

Dragon Boat Festival

ESL Reading Worksheet — Level C | tahricteaches.com



The Dragon Boat Festival is a fun holiday in Taiwan. It happens in May or June. People race long boats shaped like **dragons**. The boats have a dragon head on the front.

Teams of **rowers** sit in the boat. They use paddles to push the boat through the water. One person hits a **drum** to keep everyone together. The boats go very fast across the river.

People eat special food called zongzi. These are sticky rice balls wrapped in **leaves**. Inside the rice, there is meat or beans. They taste **delicious** and are fun to unwrap.

This holiday **remembers** a man named Qu Yuan. He was a good and **honest** person long ago. He jumped into a river, and people tried to save him. The boat races remember this story.

The Dragon Boat Festival is very **exciting**. Many people watch the races. They cheer for their **favorite** team. It is a great time to be with family and friends!

A. Vocabulary

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. dragons ____ | a. big magical animals that look like snakes |
| 2. rowers ____ | b. the one you like the most |
| 3. drum ____ | c. fun and makes you happy |
| 4. leaves ____ | d. very good to eat |
| 5. delicious ____ | e. people who paddle a boat |
| 6. remembers ____ | f. always telling the truth |
| 7. honest ____ | g. thinks about the past |
| 8. exciting ____ | h. green flat parts of a plant |
| 9. favorite ____ | i. a big celebration or party |
| 10. festival ____ | j. a round thing you hit to make sound |

B. True or False

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Dragon boats look like snakes. _____ | 2. The festival is in May or June. _____ | 3. Teams use paddles to move the boat. _____ |
| 4. A drum helps keep everyone together. _____ | 5. Zongzi is made with bread. _____ | 6. Qu Yuan was a bad person. _____ |
| 7. The festival is about Qu Yuan. _____ | 8. Only a few people watch the races. _____ | 9. Zongzi is wrapped in leaves. _____ |

C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: dragons, rowers, drum, leaves, delicious, honest, exciting

1. The boats are shaped like _____ with a dragon head.
2. Teams of _____ sit in the boat and paddle.
3. One person hits a _____ to keep everyone together.
4. Zongzi is wrapped in _____.
5. The Dragon Boat Festival is very _____.

D. Comprehension Questions

1. When is the Dragon Boat Festival?
2. What do dragon boats look like?
3. What is zongzi?
4. Who was Qu Yuan?
5. What does the person with the drum do?

E. Discussion Questions

1. Would you like to be on a dragon boat team? Why?
2. Have you ever tried zongzi? What did you think?
3. What holidays do you celebrate with your family?

Answer Key

A. Vocabulary: 1-a, 2-e, 3-j, 4-h, 5-d, 6-g, 7-f, 8-c, 9-b, 10-i

B. True/False: 1-F, 2-T, 3-T, 4-T, 5-F, 6-F, 7-T, 8-F, 9-T

C. Fill Blanks: 1-dragons, 2-rowers, 3-drum, 4-leaves, 5-exciting

D. Comprehension: 1. May or June; 2. Like dragons with a dragon head on front; 3. Sticky rice wrapped in leaves with meat or beans; 4. A good and honest man from long ago; 5. Keeps everyone rowing together