

Answers

1. False. When the first children's parades began in Oslo in 1869, only boys were allowed to participate. It wasn't until 1899 that girls were allowed to join in the parade festivities. Today, thousands of children join local Norwegian parades to celebrate "The Children's Day."

2. B. While it's true that the bunad is a symbol of Norwegian pride and heritage, bunad designs vary massively between regions. It's customary to wear an outfit from an area to which you have a genetic or residential connection because a bunad's designs and the colors should be a representation of your hometown or family's region of Norway. It's also a great way to connect with others from similar regions.

3. C. The National anthem (*nasjonalsangen*) is officially called *Ja, vi elsker dette landet*, but is often referred to simply as *Ja vi elsker*. The song has long been a Norwegian anthem of nationalism and protest and was performed in public for the first time on the 50th anniversary of Syttende Mai in 1864. Despite this history

and deep connection to the country, the song wasn't adopted as the official national anthem until December 2019.

4. A. At the time, Norway was in a union with Sweden and King Karl Johan was hesitant to allow celebrations. His banning of the holiday sparked public anger and even led to the Battle of the Square in 1829, where Norwegian demonstrators fought against forces from the United Kingdoms of Sweden and Norway. Eventually, King Charles XIV John lifted the ban on Syttende Mai celebrations, and the holiday became what it is today by 1864.

5. D. A drink similar to vodka or gin, aquavit is a distilled spirit that comes almost exclusively from Scandinavian countries. To be designated as "Norwegian aquavit," the drink must be made with potato spirits distilled in Norway from a minimum 95% Norwegian potatoes, aged in oak barrels for at least six months and must contain caraway or dill seeds. Other Scandi countries also have their own specific spice flavoring and barreling traditions. The drink is intended to be shared with others as a social activity and cultural celebration so be sure to say "*skål*" (cheers) before drinking!