

Moon Festival & Mooncakes

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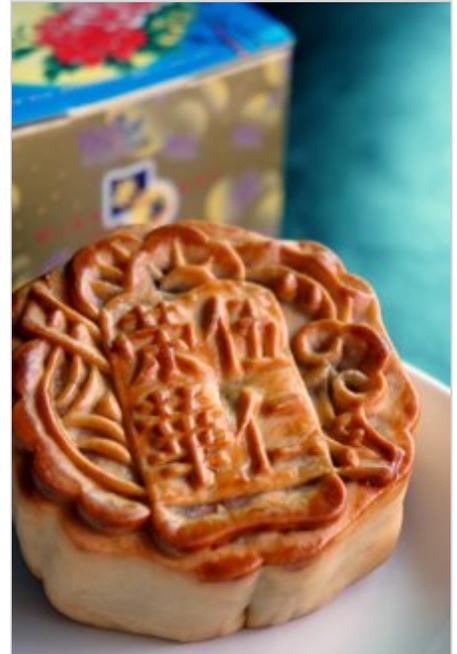
The Moon Festival, also called the Mid-Autumn Festival, is one of Taiwan's most **cherished** holidays. It falls on the fifteenth day of the eighth lunar month, when the moon is at its fullest and brightest. Families across the island come together to **celebrate** with food, games, and storytelling. The festival is connected to **ancient** legends about the moon, making it a magical time for both children and adults.

The most famous **legend** tells the story of Chang'e, a beautiful woman who flew to the moon. According to the tale, her husband Hou Yi received a magic **potion** that would make someone immortal and live forever. Chang'e drank the potion to keep it safe from a thief, and she floated up to the moon, where she still lives today. People look at the moon during the festival and imagine seeing her there.

Mooncakes are the **traditional** food of the Moon Festival, shared among family and friends. These round pastries **symbolize** the full moon and togetherness. Common fillings include lotus seed paste, red bean, and salted egg yolk. Giving mooncakes to relatives and friends is an important **gesture** during this season, showing love and respect.

In Taiwan, barbecuing has become a popular Moon Festival **activity** that brings neighbors together. Families set up grills outside their homes and cook meat, seafood, and vegetables. This tradition started in the 1980s, partly because of a famous barbecue sauce commercial. Today, the smell of grilling food fills the air in every neighborhood during the festival.

Children enjoy the Moon Festival by carrying colorful lanterns and playing outside under the moonlight. A popular game is **pomelo** hat-making, where kids carve the thick skin of pomelo fruit into funny hats. Schools often teach students about the legends and **customs** of the festival. The Moon Festival reminds everyone of the importance of family, tradition, and enjoying nature's beauty together.



A. Vocabulary Matching

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|---------------------|--|
| 1. cherished ____ | a. a drink believed to have magical powers |
| 2. ancient ____ | b. traditional practices passed down |
| 3. legend ____ | c. a traditional story from long ago |
| 4. potion ____ | d. a citrus fruit with thick skin |
| 5. traditional ____ | e. something done for fun or exercise |
| 6. symbolize ____ | f. to represent or stand for something |
| 7. activity ____ | g. loved and valued highly |
| 8. gesture ____ | h. passed down through generations |
| 9. customs ____ | i. an action showing feelings |
| 10. pomelo ____ | j. from a very long time ago |

B. True or False

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|--|--|--|
| 1. The Moon Festival is on the eighth lunar month. _____ | 2. Chang'e is a man who flew to the moon. _____ | 3. Mooncakes are filled with cheese and ham. _____ |
| 4. Barbecuing became popular in the 1980s. _____ | 5. Mooncakes are round like the full moon. _____ | 6. The festival is more important than New Year. _____ |
| 7. Children carry lanterns during the festival. _____ | 8. Pomelos are popular Moon Festival fruits. _____ | 9. The legend involves a magic potion. _____ |

C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: cherished, ancient, legend, immortal, gesture

1. The Moon Festival is one of Taiwan's most _____ holidays.
2. The festival is connected to _____ legends about the moon.
3. The most famous _____ tells the story of Chang'e.
4. The magic potion would make someone _____ and live forever.
5. Giving mooncakes to relatives is an important _____ during this season.

D. Comprehension Questions

1. When does the Moon Festival take place in the lunar calendar?
2. Who is Chang'e and what happened to her according to legend?
3. What are the common fillings found in mooncakes?
4. How did the barbecue tradition start in Taiwan?
5. What traditional game involves trying to balance something?

E. Discussion Questions

1. Does your culture have any holidays connected to the moon?
 2. What special foods does your family eat during holidays?
 3. Why do you think family gatherings are important during festivals?
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Answer Key

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

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

C. Fill in the Blanks: 1-cherished, 2-ancient, 3-legend, 4-immortal, 5-gesture

D. Comprehension: 1. The fifteenth day of the eighth lunar month. 2. Chang'e is a woman who drank a magic potion and flew to the moon. 3. Lotus seed paste, red bean, and salted egg yolk. 4. It became popular in the 1980s, partly due to a famous barbecue sauce commercial. 5. Pomelo hat-making, where kids carve pomelo skin into hats.