



Lantern Festival - Light, Tradition, and Community

Reading Worksheet — Level F | tahricteaches.com

The Lantern Festival marks the end of the Lunar New Year season and is one of the most visually striking celebrations in the Chinese-speaking world. Streets and temples are filled with illuminated **lanterns** symbolizing hope and good fortune. The festival transforms ordinary places into scenes of color and movement, creating a strong sense of shared **celebration**.

In Taiwan, the festival combines traditional customs with large public events. Cities organize lantern displays, performances, and puzzle activities that attract huge crowds. These displays also reflect local identity, artistic creativity, and cultural **heritage**, so the festival works as both entertainment and cultural education.

One famous tradition is the release of sky lanterns in Pingxi. Participants write wishes on paper lanterns and send them into the night sky, often hoping for health, success, or peace. The sight of hundreds of lanterns rising together creates a memorable **spectacle** that many visitors find emotional as well as beautiful.

Food also matters. Families commonly eat tangyuan, sweet rice balls whose round shape represents unity. Sharing tangyuan strengthens family **bonds** and links public festivity with life at home.

Today, the Lantern Festival continues to evolve. Modern technology and tourism have expanded its scale, but its core meaning remains rooted in light, reunion, and hope. This balance between innovation and **tradition** helps keep the festival meaningful for both local communities and international visitors.

A. Vocabulary

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. lanterns ____ | a. an impressive public display or scene |
| 2. celebration ____ | b. a long-established custom or practice |
| 3. heritage ____ | c. a state of joining together as one |
| 4. spectacle ____ | d. the act of becoming new again |
| 5. bonds ____ | e. decorative lights, often made from paper or cloth |
| 6. tradition ____ | f. a public or private event marking something joyful |
| 7. illuminated ____ | g. traditions and culture passed down from the past |
| 8. renewal ____ | h. close relationships that connect people |
| 9. participants ____ | i. lit up with light |
| 10. unity ____ | j. people who take part in an activity |

B. True or False

- ___ 1. The Lantern Festival marks the end of the Lunar New Year season.
- ___ 2. Lantern displays in Taiwan are only meant for decoration.
- ___ 3. Pingxi is famous for releasing sky lanterns.
- ___ 4. People often write wishes for health or success on sky lanterns.
- ___ 5. Tangyuan are salty noodles eaten during the festival.
- ___ 6. The round shape of tangyuan represents unity.
- ___ 7. The Lantern Festival has stayed completely unchanged in modern times.
- ___ 8. Modern technology has helped expand the scale of the festival.
- ___ 9. The festival celebrates both community and family life.
- ___ 10. International visitors are not interested in the Lantern Festival.

C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: lanterns, celebration, heritage, spectacle, bonds, tradition, participants, unity

- 1. The Lantern Festival is a major public _____ at the end of the New Year season.
- 2. Large lantern events in Taiwan also reflect cultural _____.
- 3. The release of sky lanterns in Pingxi creates a memorable _____.
- 4. Family _____ are reinforced when people share tangyuan together.
- 5. The round shape of tangyuan is a symbol of _____.



D. Comprehension Questions

- 1. Why is the Lantern Festival important beyond its visual beauty?
- 2. Why do many people find the Pingxi sky lantern tradition so powerful?
- 3. How does the Lantern Festival balance modern innovation with tradition?

E. Discussion Questions

- 1. Why do you think festivals of light are so meaningful in many cultures?
- 2. How can a public celebration help strengthen both community identity and family relationships?

Answer Key

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

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

C. Fill Blanks: 1-celebration, 2-heritage, 3-spectacle, 4-bonds, 5-unity

D. Comprehension:

1. It preserves culture, brings communities together, and teaches traditions
2. Because the rising lanterns combine beauty, hope, and personal wishes
3. It uses modern design and technology while keeping traditional meanings and customs