FIVE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW WHEN VISITING VIETNAM ON TET HOLIDAY

1. **Lunar New Year reunion (Tet holiday)**

The Vietnamese New Year (Tet) takes place from the first day of the first month of the Lunar calendar (around late January or early February) and lasts for three days. It is a time for family reunions that is full of smiles and blessings. People often come back to their hometown before Tet as soon as their vacation begins. It can be parents working far away from home, or kids studying in a different city. Then, the whole family reunites at their grand or great grandparent's home to celebrate Tet.

2. **New Year's Eve**

On the last night before the lunar new year, after having dinner, the whole family usually turns on the TV to watch the "Tao Quan" ("Kitchen God") show. After spending time watching the show together, the families have the custom of preparing five-fruit tray and other offerings to worship their ancestors at sharp 00:00. Vietnamese ancestors are believed to continue living in another world and bring good fortune for their alive relatives.

3. **Visiting the pagoda by the beginning of the year**

When the spring comes, many Vietnamese go to pagodas and temples to pray for health, peace and happiness. This has become a valued custom for Vietnamese people from all walks of life. This is not only simply a wish but also a moment for people to leave behind the difficulties in life and feel calm after all. Many young Vietnamese go to pagodas in the spring not just to pray for good things but also to enjoy the pagodas' beauty and peaceful atmosphere.

4. **Lucky money**

Giving and receiving "lì xì" (or lucky money) is one of the most typical customs of Vietnamese people. Traditionally, lucky money is a small amount of money put in a red envelope then is given to children as a wish of luck and a nice welcome to a new age in the lunar new year. The red color, the most popular color appearing in Vietnamese festivals, signifies the prosperity and great luck according to Asian's beliefs. People always give lucky money to not only children but also older people to express their love and respect for them.

5. **Burning joss paper**

When visiting Vietnam, many foreigners wonder "Why do Vietnamese people burn colored-papers?" These papers are known as "joss papers" such as houses, clothes, fake money, cars, motorbikes and any items made of paper. People believe that whatever they burn will help the dead ancestors and relatives to live with **wealth** and comfort in the afterlife. This custom can be

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observed on special days such as festivals, new and full moon days, yearly ancestors' death anniversaries or the Lunar New Year.

1. **When does Tet take place?**
   A. On the first day of the first month
   B. From January to February
   C. From January 1st to January 3rd in lunar calendar
   D. From the first day of the first month to the second day
2. **What do Vietnamese people do on New year's Eve?**
   A. Prepare five- fruit tray for ancestor worship
   B. Travel back to their hometown.
   C. Visit the pagodas and temples
   D. Go to their great grandpearent's home
3. **What is the purpose of visiting the pagodas and temples in spring?**
   A. Pray for health, peace and happiness.
   B. Enjoy the pagodas' beauty and peaceful atmosphere.
   C. Leave behind the difficulties and feel calm.
   D. All are correct.
4. **What is NOT the reason for giving lucky money?**
   A. A wish of luck
   B. To express their love and respect
   C. To pray for health
   D. A nice welcome to a new age
5. **The word "wealth" in paragraph 5 is closest in meaning to _____.**
   A. Richness
   B. Poverty
   C. Impoverished
   D. Youth
6. **Which custom or tradition is NOT mentioned?**
   A. Visiting pagodas and temples
   B. New Year reunion
   C. God of Wealth worship

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D. Giving and receiving lucky money.

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