**The Life and Music of Chopin**

It was the early 1800s. A young Polish boy, Fryderyk Chopin, amazed people with his musical gifts. By the time he was seven, he was already writing polonaises. He was so good that he even played for Tsar Alexander I! Chopin was quickly becoming a star in Poland.

Under Russian rule, safety in Poland was getting worse. The polish tried to fight for their country, but they were violently beaten down. Chopin wanted Poland to be free from Russia’s control, so he wrote the song “Revolution.”

When he was 21, he moved to Paris. Before he left, his family gave him a cup of Polish dirt to remember his home.

In Paris, Chopin made friends with other music lovers. One of them was Franz Liszt. He helped Chopin with his first concert in Paris. The concert was so impressive that Chopin was soon introduced to Paris’s upper class. From there, Chopin made a living teaching piano to the rich.

Since he earned enough from teaching, he seldom gave large concerts. Instead, he chose to play in small salons and compose music. During this time, he wrote many famous works.

After six years in Paris, Chopin met George Sand. Although Sand was older and already had children, she won Chopin’s heart.

After nine years together, their relationship ended and Chopin’s health got worse. In November 1848, his concert in England for Polish refugees was his final performance. Chopin died on October 17, 1849 in Paris. Sadly, he never had the chance to return to Poland. So, his loved ones poured Polish dirt over his coffin. Chopin will always be remembered for being a musical genius from Poland.

*Article from A+ English 2014/10*

**Ancient Myths**

We get earthquakes when two pieces of land move. We know this because we can **study** nature.

Ancient people could not study nature, so they made stories about earthquakes and other things. For example, ancient Australian people thought a very big kangaroo made earthquakes. When the kangaroo jumped, it made an earthquake. This kind of story is called a myth.

Today, we know that these myths are not true. However, many people still like to talk about ancient myths.

In ancient Greece and Rome, people had myths about lightning. In their myths, a god named Zeus made lightning. In ancient Norway’s myths, a god named Thor made thunder.

In ancient Africa, there was a myth about Earth. People thought that a god got sick and threw up. When the god threw up, he made the sun and the moon. When he threw up again, he made animals.

It’s good to know about myths. They help us understand ancient people more.

*Article from ABC 2014/9*

**Celebrating the Fall of the Berlin Wall—**

**German Unity Day**

October 3, is Germany’s National Day. However, it’s much more than that. On this day, Germans celebrate Unity Day. Germany was separated when World War II ended in 1945. In 1990, they became **one** country again.

At the end of the war, the Allies occupied Germany. Eventually, it was broken into two countries. The USSR controlled East Germany; West Germany, on the other hand, was free. What’s more, Berlin, the capital, became two cities. In the 1960s, the USSR built the Berlin Wall to keep East Germans from escaping into West Berlin.

East Germany was very poor, and had little freedom during that time. East Germans wanted to cross over the Berlin Wall. Above all, Germans wanted their country to be together again. In fact, in 1987, US **President** Reagan called on the USSR to “tear down this wall.”

Eventually, the USSR broke up. The Berlin Wall fell on November 9, 1989. Less than a year later, the two Germanys joined together again. October 3, the day of formal unification, was chosen as German’s National Day. The celebrations take place in a different state capital each year. This year, Hanover is hosting the party, and Germans everywhere can celebrate 24 years of unity.

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**Enjoy Your Tea Time**

You are sitting with your friends in a nice tea shop. You are having a cup of English tea and a small snack. You are having afternoon tea.

Afternoon tea started in London in the 1840s. At that time, most people only ate two times in one day. A duchess named Anna Maria Russell was often hungry in the afternoons. She started to **have tea** and snacks. Sometimes, her friends were with her. That was the start of afternoon tea.

In the 1840s, people started afternoon tea with sandwiches. Then they had scones. After that, people had many different small cakes. People usually drank black tea. Today, afternoon tea is still popular. It is also very different now.

Drinking tea is already quite popular in Taiwan. The most popular tea in Taiwan might be oolong tea. A lot of Taiwanese people also like black tea very much.

Now, many Taiwanese restaurants and tea shops have afternoon tea. You and your friends can enjoy real English afternoon tea. If you do not want to have traditional afternoon tea, that is all right. Tea shops and restaurants have other kinds of afternoon tea, too. Some places have **buffets**. You can have a large meal or many different small snacks with your tea. Other places have tea and Taiwanese snacks.

Afternoon tea is popular in Taiwan, England, and many other countries. It is one of the little things that make life better.

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