



Dragon Boat Festival

Reading Worksheet — Level C | tahricteaches.com

The Dragon Boat Festival is one of the most exciting **traditional** holidays in Taiwan and China. It happens every year on the fifth day of the fifth month of the lunar calendar. People celebrate this special day with dragon boat races, special food, and colorful **decorations**. Families come together to enjoy the festival and remember an important story from history.

The festival started over two thousand years ago to honor a man named Qu Yuan. Qu Yuan was a **poet** and government official who loved his country very much. When his country was in trouble, he was very sad and jumped into a river. People rowed their boats quickly to try to **rescue** him, but they were too late.

To keep fish away from Qu Yuan's body, people threw **zongzi** into the river. Zongzi are sticky rice **dumplings** wrapped in bamboo leaves. Today, eating zongzi is still a big part of the Dragon Boat Festival. You can find zongzi filled with meat, peanuts, or sweet red beans.

The most exciting part of the festival is the dragon boat **race**. Long, narrow boats are decorated to look like dragons. Each boat has a **drummer** at the front who beats a drum to keep the rowers in time. Teams of paddlers race as fast as they can to reach the finish line.

Today, the Dragon Boat Festival is celebrated around the world. Many cities hold dragon boat races that bring communities together. The festival teaches people about **loyalty**, love for country, and the importance of **tradition**. It is a wonderful mix of history, sport, and delicious food.

A. Vocabulary

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|---------------------|---|
| 1. traditional ____ | a. food made from dough wrapped around a filling |
| 2. decorations ____ | b. a custom or belief passed down through generations |
| 3. poet ____ | c. a person who writes poems |
| 4. rescue ____ | d. being faithful and devoted to someone or something |
| 5. zongzi ____ | e. a competition to see who is the fastest |
| 6. dumplings ____ | f. passed down through history and culture |
| 7. drummer ____ | g. things used to make a place look more beautiful |
| 8. loyalty ____ | h. to save someone from danger |
| 9. race ____ | i. sticky rice dumplings wrapped in bamboo leaves |
| 10. tradition ____ | j. a person who plays the drum |

B. True or False

- ___ 1. The Dragon Boat Festival is on the fifth day of the fifth month.
- ___ 2. Qu Yuan was a famous athlete.
- ___ 3. Qu Yuan jumped into a river because he was sad.
- ___ 4. Zongzi are made with sticky rice.
- ___ 5. Dragon boats are decorated to look like fish.
- ___ 6. A drummer keeps the rowers in time.
- ___ 7. Zongzi can only be filled with meat.
- ___ 8. The Dragon Boat Festival is only celebrated in Taiwan.
- ___ 9. People rowed boats to try to rescue Qu Yuan.
- ___ 10. Dragon boat races bring communities together.

C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: traditional, poet, rescue, zongzi, dumplings, drummer, loyalty, tradition

- 1. The Dragon Boat Festival is one of the most exciting _____ holidays.
- 2. Qu Yuan was a _____ and government official.
- 3. People threw _____ into the river to keep fish away.
- 4. The _____ at the front of the boat beats a drum.
- 5. The festival teaches people about _____ and love for country.



D. Comprehension Questions

- 1. Why did people start throwing zongzi into the river?
- 2. What is the most exciting part of the Dragon Boat Festival?
- 3. Why is the Dragon Boat Festival celebrated today?

E. Discussion Questions

- 1. Would you like to be in a dragon boat race? Why or why not?

Answer Key

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

B. True/False: 1-T, 2-F, 3-T, 4-T, 5-F, 6-T, 7-F, 8-F, 9-T, 10-T

C. Fill Blanks: 1-traditional, 2-poet, 3-zongzi, 4-drummer, 5-loyalty

D. Comprehension:

1. To keep fish away from Qu Yuan's body
2. The dragon boat race
3. To remember Qu Yuan and celebrate loyalty, tradition, and community