



# Dragon Boat Racing

Reading Worksheet — Level C | [tahricteaches.com](http://tahricteaches.com)

Dragon Boat Racing is a fun sport from China. It is more than 2,000 years old. People race long, narrow boats on rivers and lakes. Each boat looks like a **dragon** with a colorful head and tail. Today, many countries around the world enjoy this exciting sport.

A dragon boat has a team of 20 people. They sit in two rows and use **paddles** to push the water. One person sits at the front and beats a big **drum**. The sound of the drum helps the team work together. Another person stands at the back and steers the boat.

The race happens on the Dragon Boat **Festival**. This special day is in May or June. Families watch the boats and cheer for their favorite team. They eat sticky rice cakes called zongzi. These small cakes are wrapped in green leaves.

The sport began with a sad story. A poet named Qu Yuan jumped into a river long ago. Local people raced their boats to save him. They also threw rice into the water for the fish. This is why people still eat rice cakes during the festival.

Dragon boat racing is now a popular **sport** in many cities. Teams practice hard every week. They must be strong and fast. Most of all, they must work as one team. Winning is nice, but having fun together is the best part of the race.

## A. Vocabulary

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- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 1. dragon ____   | a. shout loudly to support a person or team                        |
| 2. paddle ____   | b. competition to see who is the fastest                           |
| 3. drum ____     | c. thin from one side to the other; not wide                       |
| 4. festival ____ | d. musical instrument that you hit to make a loud sound            |
| 5. sport ____    | e. game or activity that needs physical effort and skill           |
| 6. team ____     | f. very, very old; from a long time ago                            |
| 7. race ____     | g. large imaginary animal with wings that breathes fire in stories |
| 8. narrow ____   | h. short pole with a flat end used to move a boat through water    |
| 9. cheer ____    | i. special day or event when people celebrate something            |
| 10. ancient ____ | j. group of people who work or play together                       |

## B. True or False

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- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Dragon boat racing is a new sport that started ten years ago. | <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Dragon boats look like dragons with a head and a tail. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. There are 20 people on a dragon boat team.                    | <input type="checkbox"/> 4. The person at the front of the boat plays a drum.      |

\_\_\_ 5. The Dragon Boat Festival happens in December.

\_\_\_ 7. Zongzi are wrapped in red paper.

\_\_\_ 9. Dragon boat racing is only popular in China today.

\_\_\_ 6. People eat sticky rice cakes called zongzi during the festival.

\_\_\_ 8. A poet named Qu Yuan jumped into a river long ago.

\_\_\_ 10. Teams must work together to win the race.

### C. Fill in the Blanks

**Word Bank:** paddles, drum, team, festival, race, dragon, narrow, cheer

1. The boat is long and \_\_\_\_\_, not wide.
2. People use \_\_\_\_\_ to push the water and move the boat.
3. One person beats a big \_\_\_\_\_ to help the team work together.
4. Families \_\_\_\_\_ for their favorite team during the race.
5. The Dragon Boat \_\_\_\_\_ happens in May or June.



### D. Comprehension Questions

1. How many people are on a dragon boat team, and what do they do?
2. Why do people eat sticky rice cakes during the Dragon Boat Festival?
3. Why is the drum important on a dragon boat?

### E. Discussion Questions

1. Would you like to be part of a dragon boat team? Why or why not?
2. What special festivals or sports does your country have, and how do people celebrate them?



# Answer Key

## Dragon Boat Racing

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

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

**C. Fill Blanks:** 1-narrow, 2-paddles, 3-drum, 4-cheer, 5-festival

**D. Comprehension:**

1. There are 20 people who sit in two rows and use paddles to push the boat through the water.
2. Long ago, people threw rice into the river to feed the fish so they would not eat the poet Qu Yuan's body.
3. The sound of the drum helps the team paddle together at the same time.

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