

MAY DAY

around the World

In Hawaii, in the USA, May Day is called **Lei Day**! People wear beautiful leis – traditional Hawaiian flower necklaces! Festivities last all day long, including lei making demonstrations, concerts and competitions! There is also traditional Hawaiian food, music, hula dancing and the crowning of a Lei Day king and queen! The most important part of the day, though, is exchanging leis with family and friends!

In France, the **lily of the valley** is the traditional May Day flower. People give each other this small white flower on this special day. Streets and homes are decorated with it and some people fill small baskets with these beautiful flowers and leave them on other people's doorsteps!

Did you know?

May Day is popular in Portugal. The day before, people go to the countryside to collect yellow **broom flowers**. They place the flowers around the windows and doors of their homes for good luck. They even decorate their cars with them!
How beautiful!

One tradition in Germany is to decorate May trees! The trees are usually decorated with long, colourful ribbons and flowers, and placed in the centre of the town! People also celebrate with parades and street bands. In some towns, there is a fun tradition of stealing the **May tree** from a nearby town!

1 Read and answer the questions.

- 1 What is the traditional May Day flower in France called?
- 2 How do people celebrate May Day in Portugal?
- 3 What are *leis*?
- 4 How do people decorate May trees in Germany?

2 Label the pictures with the words in bold.

