

Name _____ Date _____

Melbourne Cup



The Melbourne Cup is Australia's most famous horse race. It is held at Flemington Racecourse on the first Tuesday in November every year, at 3.00pm AEST¹. The track is 3,200 metres² long. The first Melbourne Cup race was in 1861.

Since 1877 Cup Day has been a public holiday in Melbourne.

On Melbourne Cup Day, Flemington is crowded with race-goers. There is a party atmosphere, with food and Champagne. Many people wear fashionable clothes and hats and some dress up in amusing costumes.



Many people gamble on Melbourne Cup Day. They bet on a horse, or enter a sweep. In a sweep people are given a random horse number. All over Australia, Cup Day lunches are held where ladies wear fancy hats. They watch the race on television.

It has been called 'the race that stops a nation'.



¹AEST – Australian Eastern Summer Time

² 3,200m = 2 miles

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Questions

When is the race held?

What time does the race start ?

Where is the race held?

How long is the track?

When was the first Melbourne Cup day?

Join the words that match

To gamble

Horse rider

Racecourse

To bet

Amusing

Every year

Trainer

Race track

Random

Funny

Jockey

Country

Annual

Not chosen

Nation

Prepares horses for races

What gives the day a party atmosphere?

Why is the Melbourne Cup called 'The race that stops a nation'?

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Melbourne Cup – suggested answers

Questions:

When is the race held? *On the first Tuesday in November every year.*

What time does the race start? *At 3.00pm AEST*

Where is the race held? *At Flemington Racecourse in Melbourne.*

How long is the track? *3,200 metres*

When was the first Melbourne Cup day? *In 1861*

Join the words that match:

To gamble	Horse rider
Racecourse	To bet
Amusing	Every year
Trainer	Race track
Random	Funny
Jockey	Country
Annual	Not chosen
Nation	Prepares horses for races

What gives the day a Party atmosphere? *There is food and Champagne. People dress up.*

Why is the Melbourne Cup called 'The race that stops a nation'? *Because so many people bet on the race and watch it on television. There are Cup Day lunches all over Australia.*