about 11 million kids who attend them each year. They're awesome because you get to make lots of new friends and learn new skills. We go to a really cool camp, about two hours from where we live in Boston. We sleep in cabins in the forest and do all sorts of activities, such as water sports, tennis, basketball, arts and crafts, orienteering and cookery. There's also a library, a cinema and an indoor swimming pool at the camp for rainy days. You never get bored there!

Daniel, USA

Posted 14th February 11:45 ◀ Reply ♥ Like

Do you know that Spain has more amusement parks than any other country in Europe? During our summer holidays, we often go to the parks with our friends to have fun. I live near Barcelona and love going to Port Aventura, the most popular amusement park in my country, which has four million visitors a year. There's also a water park nearby which is perfect for cooling off during the long hot summer days. And in the city, there's a wonderful amusement park called Tibidabo which is one of the oldest in the world. It opened in 1899 and still has many of the original rides.

Elena, Spain

Posted 17th January 7:47 ◀ Reply ♥ Like

2b Read the texts again. Are these sentences True (T) or False (F)?

- 1 Matsuri means 'carnival' in Japanese. T / F
- 2 American summer camps have activities whatever the weather. T / F
- 3 In Spain, you can do water sports at the amusement parks when it's really hot. T / F
- 4 Summer in Japan is a popular time for festivals. T / F
- 5 Going to a summer camp is a tradition for many children in the USA. T / F
- 6 Tibidabo in Barcelona is Spain's most visited amusement park. T / F

2c Read the sentences and write festival, summer camp or amusement park.

- 1 You don't visit this place only for the day.
- 2 This event attracts half a million people.
- 3 One of these attractions is more than a hundred years old.
- 4 It's a good place to learn how to do new things.
- 5 This is popular among Spanish teens.
- 6 It happens only once a year.

Gateway to culture

3a Work with a partner and discuss the questions.

- 1 What are the benefits of going away to a summer camp during the holidays? Are there summer camps for teenagers in your country? Would you like to go to one? What kind of new skills would you like to learn there?
- 2 Do you think it's important to have a part-time job during the holidays? Why/Why not?

PROJECT

3b Read the notes and prepare for a classroom debate.

- 1 Work with a partner. Look at the statement on the debate card. Do you agree or disagree?
- 2 Look at the points for and against the statement and add two more of your own in each column.

'The school holidays should be all about having fun after a busy school year, not about working or studying.'

FOR

- It's important to relax during the holidays.
- It's good to find out ways of entertaining yourself instead of following a timetable just like at school.

AGAINST

- You can earn some money if you have a part-time job, or learn some new skills if you choose to study.
- It's a way to fill the long days and weeks of the holidays.

3c Have a debate. Use your preparation from 3b to help you.

- 1 Work with another pair. Decide which pair will argue for and which against the debate card statement.
- 2 Have your debate. When you have argued your points, swap roles and debate again.