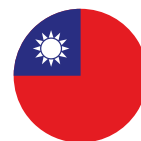


FESTIVALS AROUND THE WORLD

VIETNAM



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Watch a short video on how the Harvest Festival is celebrated in Vietnam and take part in activities from that culture.

COUNTRY QUIZ TIME

Q1. True or false: Vietnam celebrates new year twice?

True. Vietnamese people celebrate new years on January 1st as most countries do but they also celebrate Lunar New Year, Tet, in February. Tet is the biggest cultural festival in Vietnam.

Q2. True or false: the Vietnamese language is written in Latin?

True. The Vietnamese language use to be Chinese characters until a French priest developed a phonetic writing system in the 17th century. When spoken, the language has 6 tones-'ma' can mean mum, ghost, silver, coat, game or grave!

Q3. True or false: A cat is said to bring good luck in Vietnam?

False. Vietnamese people love tortoises and they keep them as pets as it is believed to bring them good luck. Other animals the Vietnamese worship is the dragon, phoenix and unicorn!

Q4. True or false: Baseball caps are common in Vietnam?

False. Vietnamese women love wearing their traditional dress along with their leaf cone hats called Non La. Legend has it a goddess who came to save them from torrential rain wore this and now it is worn as a tribute to her.

ACTIVITY TIME:

One: Colour in the popular mooncakes served during the festival. Or visit your local Asian grocer and buy one to try! https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0253/3199/0577/files/Mid-Autumn_printables4.jpg?v=1601008114

Two: Make a light lantern like the ones the children parade with. <https://www.homemade-gifts-made-easy.com/paper-star-lantern.html>

Three: Cook a delicious traditional Vietnamese dish called Pho, the tastiest beef noodle soup around! <https://www.recipetineats.com/vietnamese-pho-recipe/>

VIDEO EXPLAINING HARVEST FESTIVAL IN VIETNAM

When is it celebrated?

In Vietnam, the mid-autumn festival or Moon Festival is celebrated on the 15th day of the eighth month. This year it takes place in September.

Why is it celebrated?

This festival originated from China and in the past it was for worshipping the God of the Earth who gave good crops. Nowadays, in Vietnam, it focuses on family reunions and children having fun.

This festival is also known as a Children's Festival in Vietnam because they believe children have the closest connection to the sacred world. Being close to children is a way to connect with the gods.

How is it celebrated?

Groups of children will perform lion dances from house-to-house and receive 'lucky' money from home owners. The dance is believed to drive out evil and bring good fortune.

Mooncakes of various flavours and shapes are shared with the whole family as a symbol of unity. It is also placed alongside fruits on an altar for the gods or ancestors.

On the night of the full moon, children carry around bright lanterns of all shapes and sizes. The light is believed to scare away evil spirits that terrorised them in the past.



PRAYER TIME:

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

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

3. Place: Pray for believers in Vietnam to confidently share about God, the creator of the Earth and Lord of the harvest, to their family and friends during this event.

