

# World Book Day

## What Is World Book Day?

World Book Day is an annual celebration. This means that it happens every year. In the United Kingdom, World Book Day happens on the first Thursday of March. In other parts of the world, World Book Day always happens on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.



World Book Day is a charity event. It is a day where everybody gets to focus on reading. Every year, on World Book Day, each child in the UK is given a £1 voucher to spend on a book of their own.

## When Did World Book Day Start?

The idea for World Book Day was thought up by a group called UNESCO. They are a group responsible for making sure that everyone around the world gets a chance to learn. In 1995, UNESCO decided to make a day that focused on reading. The very first World Book Day was celebrated around the world in April 1995. It is now celebrated in around 100 different countries.

### Did You Know?

- The date of World Book Day changes every year.
- Anyone who loves books can take part in World Book Day.
- You can take your £1 book voucher to any bookshop and swap it for one of the special World Book Day books on offer.



## Why Is Reading Important?

Reading is a very important skill and it is something that you will need to be able to do for your whole life. Without being able to read, simple tasks, such as going shopping or reading a letter, become impossible. How will you know what ingredients to put into a cake if you cannot read the recipe? How will you know where the bus goes to if you can't read the sign?

Reading gives you the chance to live your life however you choose but some children are not lucky enough to learn to read at school. World Book Day can be a great chance to raise money for charities, such as Book Aid International. These charities work with children in less fortunate countries. They give them books and teach them to read so that they can do whatever they choose to do in life.



# Questions

1. What does the word **annual** mean? Tick one.

- ☐ something happens every day
- ☐ something happens every year
- ☐ something happens every week

2. In the UK, what month does World Book Day take place in? Tick one.

- ☐ March
- ☐ April
- ☐ May

3. What is each child in the UK given on World Book Day? Tick one.

- ☐ A book
- ☐ A costume
- ☐ A £1 voucher

4. In what year did the first World Book Day take place? Tick one.

- ☐ 1994
- ☐ 1995
- ☐ 1996

5. Fill in the missing word in the sentence below.

The idea for World Book Day was thought up by a group called \_\_\_\_\_.

6. What can you do with your £1 voucher?

---

---

7. Why do you think that reading is important?

---

---

---

# Answers

1. What does the word **annual** mean? Tick one.

- ☐ something happens every day  
☒ **something happens every year**  
☐ something happens every week

2. In the UK, what month does World Book Day take place in? Tick one.

- ☒ **March**  
☐ April  
☐ May

3. What is each child in the UK given on World Book Day? Tick one.

- ☐ A book  
☐ A costume  
☒ **A £1 voucher**

4. In what year did the first World Book Day take place? Tick one.

- ☐ 1994  
☒ **1995**  
☐ 1996

5. Fill in the missing word in the sentence below.

The idea for World Book Day was thought up by a group called **UNESCO**.

6. What can you do with your £1 voucher?

**Accept any answer which says that you can take the voucher to a bookshop to swap it for a book.**

7. Why do you think that reading is important?

**Children's own responses, such as: Reading helps you to do things you need to do; Reading is something you will need to do for your whole life; Reading gives you the chance to get better at other subjects; Reading helps you when you are an adult; Reading will help you to get a job.**



# World Book Day

World Book Day is an annual celebration. In the United Kingdom, World Book Day happens on the first Thursday of March. However, in other parts of the world, World Book Day always happens on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. 23<sup>rd</sup> April was chosen because it is the same date that many famous authors have died on.



World Book Day is a one-day charity event, on which everybody gets to focus on books, authors and reading. Every year, on World Book Day, each child in the UK is given a £1 voucher to spend on a book of their own. This is to encourage a love of reading from an early age.

## World Book Day Beginnings

The idea for World Book Day was originally thought up by an organisation called UNESCO. UNESCO are responsible for making sure that everyone around the world gets a chance to learn. In 1995, UNESCO created an annual celebration of reading and the very first World Book Day was held around the world in April of this year. It is now celebrated in around 100 different countries and, each year, UNESCO chooses a different city to be the centre of their World Book Day celebrations.

### Did You Know?

- World Book Day is celebrated on a different date every year.
- Around 15 million book tokens are sent out each year in the UK, which can be swapped for a free £1 book in many bookshops.
- Many people dress up as their favourite storybook characters on World Book Day.



## The Importance of Reading

Reading is a vital skill and something you will need to be able to do for your whole life. Without being able to read, simple tasks, such as reading the ingredients to bake a cake or reading a letter about bills, become impossible.

Reading allows you to live your life however you choose to but learning to read is a luxury that some children are not lucky enough to experience. World Book Day can be a great chance to raise money for charities, such as Book Aid International, who work with children in less fortunate countries. They provide them with books and teach them to read in order to give them the best chance of success in the future.



# Questions

1. On what date is World Book Day celebrated in other parts of the world? Tick one.

- ☐ the first Thursday of March
- ☐ in 1995
- ☐ 23<sup>rd</sup> April

2. Draw a line to complete the sentences.

The idea for World Book Day
World Book Day is
Every year, each child is given

a £1 voucher to spend on books.
a one-day charity event.
was thought up by UNESCO.

3. In around how many countries is World Book Day now celebrated? Tick one.

- ☐ 23
- ☐ 1995
- ☐ 100

4. Approximately how many book tokens are sent out each year to children in the UK? Tick one.

- ☐ 1 million
- ☐ 15 million
- ☐ 100 million

5. In which year was World Book Day first celebrated?

---



6. Which charity might people raise money for on World Book Day, as mentioned in the text?

---

7. Why might baking a cake become difficult without the ability to read?

---

---

8. Explain why all children aren't lucky enough to be taught how to read.

---

---

---

# Answers

1. On what date is World Book Day celebrated in other parts of the world? Tick one.

☐ the first Thursday of March

☐ in 1995

☒ **23<sup>rd</sup> April**

2. Draw a line to complete the sentences.

The idea for World Book Day	a £1 voucher to spend on books.
World Book Day is	a one-day charity event.
Every year, each child is given	was thought up by UNESCO.

3. In around how many countries is World Book Day now celebrated? Tick one.

☐ 23

☐ 1995

☒ **100**

4. Approximately how many book tokens are sent out each year to children in the UK?  
Tick one.

☐ 1 million

☒ **15 million**

☐ 100 million

5. In which year was World Book Day first celebrated?

**World Book Day was first celebrated in 1995.**

6. Which charity might people raise money for on World Book Day, as mentioned in the text?

**People might raise money for Book Aid International.**

7. Why might baking a cake become difficult without the ability to read?

**Children's own responses, such as: It would be impossible to read the ingredients to know what to do; You would struggle to buy the correct ingredients for the cake because you might not be able to read the packets.**

8. Explain why all children aren't lucky enough to be taught how to read.

**Children's own responses, such as: Many children work instead of going to school in poorer countries; Their parents cannot teach them because they cannot read either; The schools the children attend do not have enough books for them to have their own.**

# World Book Day



World Book Day is an annual reading celebration. In most countries, it is celebrated each year on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April. This particular date was chosen as it marks the anniversary of the death of many famous authors, including William Shakespeare and William Wordsworth. However, due to the celebration of St George's Day on the same date, the United Kingdom celebrates World Book day on the first Thursday of March instead.

World Book Day is a one-day charitable festival, with a focus on books, authors and reading. It is an opportunity for people to share their favourite books with others, explore new texts and learn more about their favourite authors. Every year, on World Book Day, each child in the UK is given a £1 voucher to spend on a book of their choice, in order to encourage a love of reading from an early age.

## World Book Day Beginnings

The idea for World Book Day was originally created by an organisation called UNESCO, who are responsible for ensuring that everyone around the world gets a chance to learn. In 1995, UNESCO created an annual celebration of reading. Therefore, the very first World Book Day was held around the world in April of that year. It is now celebrated in around 100 different countries, with UNESCO choosing a different city each year to be the centre of their World Book Day celebrations.

### Did You Know?

- 171 million people could be able to free themselves from poverty if they were able to leave school with basic reading skills.
- For every £2 donated on World Book Day, Book Aid International can send a new reading book to a school where children do not have enough books to learn to read.





## The Importance of Reading

Reading is a vital skill and the need to be able to do it spans for your entire life. Without being able to read, simple tasks can become practically impossible.

Having the ability to read allows you to access many opportunities to improve your life. However, learning to read is a luxury that some children are not lucky enough to experience. World Book Day can be a great chance to raise money for charities through fancy dress competitions, sponsored reading or whole school collections. Charities such as Book Aid International work with children in less fortunate countries, providing them with books and teaching them how to read, in order to give them the best chance of success in the future.



# Questions

## 1. World Book Day is an annual reading celebration.

What does the word **annual** mean? Tick one.

- ☐ something which is important
- ☐ something which is celebrated
- ☐ something which happens every year

## 2. Match each question to the correct answer.

How many people could be freed from poverty if they could read?

171 million

In which year was the first World Book Day celebrated?

£1

How much is each voucher given out on World Book Day worth?

1995

## 3. Name two things that people get an opportunity to do on World Book Day.

---



---



---



---

## 4. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

'However, learning to \_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_ that some children are not \_\_\_\_\_ enough to experience.'

## 5. Find and copy a word from the first paragraph which means **someone that is very well known**.

---

6. Why is World Book Day celebrated on 23<sup>rd</sup> April in most countries?

---

---

7. Explain how the UK's celebration of World Book Day differs to other countries around the world?

---

---

---

8. Give an example of something you have done to celebrate World Book Day.

---

---

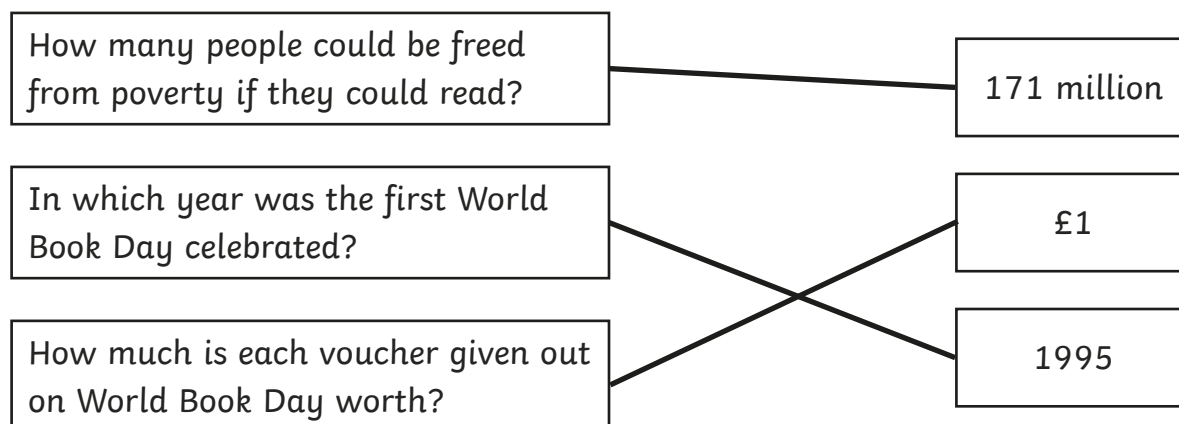
# Answers

## 1. World Book Day is an annual reading celebration.

What does the word **annual** mean? Tick one.

- ☐ something which is important
- ☐ something which is celebrated
- ☒ **something which happens every year**

## 2. Match each question to the correct answer.



## 3. Name two things that people get an opportunity to do on World Book Day.

**Accept any two of the following answers:**

- **celebrate reading**
- **share their favourite books**
- **explore new texts**
- **learn more about their favourite authors**

## 4. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

'However, learning to **read** is a **luxury** that some children are not **lucky** enough to experience.'

## 5. Find and copy a word from the first paragraph which means **someone that is very well known**.

**famous**



6. Why is World Book Day celebrated on 23<sup>rd</sup> April in most countries?

**Children's own responses, such as: This date has been chosen as it marks the anniversary of the death of many famous authors, including William Shakespeare and William Wordsworth.**

7. Explain how the UK's celebration of World Book Day differs to other countries around the world?

**Children's own responses, such as: The UK celebrates World Book Day on a different date to the rest of the world because of the clash with St George's Day.**

8. Give an example of something you have done to celebrate World Book Day.

**Children's own responses, such as: I have gone to school dressed as a character for World Book Day; I have donated money to charity; I have brought a special book to school.**