

FESTIVALS AROUND THE WORLD

MYANMAR

LIGHT FESTIVAL

Watch a short video on how Light Festival is celebrated in Myanmar and take part in activities from that culture.

COUNTRY QUIZ TIME

Q1. Myanmar people use tree bark paste as sun protection?

True. Tree bark is ground into a white paste (Thanaka) which is applied to the skin in swirls. Thanaka is said to be used as makeup as it helps to keep skin smooth and protected against sun damage.

Q2. True or false: Both men and women wear dresses?

False. They wear, the longyi (a long skirt) which is a traditional outfit that both men and women wear everyday. Men wear plain ones and women wear brightly coloured ones.

Q3. True or false: The Famous explorer Marco Polo wrote about seeing unicorns in Myanmar?

True. Marco Polo's travel diaries of Myanmar in the 13th century contained stories of incredible animals. One of those being described as unicorns were most likely rhinoceros!

Q4. True or false: A favourite sport in Myanmar Dance-martial arts?

True. The national sport of Myanmar is chinlone, a non-competitive game where a cane ball is kept in the air by a team of 6 players through creative foot juggling. This great form of entertainment blends dance and martial arts.

Q5. True or false: Loud whistles helps you get service at a restaurant?

False. Making a long kissing noise may sound strange but it is the only way to get the waiters attention to serve you at a restaurant!

ACTIVITY TIME:

One: Colour in people wearing their wearing traditional clothes
<https://www.inkjets.com/printablelearning/flag-of-myanmar/>

Make a hot air balloon like the ones at the festival.
<http://teachinginstripes.blogspot.com/2016/03/oh-places-you-go-hot-air-balloon-craft.html>

Cook a heartwarming pork and potato curry that's great for those cool autumns.
<https://www.olivemagazine.com/recipes/family/burmese-pork-and-potato-curry/>



VIDEO EXPLAINING THADINGYUT LIGHT FESTIVAL IN MYANMAR

When is it celebrated?

Thadingyut takes place on the full moon day of the seventh month in the Burmese calendar. This is usually at the end of October and lasts for 3 days.

Why is it celebrated?

It is a Buddhist holiday that celebrates the coming of Buddha back from heaven after he had stayed there during Buddhist Lent, teaching his mother and other heavenly gods his various laws and doctrines.

How is it celebrated?

It is thought Buddha and other heavenly beings built a “star ladder” on Buddha’s way down to earth and that people put lights all over their homes to welcome him.

What happens at the festival?

Many people will visit pagodas to light candles and pay respects to monks in order to gain merit. They will bring gifts of food and money. Young people will be paying respect to teachers, parents and elders, and asking pardon for any wrong doings committed. In turn, they are blessed with money and gifts. The whole city is buzzing with live musical performances, market stalls with food and toys. Some even get married. Many children enjoy decorating their homes with lights, playing with firecrackers but the most spectacular display is lighting lanterns and watching hot air balloons.



PRAYER TIME:

1. *People: Give thanks to God for the people of Myanmar, whom he made and loves. Pray that we can love them too.*
2. *Children: Pray for the Burmese children, that they will get to know the love of Jesus as they grow up.*
3. *Place: Pray for believers in Myanmar to confidently share about Jesus, who can give 'living waters' to their family and friends during this event.*

