

Unit 3

Peoples of Vietnam



C. READING



IX Read the passage. Decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F).

The Space of Gong culture in Central Highlands of Viet Nam covers 5 provinces of Kon Turn, Gia Lai, DakLak, DakNong and Lam Dong. The masters of gong culture are the ethnic groups of Ba Na, Xo Dang, M'Nong, Co Ho, Ro Mam, E De, GiaRai... The gong performances are always closely tied to community cultural rituals and ceremonies of the ethnic groups in Central Highlands. Many researchers have classified gongs as ceremonial musical instrument. The gongs are made of a mixture of brass and gold, silver, bronze. Their diameter is from 20cm to 60cm or from 90cm to 120cm. A set of gongs consists of 2 to 12 or 13 units and even to 18 or 20 units in some places. In most of ethnic groups, namely GiaRai, Ede Kpah, Ba Na, Xo Dang, Brau, Co Ho, etc., only males are allowed to play gongs. However, in others such as Ma and M'Nong groups, both males and females can play gongs. Few ethnic groups (for example, E De Bih), gongs are performed by women only.

1. The gong is the cultural heritage of only one ethnic group.
2. The gong is used in special communal activities.
3. The gong is be made of only one type of material.
4. There are some different sizes for a gong.
5. In M'Nong groups, women are not allowed to play the gong.

X Read the passage.

1

Match the heading with the paragraph. One heading is not used.

Headings	Paragraphs
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1. Economy	A
2. Education	B
3. Customs and habits	C
4. Costumes	D
5. Culture	

A. Ancestor worship is a religious rite of the Tay. The altars for the ancestors are placed in a central location in the house. The altar room is such a sacred place that guests are not allowed to sit on the bed in front of the altar. After giving birth, women are also not allowed to sit on the bed in front of the altar. Tay villages are always built at the foot of a mountain and are often named after a mountain, field, or river. Each village contains about 15-20 households.

B. The Tay language belongs to Tay-Thai Group. There is a rich traditional folklore with all kinds of poems, songs, dances, and music. Tay songs include the “Hat Luon” (a kind of duet between lovers), wedding songs, and lullabies.

C. Tay women wear knee-length dresses, which are split at the right side with five buttons along the armpit, and narrow sleeves.

D. The Tay has developed agricultural practices quite well and are able to cultivate all kinds of plants including rice, maize, and sweet potato.

2

Answer the questions below.

1. What is the religious rite of the Tay?

.....

2. What kind of place is the altar room in the Tay’s house?

.....

3. Who are not allowed to sit in front of the altar?

.....

4. What word in paragraph B means songs for babies?

.....

5. What word in paragraph D means “grow”?

.....

D. SPEAKING



XI Look at the picture below. Match them with the names of the ethnic groups.



A



B



C



D



E



F

1. The Muong	2. The Ede
3. The Tay	3. The H'mong
5. The Sedang	4. The Thai

XII Work in pairs. One is student A, and the other is student B. Use the information given in the cards, ask and answer about the Muong and the Cham ethnic group.

Student A's card

THE MUONG

- **Population:** over 914,000 people
- **Locality:** Hoa Binh, Thanh Hoa, Phu Tho, Son La
- **Clothing:** women's costumes: bodice, white short blouse outside with a little cut on both sides, ankle-length skirt.
- **Family:** children named after the family name of fathers.
- **Production activities:** rice farming, hunting, fishing, weaving and plaiting.

Student B's card

THE CHAM

- **Population:** about 132, 000 people
- **Locality:** Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan, Tay Ninh, An Giang, Dong Nai
- **Clothing:** men & women: white long one-piece sarongs or cloth wrappers. Men: shirts fastened down the center with buttons, women: long-sleeved blouses.
- **Family:** children named after the family name of mothers.

- **Artistic activities:** Xec'bua singing, Thuong singing, Muong ritual singing
- Instruments:** flute, two-string Chinese violin, drum, and trumpet, and gong.
- **Games:** crossbow shooting competitions, swings, and shuttle cock.

- **Production activities:** rice farming, pottery making and cotton cloth weaving.
- **Artistic activities:** Cham dance
- Instruments:** Paranungdrum, xaranai clarinet
- **Games:** kite flying, mock combats, flag seizing, hide and seek, etc.