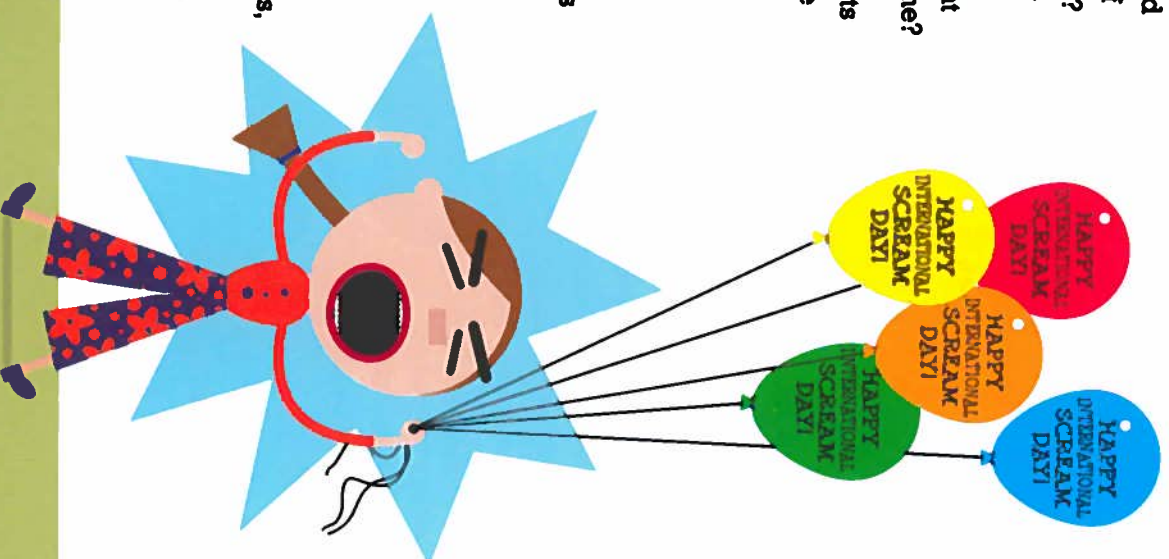


# Taking a Holiday

You've been working hard on your country, and you're almost ready to join the other nations of the world. Before you do, why not take a break? Yes, you need a holiday, and so does your new country. You could all go to Disneyland, but depending on how many citizens you have, that could get expensive. Why not just party at home?

Many nations have holidays to celebrate events such as the day they were founded or became independent. Other holidays honor important individuals (America's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, India's Gandhi Jayanti). But if you're like us, you probably want to slip in a few more holidays. A good bet is a children's day — many countries have one of these. On Turkey's Children's Day (April 23), kids take over the Grand National Assembly and run the country for the day.

Or you could follow the lead of the Aerician Empire, a micronation started by five-year-old Eric Lis in Montreal in 1987 and still going strong. It has a whopping twenty-eight holidays, including October 12, International Moment of Frustration Scream Day, when citizens of the Empire are encouraged to go outside at noon and scream themselves silly.



## STEP # 3: Meet the Neighbors

There are 192 countries in the world (not counting your new one) and many smaller territories, dependencies, colonies and other not-quite-countries. They're your neighbors, and you should get to know them. Why? Because no country is an island ... er ... except island countries.

We're all part of one big world, and sometimes we need to work together on issues like peace and global warming and disaster relief. So reach out a hand and introduce yourself. It's time to meet the neighbors.

