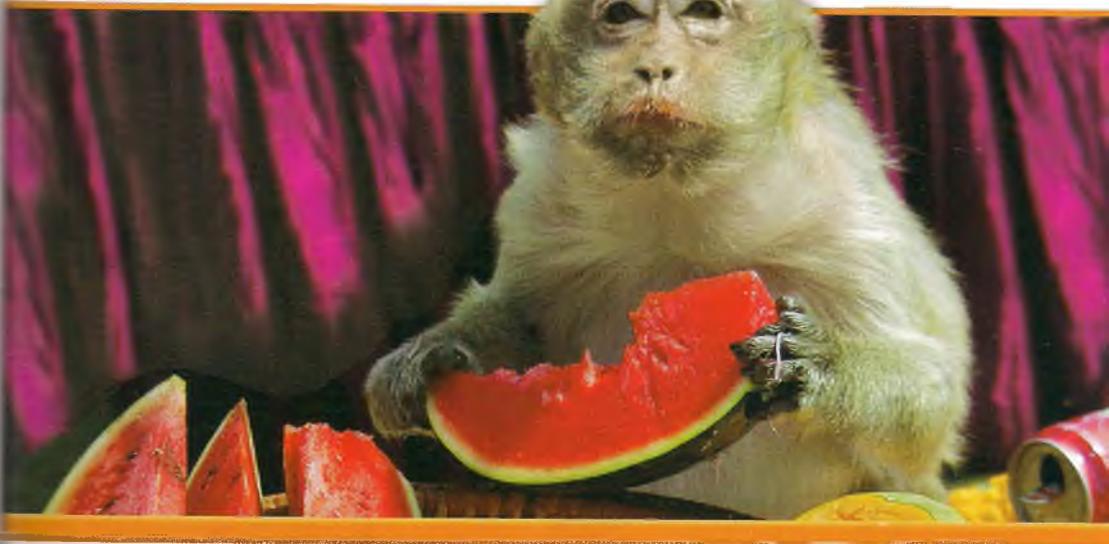


Monkey PARTY



Rob Waring, *Series Editor*

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Words to Know

This story is set in Thailand. It happens in Lopburi [lɒpˈbʊəri], a town north of Bangkok. People and things from Thailand are called 'Thai.'



A **Things in Lopburi.** Read the sentences. Label the pictures with the underlined words.

A banquet is a very big dinner, with lots of food.

A cake is something sweet to eat.

A festival is a big, public party.

A monkey is a small animal.

A shrine is a place that is related to a god.



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____

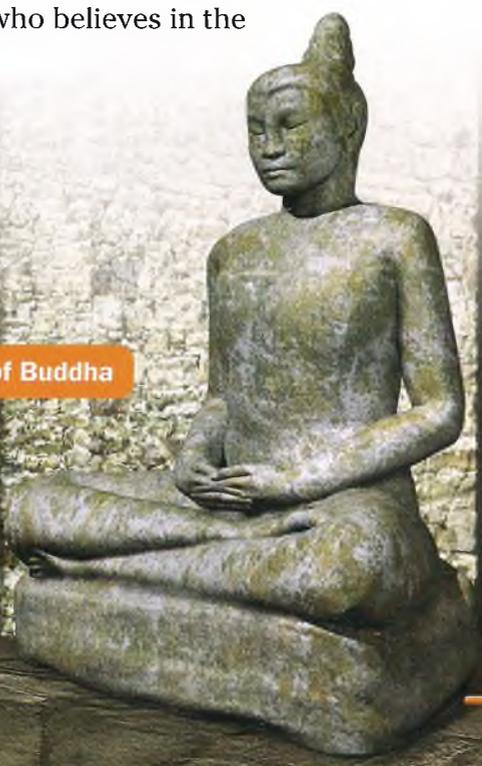
B

Buddhism. Read the paragraph. Then complete the definitions with the words in the box.

Buddhists believe in the teachings of a special man called 'Buddha.' Buddhists have many traditions. One Buddhist tradition is to give food to monkeys. This is because of a famous legend. In this legend, a monkey was a hero. Because of this, Buddhists think helping monkeys will bring them good karma. They think good karma will bring them happiness.

Buddhist**hero****karma****legend****tradition**

1. Good _____ is a good feeling or type of luck.
2. A _____ is the main good person in a story.
3. A _____ is a way of doing things year after year.
4. A _____ is a story from a long time ago.
5. A _____ is a person who believes in the teachings of Buddha.



Statue of Buddha

In the town of Lopburi in Thailand, there are monkeys everywhere. They run around the streets. They climb on cars, houses, and other buildings. They can go anywhere they want to, and they get into everything!

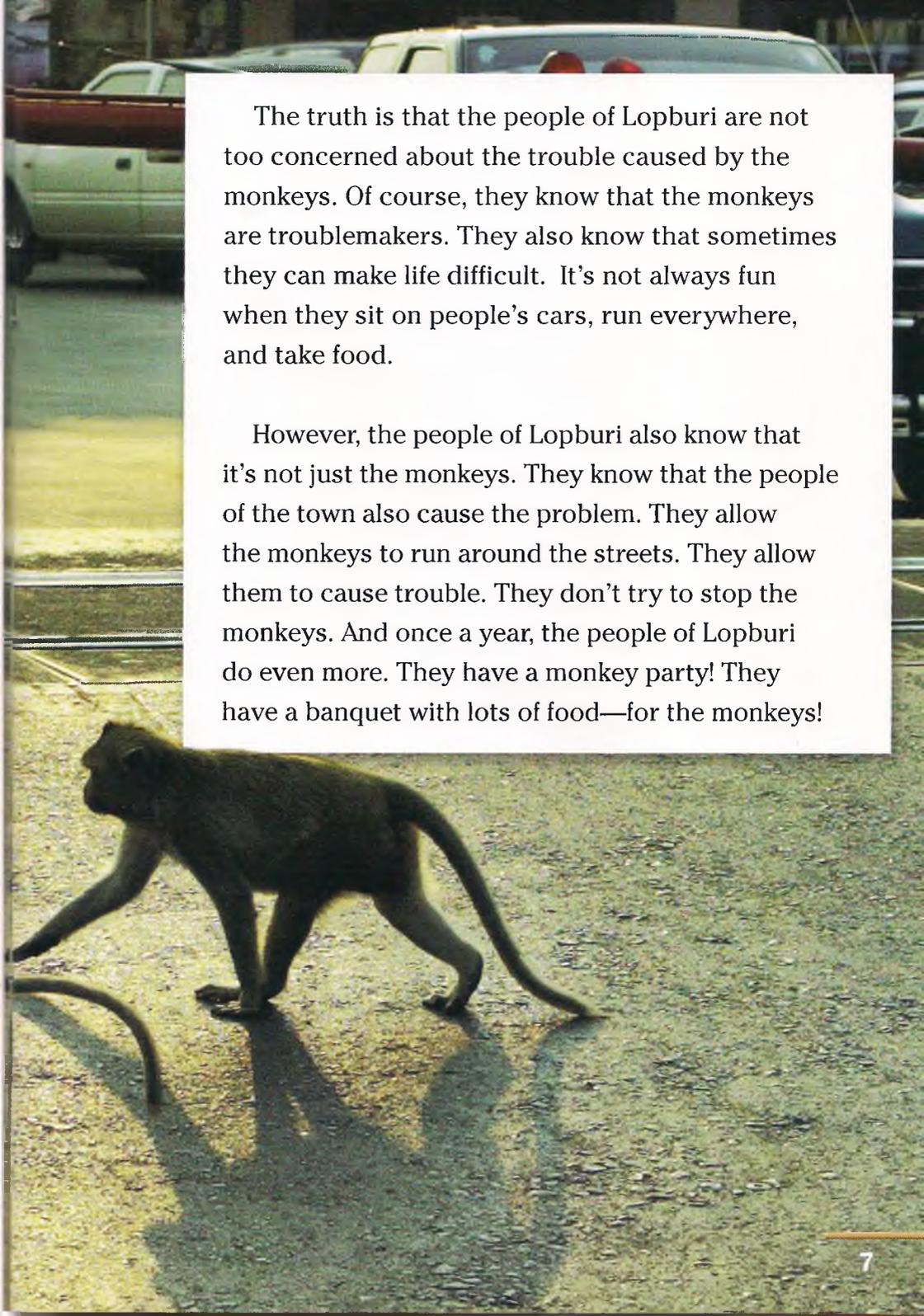
The monkeys in this town are very playful and sometimes they cause a lot of trouble. But what about the people of Lopburi? How do they feel about these **mischievous**¹ little animals?

¹**mischievous:** playful in a partly bad way; troublesome





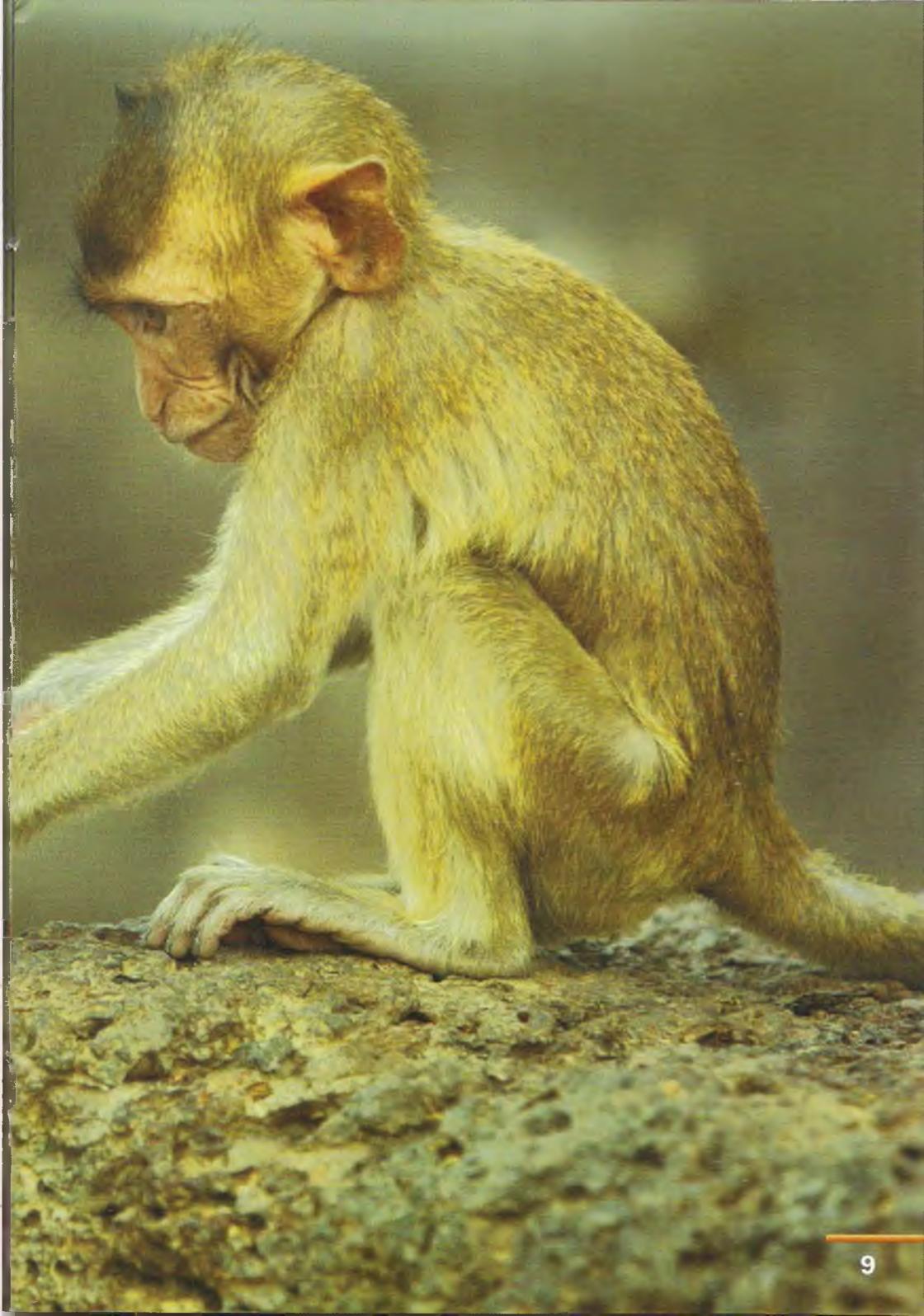


A photograph of a street scene in Lopburi, Thailand. In the foreground, a brown monkey is walking across a paved road, holding a long, thin object (possibly a piece of wood or a branch) in its mouth. The monkey is walking from left to right. In the background, there are several cars parked along the street, including a white van and a red car. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting it is daytime.

The truth is that the people of Lopburi are not too concerned about the trouble caused by the monkeys. Of course, they know that the monkeys are troublemakers. They also know that sometimes they can make life difficult. It's not always fun when they sit on people's cars, run everywhere, and take food.

However, the people of Lopburi also know that it's not just the monkeys. They know that the people of the town also cause the problem. They allow the monkeys to run around the streets. They allow them to cause trouble. They don't try to stop the monkeys. And once a year, the people of Lopburi do even more. They have a monkey party! They have a banquet with lots of food—for the monkeys!

But why do they have this big monkey party? Why do they present the monkeys with a banquet? The reason involves legend and tradition. Most people in Thailand are Buddhists, and for many of them monkeys are very important animals. Monkeys appear in many Thai stories and legends. Because of one special story, some Thai people consider monkeys to be heroes.

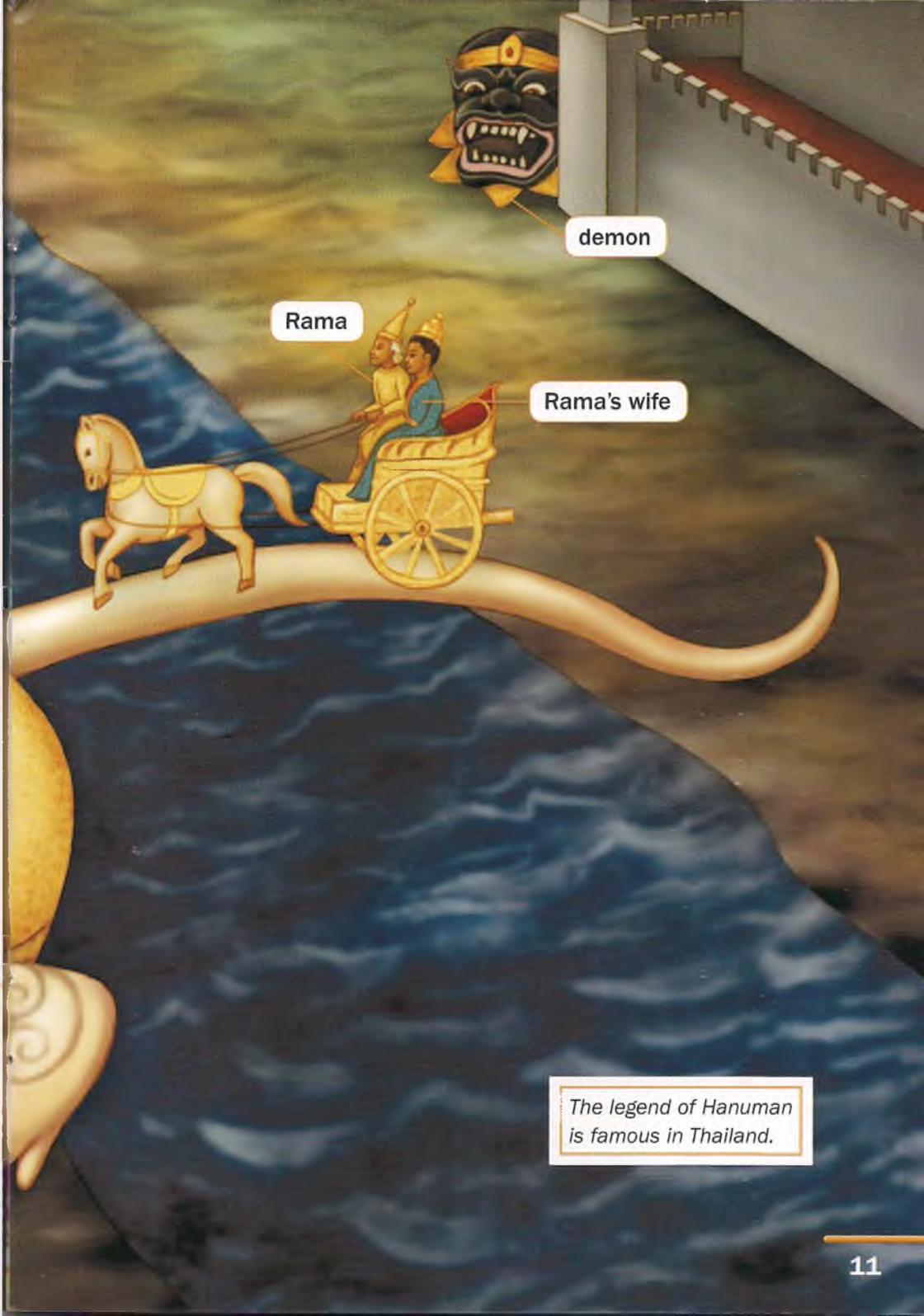


In Thailand, there is a famous old legend about a monkey hero called **Hanuman**.² In the story, a **demon**³ takes the god Rama's wife. The monkey, Hanuman, helps to save Rama's wife. Because of this, Hanuman becomes a hero.

²**Hanuman**: [hʌnʊmɑ:n]

³**demon**: a bad spirit





demon

Rama

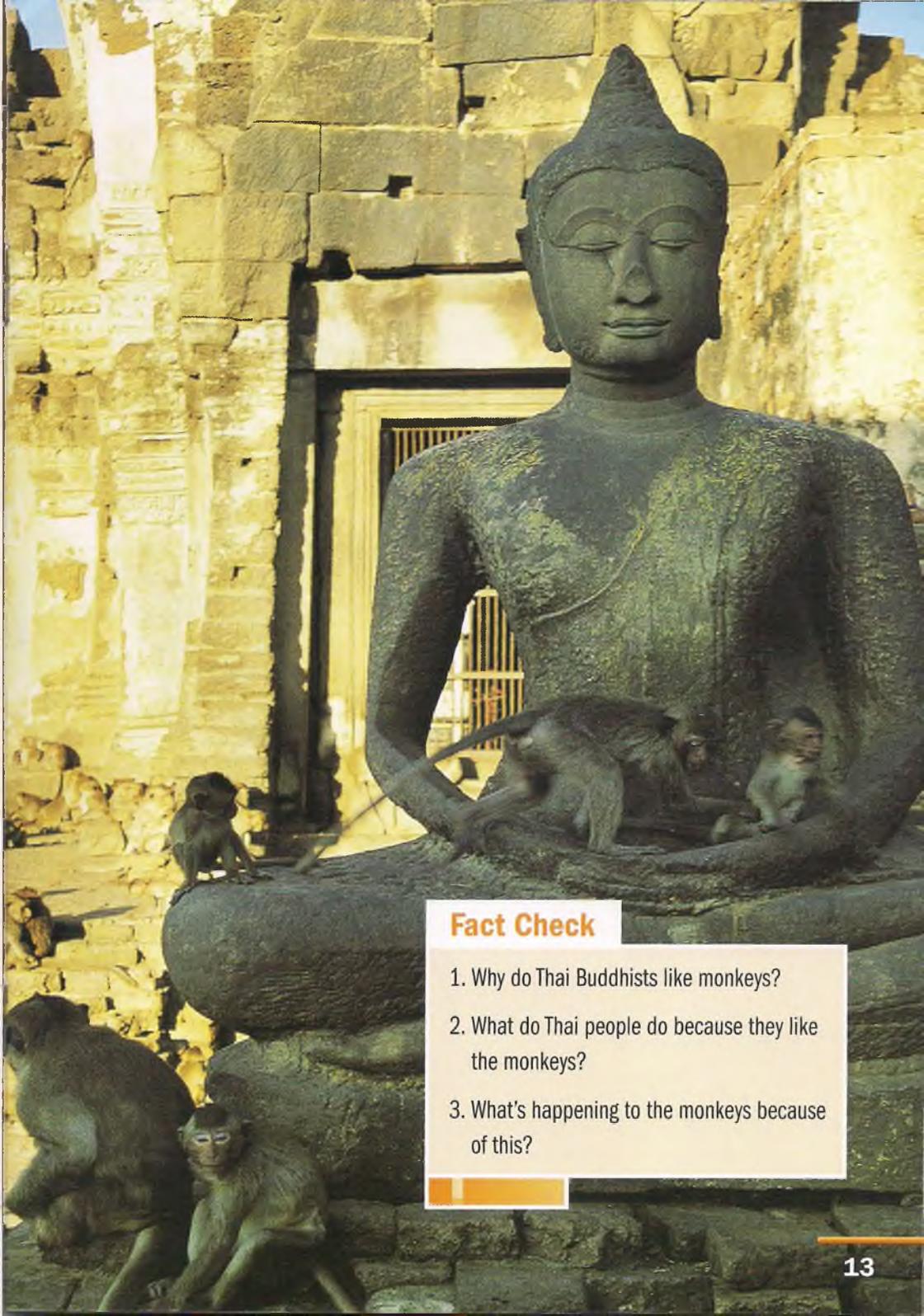
Rama's wife

The legend of Hanuman is famous in Thailand.

Due to the legend of Hanuman and Buddhist traditions, many people in Thailand are especially kind to monkeys today. This kindness is not just limited to allowing monkeys to do anything they wish. Monkeys also get special food often—not just at festivals.

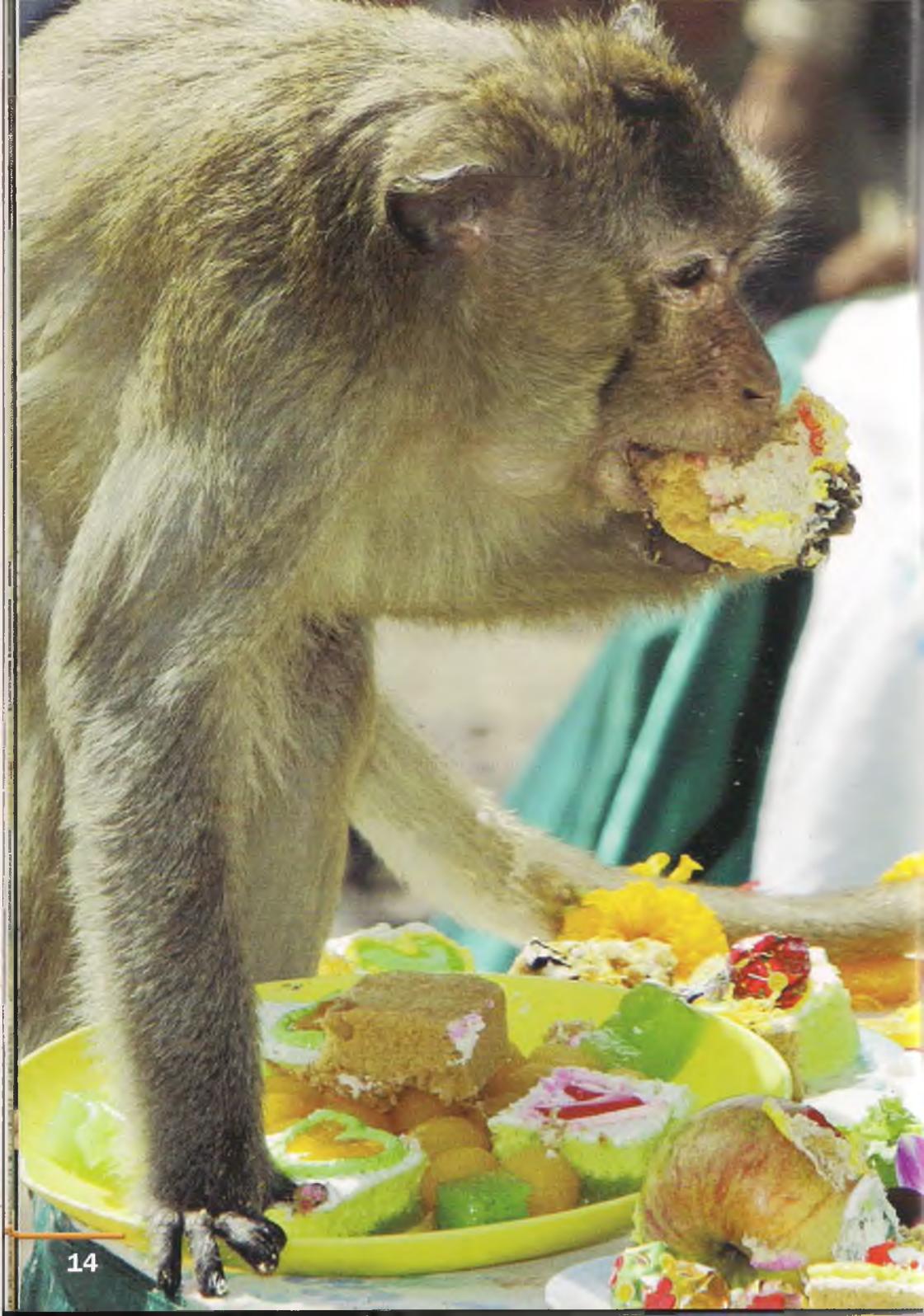
Every day of the year, people bring food for the monkeys to shrines. These people think it's good karma to give them food. The people also think that it will bring them good luck. With this special treatment, the monkeys of Lopburi are getting bigger and bigger all the time!



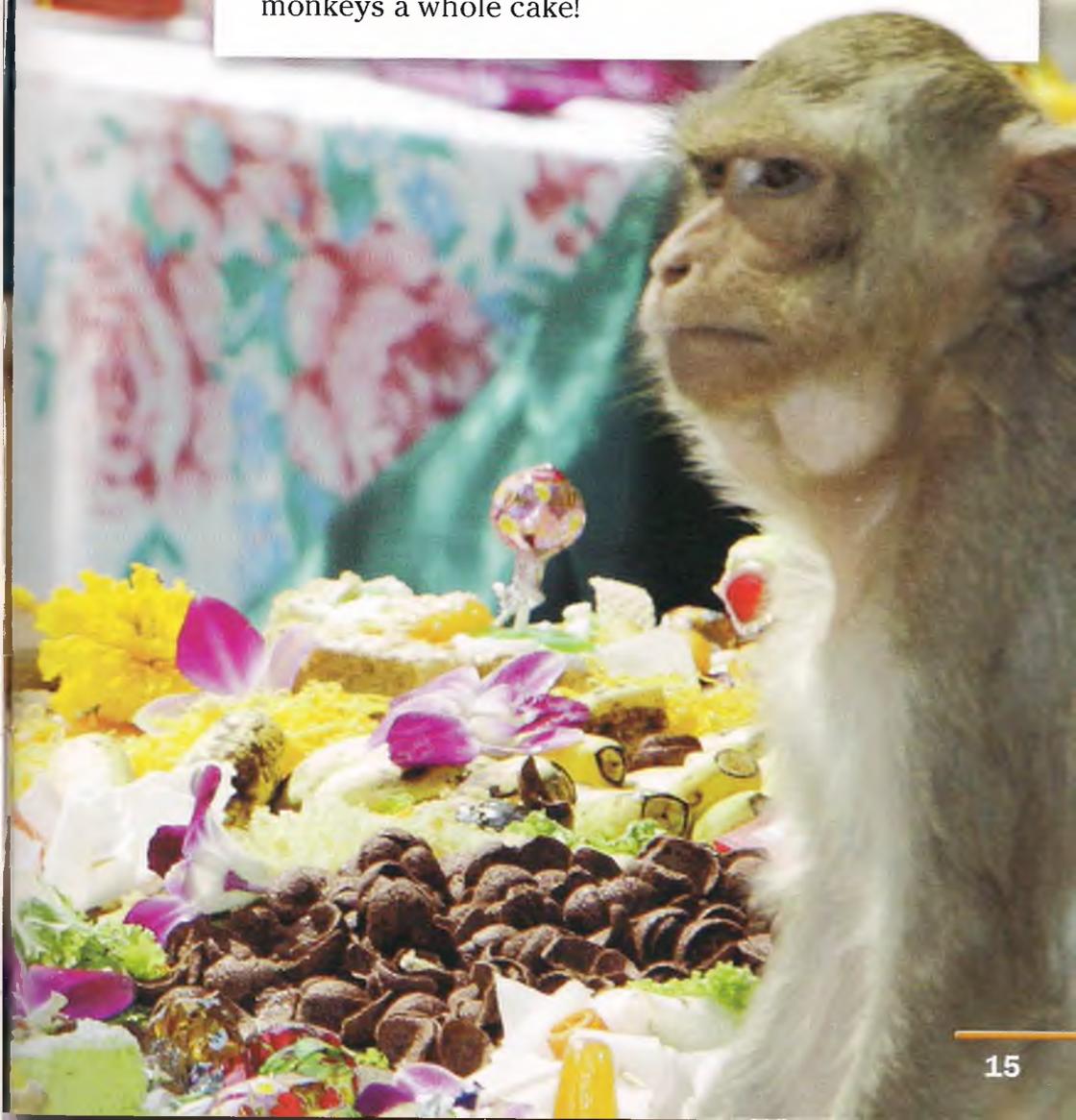


Fact Check

1. Why do Thai Buddhists like monkeys?
2. What do Thai people do because they like the monkeys?
3. What's happening to the monkeys because of this?



The time for the yearly monkey party finally arrives. It's a time when the community of Lopburi can show the monkeys just how much they like them. They always give the monkeys a lot of special food at this time. But this year, there's a particularly special treat. The festival organisers are giving the monkeys a whole cake!

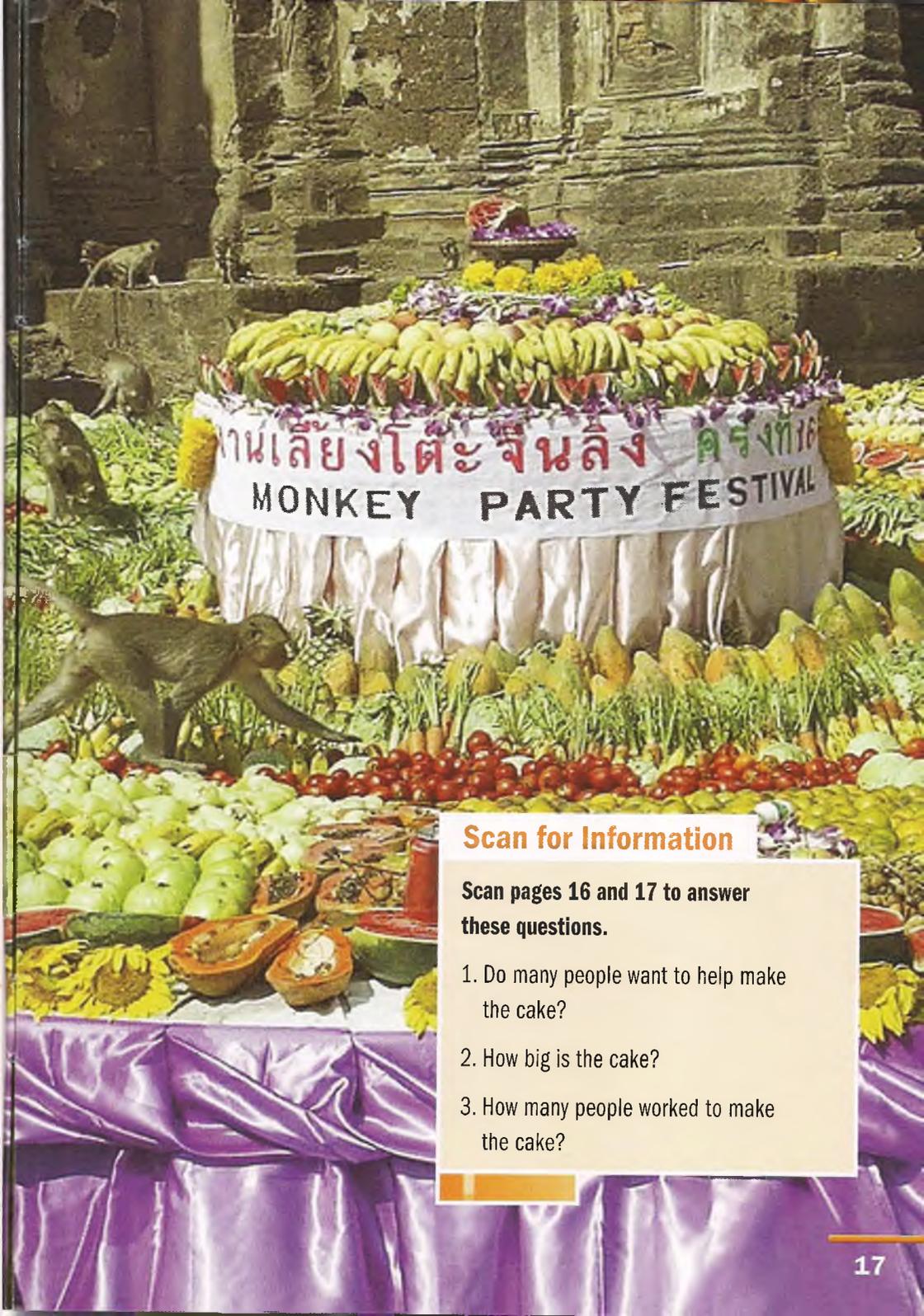


An organiser of the event explains the banquet and the Buddhist traditions. He says: “Every year there are a lot of people who come and help with the monkey banquet. We want people to help offer food to the monkeys. This is because these monkeys are part of our local Buddhist tradition.”

What about this year’s cake? Well, it’s a very big one, and a lot of people help to make it. The festival organizer explains: “This year, we’ve made a cake that is **four metres**⁴ long for the monkey banquet. Fifty people worked to make this cake. We all wanted to find out if the monkeys liked the cake.” Will the monkeys like the cake? Will they want to eat it all?

⁴four metres: 13.12 feet





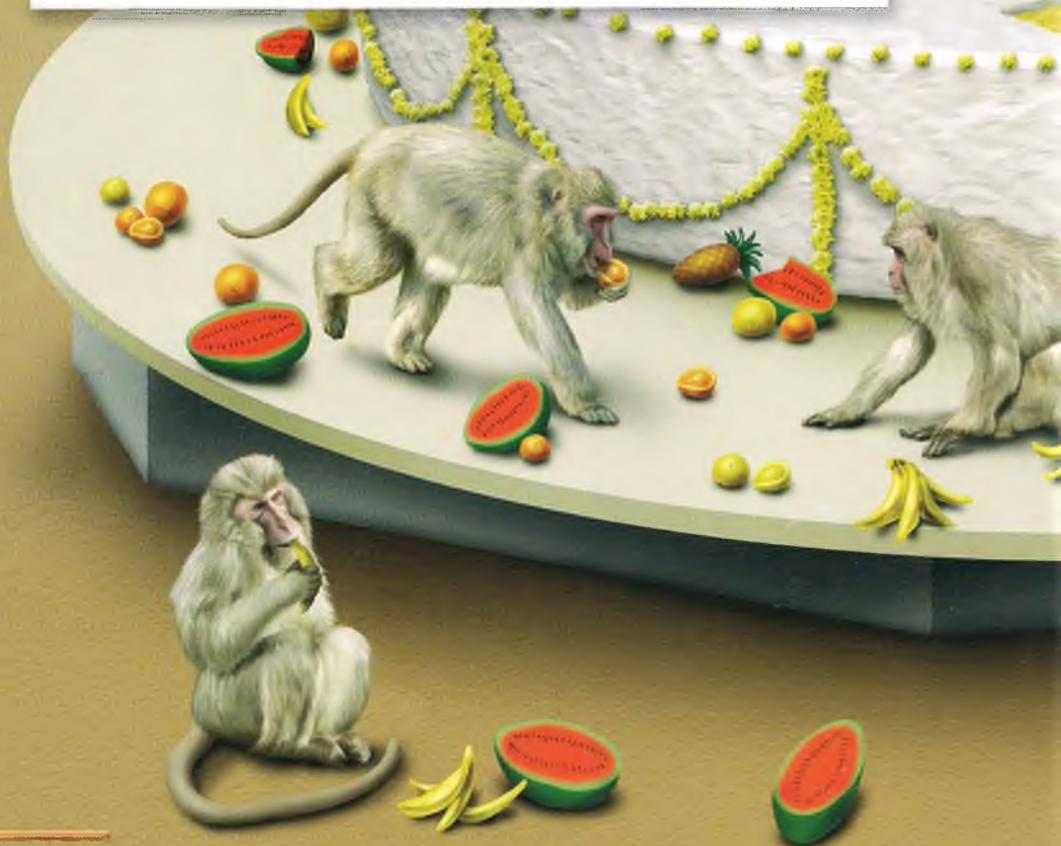
Scan for Information

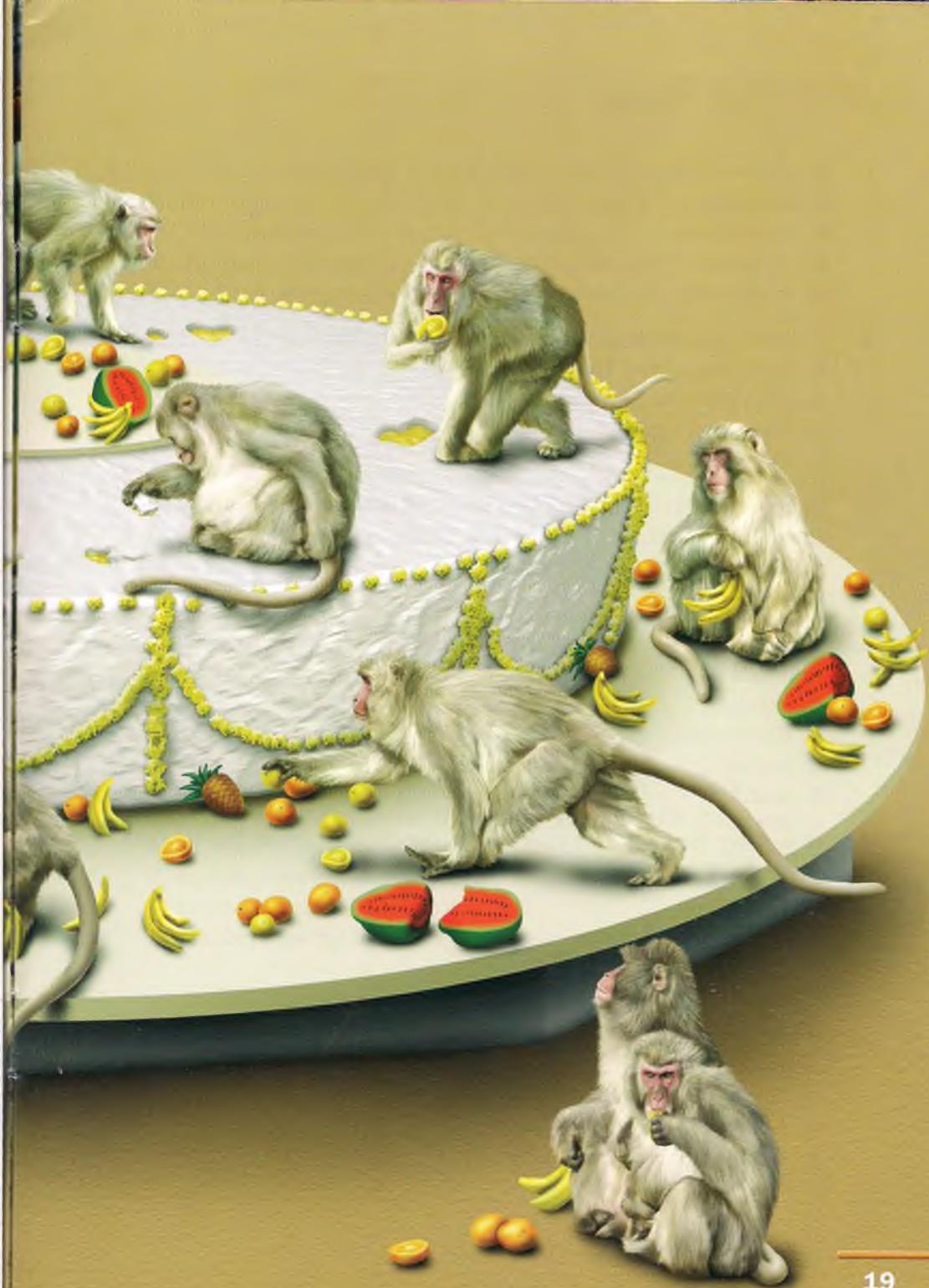
Scan pages 16 and 17 to answer these questions.

1. Do many people want to help make the cake?
2. How big is the cake?
3. How many people worked to make the cake?

At last, the festival organisers give the monkeys the cake. They don't just like the cake, they love it! The people in Lopburi are very happy and this year's Monkey Party is a big success.

Maybe the people in Lopburi will receive good karma because they've treated the monkeys well and given them this beautiful cake. Maybe they won't. Either way, the people of this Thai town did learn one thing—if you want to have a great party for monkeys, give them cake!





After You Read

1. In Lopburi, mischievous monkeys are _____.
 - A. anything
 - B. everywhere
 - C. anywhere
 - D. everything
2. Why are the monkeys in Lopburi troublemakers?
 - A. They are part of Thai tradition.
 - B. They get into everything.
 - C. They are heroes.
 - D. They eat cake.
3. People are part of the problem because they allow the monkeys to make life difficult.
 - A. True
 - B. False
4. On page 7, the word 'concerned' in paragraph one can be replaced by:
 - A. careful
 - B. determined
 - C. happy
 - D. worried
5. How many times in one year do the people in Lopburi have a monkey banquet?
 - A. 3
 - B. 2
 - C. 1
 - D. Doesn't say
6. What is a good heading for page 10?
 - A. Fat Monkey Legend.
 - B. Monkey Hero Saves Rama's Wife.
 - C. Monkeys Make Life Difficult.
 - D. Lopburi's Important Party.

7. On page 12, the writer's purpose is:
- A. To explain an Indian legend about a monkey.
 - B. To explain why the monkeys like cake.
 - C. To show that the monkeys are getting smaller.
 - D. To show why people are nice to the monkeys.
8. People only give cake to monkeys at a special shrine.
- A. True
 - B. False
9. Why do the festival organisers like the monkeys?
- A. Because they eat cake.
 - B. Because the party is fun.
 - C. Because they are part of tradition.
 - D. Because many people come.
10. _____ people come and help make the cake for the monkey banquet.
- A. Many
 - B. Lots
 - C. Much
 - D. Fifty
11. On page 18, the 'one thing' the people in Lopburi learned was:
- A. to make rules for the monkeys
 - B. monkeys love cake and parties
 - C. monkeys are mischievous
 - D. monkeys do not like cake

The Jataka Stories of Buddha



Thai Buddhists follow the teachings of Buddha. Four hundred years after Buddha died, someone wrote down some of his stories in stone. These stories are called the 'Jataka Stories.' The Jataka Stories had a very important function in the past. Buddhists used them to show people how to lead a good life. These traditional stories are now legends in Thailand. The heroes in a lot of these stories are monkeys. One well-known Jataka Story features a monkey, a crocodile, and a river.

The Jataka Stories



river bank

crocodile

river

A long time ago, a monkey lived alone on a river bank. He was a very strong monkey. In the centre of the river there was a small area of land. On this land there was a lovely garden with trees that provided food for the monkey. There was also a large stone halfway between the river bank and the garden. Although it seemed impossible, every day the monkey stepped from the river bank onto the stone. Then he stepped from the stone to the garden. He did this to collect food from the trees in the garden.

One day, the monkey was in the garden and a crocodile lay down on the stone. The crocodile wanted to catch the monkey and eat him. At first, the monkey wasn't aware of the crocodile. But then he looked closely at the stone and realised that it was different. "Hello, Mr. Stone. How are you?" said the monkey. The crocodile answered quickly without thinking, "I'm fine. I'm going to eat you." Then the monkey said, "Very well. Open your mouth." The crocodile had to close his eyes when he opened his mouth. So the monkey carefully stepped on his head and then safely onto the river bank. The crocodile lost his dinner that day. The lesson of the story is: always take time to think carefully before you answer a question.



Word Count: 316

Time: _____



Vocabulary List

banquet (2, 7, 8, 16, 18)

cake (2, 15, 16, 18)

demon (10, 11)

festival (2, 12, 15, 16, 18)

four metres (16)

hero (3, 8, 10)

karma (3, 12, 18)

legend (3, 8, 10, 11, 12)

mischievous (4)

monkey (2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18)

shrine (2, 12)

tradition (3, 8, 12, 16)