

READING

- 1** **BEFORE YOU READ** Look at the pictures and scan the article. Which festival do you think seems the most interesting?



FESTIVAL TIME IN ASIA

PINGXI LANTERN FESTIVAL

The Lantern Festival in Taiwan takes place in February or March, and the most spectacular one is in Pingxi, at the top of a mountain north of Taipei. Thousands of people make lanterns, **make wishes**, and release the lanterns into the night sky.

How did it start?

The inhabitants of Pingxi lit lanterns for friends and family who lived at the bottom of the mountain. The lanterns meant: "Don't worry; we're safe and healthy."

SONGKRAN WATER FESTIVAL

The Songkran Water Festival is the traditional celebration of Thai New Year, and it takes place in April. The best (and longest) Songkran takes place in Chiang Mai. People go into the streets with **buckets** of water, and they also cover their bodies with brightly colored **powder**.

How did it start?

People visited **monasteries** and gave food to **monks**. They **poured** water over the monks and took some water back to their family and friends. They then poured the water over each other. This brings good luck for the new year.

BALI KITE FESTIVAL

The Bali Kite Festival takes place every year between July and August. Teams from different villages see who can make the best kites. Sometimes there are teams from other countries. The kites look like birds, fish, or leaves, and are huge—at least four meters wide and ten meters long. In fact, some kites are 100 meters long.

How did it start?

Farmers wanted to say thank you for good crops and **harvests**.

- 2** Read the article and answer the questions.

Which festival ...

1. is connected to New Year's celebrations?
2. is connected to farming?
3. involves coloring the skin?
4. is a competition between different villages?
5. has groups working together?
6. takes place first in the year?