

Name: _____ Date : _____

Birthday Candles

A. Read the story. Then complete the activity.



Do you like birthday cake? Does your birthday cake have candles? The candles show how old you are. The history of birthday candles dates back thousands of years, before the modern tradition began.

Thousands of years ago the ancient Greeks made round cakes. They were for the Goddess Artemis, the Moon Goddess. The Greeks put candles on the cake to make it look like the moon.

For a long time only important people would have birthday cake.

In the 15th century German bakers started to make inexpensive cakes.

They sold the cakes for weddings and birthdays. The Germans were also candle makers. They put a candle on the cake. The candle was the “light of life”.

Today the birthday cake has many candles. This is from Germany, too. In the 18th century there was a celebration for children called Kinderfest. The children were served cake with candles. There was one candle for every year of age. This tradition is continued today on modern birthday cakes.

Birthday candles connect you to traditions and history. Enjoy your birthday candles.

B. Answer the questions.

1. What is the main topic of the story?
a. The history of cakes. b. The history of birthdays. c. The history of birthday candles.
2. How many years ago did the tradition start?
3. Which goddess received moon cakes?

C. Complete the webbing with details from the story.



D. Discussion

What do you think of birthday candles now? Tell your partner what you think.