



Inglese

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L'antico rito che annunciava l'arrivo della bella stagione si mantiene nella tradizione popolare. Ancora una volta la cultura anglosassone fa da sfondo all'apprendimento della lingua. Attività e giochi linguistici rinforzano la memorizzazione di vocaboli, la percezione e la produzione dei suoni della L2.

## May Day

### Origin

May Day started off as a pagan festival celebrating the beginning of summer. As Europe became Christianized, many pagan holidays lost their religious character and some changed into popular secular celebrations as with May Day. In medieval England the chief feature of the celebration of May Day was the

Maypole; the tallest tree trunk was chosen to be decorated with flowers and coloured streamers, the loose ends of which were held by dancers, who encircled the pole weaving intricate patterns as they passed each other in the dance. Even today some villages in England celebrate by dancing around a Maypole and choosing a May Queen. On the site [www.woodland-junior.kent.sch.uk](http://www.woodland-junior.kent.sch.uk) you can find photographs of Maypole dancing.

Draw a big daisy on the board or find a picture of one. Ask what they notice about the words *flowers* and *showers*. Elicit from them that the words rhyme. To personalize the song ask the children if they know the names of any other flowers. You can translate the names into English and then, once the children know the song well, they can substitute *daisies* with other flowers, e.g. *roses*, *tulips* and so on.

### Spunti di lavoro

#### Materials

a paper plate; coloured pencils/felt pens; glue; piece of ribbon; real or artificial flowers.

#### Procedure

1. Decorate a paper plate with flowers.
2. Bend the decorated plate into a cone shaped basket.
3. Stick or staple together.
4. Punch two holes in the top of the basket.
5. Attach a piece of ribbon so you can hang the basket up.
6. Fill it with flowers, real or artificial.

The children can give it to their mothers or a relative as a surprise.

### May Day basket

Point to May 1<sup>st</sup> on your calendar and explain that May Day is a very old festival. Explain that May Day is a time when the days get longer, there is more sunlight and gardens are full of flowers. An old custom is to make a *May Day basket*, fill it with flowers and leave it as a surprise gift for someone.

### A May song

Teach the song of figura 1 to the music of *Fra Martino*. Explain any vocabulary the children don't know.

*I see daisies, I see daisies  
Bloom in May, bloom in May  
May's the month for flowers  
No more April showers  
May is here, May is here.*

Figura 1

### Assessment

Ask the children to draw and cut out a flower of their choice and then say *All the tulips make a circle*; the other pupils sing the song *I see tulips, I see tulips*. Repeat with the other flowers. In this way the pupils show that they know the names of the different flowers and can repeat the chant using them.