

FESTIVALS AROUND THE WORLD

MONGOLIA



NAADAM

Watch a short video on how Naadam is celebrated in Mongolia and take part in activities from that culture.

COUNTRY QUIZ TIME

Q1. True or false: Mongolia was one of the largest empires in the world?

True. Genghis Khan, the founding father of Mongolia, united the nomad tribes to establish the world largest empire. In just 25 years, it conquered more territory than the Romans and had double the population!

Q2. True or false: Mongolian nomads live in caves?

False. About 30% of Mongolians are nomads that live in traditional yurts (tent). Many own livestock such as horses and yak, which is also their source of food as they travel across central Asia.

Q3. True or false: Mongolia is known as the Land of Blue skies?

True. It has over 260 sunny days a year and only 4 inches of rainfall annually. The temperature fluctuates up to 35 degrees in one day!

Q4. True or false: Mongolians shake hands to say sorry?

True. Whilst people travel far and wide across Mongolia, you do have incidents where many are gathered together in crowded places. If you happen to step on someone's toes or bump into them, it is always polite to shake their hands to say sorry

Q5. True or false: Mongolian people don't estimate travelling times?

True. Whilst it is normal to ask 'are we there yet', Mongolians believe it to be bringing on evil to your trip if you dare guess how long the trip would take.

Q6. True or false: Traditional Mongolian food is spring roll and green tea?

False. The extreme weather means that they have lots of dairy, meat and animal fats with little vegetables. A traditional meal for cold weather is beef or mutton dumplings with Kumiss (fermented salty) milk.

ACTIVITY TIME:

One: Colour in a Mongolian boy wearing traditional clothes.

<https://www.education.com/download/worksheet/68863/trad-dress-mongolia.pdf>

Two: Create a walking horse and have a racing competition! <https://frugalfun4boys.com/paper-horse-that-walks/>

Three: Cook some delicious Khuushuur, Mongolian beef dumplings.

<https://meander.co.nz/khuushuur-in-mongolia/>

VIDEO EXPLAINING NAADAM FESTIVAL IN MONGOLIA

When is it celebrated?

The Naadam Festival is an annual sports event that is held in July across Mongolia. The biggest celebration takes place in the capital city in Ulaanbaatar.

Why is it celebrated?

Naadam means game or competition and highlights the country's military history through three sports. From the 1920s, the event celebrates Mongolian culture and independence from China.

How is it celebrated?

The festival takes place over three days and features a competition over wrestling, horse-racing and archery. Women and children can compete too. The festival also features a carnival of music, dancing and food. Folks dress in traditional costumes and gather together with their family and friends.

What happens at the event?

Wrestling tournaments with over 500 male competitors will see winners advance if they can take down their opponents. Mongol warriors were known for their strength and toughness. Men, women and children (aged 5-13) can compete in six horse races for distances between 10 and 17 miles. This tests their endurance as Mongol warriors can ride for days without stopping. Archery competitions will see competitors trying to hit targets from as far as 75 meters. Mongol warriors were known for their accuracy and shooting arrows at full gallop! Audiences who join the event will sing folk songs, eat traditional snacks and drinks as well as play games from their different tribes.



PRAYER TIME:

1. People: Give thanks to God for the people of Mongolia, whom he made and loves. Pray that we can love them too.

2. Children: Pray for the children of Mongolia, that they will get to know the love of Jesus as they grow up.

3. Place: Pray for believers in Mongolia to confidently share about God's strength and abilities to their family and friends during this festival.

