DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

Have you ever heard of the festival of the dragon boat? It is a popular festivity in China that takes place in the month of June. This festival has been celebrated for a long time; some may say since the Zhou dynasty. The main traditions are zongzi and the dragon boat races.

Zongzi has been the traditional food of this festival since the death of Qu Yuan, a royal official. Zongzi are like tamales of glutinous rice. The story says that Qu had to escape from the royal palace and was killed one day near a lake. People admired Qu so much that they decided to look for his body in the lake; and to avoid fish eating the corpse, people started throwing rice balls to the lake. Since then, zongzi has become a tradition.

How about the dragon boats? They are a way to represent the Chinese mythology. People design their own dragon boats and make teams to compete and see which is the fastest boat. The teams are guided by someone playing a drum, who will guide the rhythm in which the players row. My friend Pier has gone to this festival for 10 years. Also, since 2018, he has been able to participate in the dragon boat competition. At first, he wasn´t very good, but he has been practicing a lot, maybe he and his team will win this year.

Instructions:

Read and answer the following questions according to the reading called "Dragon Boat Festival".

a. What is the dragon boat festival about?

b. How did Zongzi become a tradition?

c. Who has gone to this festival?

d. Who was Qu Yuan?

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