

# Smart READING



Word Count ■ 150  
Lexile® ■ 450L-650L

# 5.2



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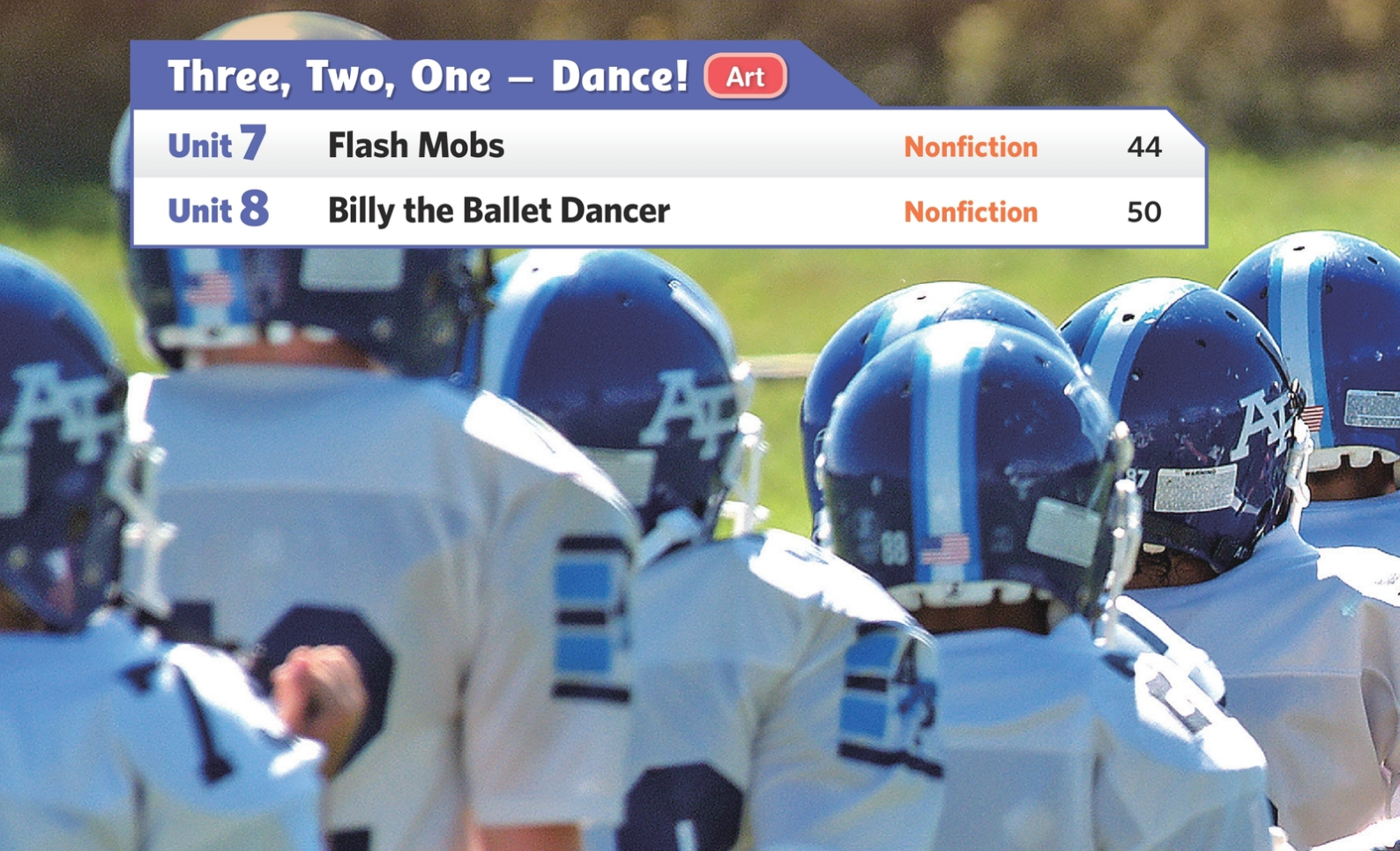
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# Festivals

Unit  
**1** Water Festivals

Unit  
**2** Who Threw the Tomato?

## Beyond the Game

Unit  
**3** Olympic Symbols

Unit  
**4** Sportsmanship



A vibrant photograph showing a group of people, likely at a festival or cultural celebration. They have colorful paint (purple, yellow, red) smeared on their faces and hands. Some are wearing traditional headscarves. The background is a soft-focus green field.

## Social Studies

Humans love to celebrate. That is why people have festivals. Whatever the celebration, festivals are almost always fun and exciting.

A photograph of a youth football team. The players are wearing blue helmets with white facemasks and blue jerseys with white stripes on the sleeves. They are lined up on a grassy field, some looking towards the camera and others looking down.

## Sports

There is a lot more to playing sports than just winning. Sports teaches people how to be fair and become better people. Let's find out what sportsmanship is all about.



Unit

1

# Water Festivals



When is it OK to spray water on others?





## Key Words

**A** Listen and repeat the words.



1.



celebrate

2.



festival

3.



reborn

4.



wash away

5.



huge

6.



splash

**B** Choose and write the correct words.

splash    celebrate    festival    reborn    huge    washing away

1. We will \_\_\_\_\_ Jenny's birthday tomorrow.
2. Oh no! The water is \_\_\_\_\_ your sandcastle.
3. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ me! I do not want to get wet.
4. It is Chinese New Year. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ all day.
5. In spring, nature is \_\_\_\_\_. It is time for new life.
6. The rock is \_\_\_\_\_. It is 100 times bigger than the man.



# Water Festivals

## While You Read

In Buddhism, what does water do?

03

Buddhist New Year starts at different times around the world. In Southeast Asia, it starts in mid-April. To **celebrate**, people have water **festivals**. But why water festivals?

In Buddhism, water is a way to make everything new again. When people pour water on things, they are cleaned and **reborn**. So water festivals help **wash away** bad things that happened in the past year. Then people are ready for the new year.

Songkran is the biggest water festival. It happens every year in Thailand from April 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>. There are **huge** water fights in the streets. People use water guns and buckets to playfully **splash** each other. Even elephants join in on the festival too! They use their trunks to spray water on people.



**playfully** in a fun way

**trunk** an elephant's nose





Water festivals are a fun way to celebrate Buddhist New Year. So next New Year's Day, why not splash your friends with water? It will help them start the year fresh and clean!



## Comprehension Check

● Choose or write the correct answers.

1. What is the passage mainly about?

- Ⓐ Buddhism in Southeast Asia
- Ⓑ water fights in Southeast Asia
- Ⓒ water festivals in Southeast Asia

2. Songkran is the biggest water \_\_\_\_\_.

Ⓐ



Ⓑ



Ⓒ



3. What is NOT true about Buddhist New Year?

- Ⓐ It starts at the same time everywhere.
- Ⓑ People celebrate with water festivals in some countries.
- Ⓒ In Southeast Asia, it starts in mid-April.

4. Why do people celebrate with water festivals?

➔ When people pour water on things, they are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### BACK TO THE PASSAGE

5. There are very big water fights on the roads.

= There are \_\_\_\_\_ water fights in the streets.

6. Elephants are also part of the festival.

= Even elephants \_\_\_\_\_ in on the festival too.