

**a** In pairs, read about some strange laws and customs. Four of these are false. Discuss with your partner which ones you think they are.

- 1 In **China**, when you use chopsticks you shouldn't leave them upright in the bowl. It brings bad luck.
- 2 In **Sweden**, if you drink and drive, you have to go to prison for six months.
- 3 In **Argentina**, when you get on a train you should shake hands with all the other people in the carriage.
- 4 In **France**, you are not allowed to call a pig 'Napoleon.'
- 5 In **Scotland**, boys have to wear a kilt to school.
- 6 In **Brazil**, you should never make the 'OK' sign with your thumb. It is very rude.
- 7 In **Germany**, every office must have a view of the sky.
- 8 In the **Middle East**, you shouldn't admire anything in your hosts' home. They will feel that they have to give it to you.
- 9 In **Singapore**, you mustn't eat chewing-gum. It's against the law.
- 10 In **India**, you shouldn't thank your hosts at the end of a meal. It is an insult.
- 11 In **Japan**, women mustn't wear trousers to work.
- 12 In the **UK**, parents don't have to send their children to school. They can teach them at home if they prefer.
- 13 In **Russia**, men should take off their gloves to shake somebody's hand.
- 14 In **Iceland**, you mustn't take dogs into the city centre.
- 15 In **Thailand**, you shouldn't touch a person's head (even of a child). The head is sacred.
- 16 In **Australia**, women mustn't sit on the top floor of a bus, only downstairs.
- 17 In **Samoa**, it is against the law for a man to forget his wife's birthday.
- 18 In **Switzerland**, you aren't allowed to clean your car or cut the grass on a Sunday.
- 19 In the **USA**, you shouldn't tip taxi drivers. It is considered an insult.
- 20 In **Italy**, if you give flowers you should give them in odd numbers, e.g. 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9. It is bad luck to give, for example, two flowers.

**b** Which of these customs and laws would you like to have in your country? Choose your top three.

