Что нам рассказала игрушка? What does the toy tell about?

1. Not long ago I was given a toy. It wasn’t a usual toy. It was a souvenir from London. You can see it now. Isn’t it lovely? I got interested in this souvenir and so my friend and I decided to explore it.

2. We decided to find out all the information about it:

* Is it a real Englishman?
* Who does it symbolize?
* Why is it a bear?

3. From our Student’s Book we learnt that the name of the Teddy Bear is Beefeater. It is a nickname. The real name is The Yeoman of the Guard. The history of the Yeomen of the Guard is very interesting. They were formed in 1485 by King Henry the Seventh. He gathered a group of soldiers to bodyguard him.

King Henry the Eighth left only 12 of his Yeomen to protect the Tower, a castle in London that was first used as a home for kings, then a prison, and is now used as a museum. So there are 12 Yeomen Warders who guard the Tower still today and safeguard the Crown Jewels.

4. Yeoman Warders act as tourist guides nowadays. For everyday duties Yeomen wear a red and dark blue uniform granted them by Queen Victoria in 1858. Our Teddy Bear has got a different uniform on. It is a scarlet red gold State dress uniform. He wears it on State occasions. The uniform consists of a knee-length scarlet tunic, scarlet knee-breeches and stockings and a round hat called a Tudor bonnet. Beefeaters still wear Tudor dress. Queen Elizabeth the First introduced the white neck ruff.

5. The uniform includes the thistle, rose and shamrock, the emblems of Scotland, England, Ireland.

6. The initials ER stand for Elizabeth Regina (Regina is Latin for queen).The initials refer to Elizabeth the Second, who is the present queen.

7. So our Teddy Bear is a real English character. But why is he called Beefeater?

There was time when Yeoman Warders at the Tower were paid part of their salary with beef. Beefeaters eat or ate beef. This took place right until the 1800-s.

8. Why Bear? Bear is the most popular symbol in many cultures. It is popular in Britain too. The Bear is one of the strongest animals. It is an independent animal, like the country itself. “The truly brave are soft at heart” – wrote Lord Byron, the famous English poet. There are a lot of Teddy Bears in the United Kingdom. Today the Bear symbolizes welcome, comfort and safety. I like my bear. It is my Beefeater and it is my bodyguard now.

There is a story about the origin of the name – bear. Once there lived one president of the USA. His name was Theodor Roosevelt. Americans usually called their presidents by their nicknames. So the president’s name was Teddy. Once

The president saved a bear’s kid. All the newspapers wrote about it. All bears’ kids were named teddies. So this toy is called a teddy bear.

9. To sum up, we like to get to know more about different countries, cultures, traditions. It is exciting! And each souvenir has got a lot to tell about because they are a symbolic part of the country. The United Kingdom is very good at keeping traditions.