

Reading Passage: Tet Holiday in Vietnam

Tet, or the Lunar New Year, is the most significant and traditional festival in Vietnam. It usually occurs around late January or early February, marking the arrival of spring. Weeks before Tet, Vietnamese families are busy cleaning and decorating their houses with bright red banners and beautiful flowers like peach blossoms or apricot blossoms.

The most special part of Tet is the family reunion. No matter how far away they are, everyone tries to return home for the "Tat Nien" party on the last day of the year. During the festival, people enjoy traditional foods such as Banh Chung (sticky rice cake), boiled chicken, and candied fruits. Children are especially excited because they wear new clothes and receive lucky money in red envelopes from their elders. It is a time for everyone to wish each other health, happiness, and prosperity for the New Year.

Questions for Students

Part 1: True or False?

1. Tet usually happens in the summer. (_____)
2. People decorate their houses with peach or apricot blossoms. (_____)
3. "Banh Chung" is a traditional food during Tet. (_____)
4. Tet is a time for people to wish each other the best things. (_____)
5. The elders will give the youngers lucky money in red envelopes. (_____)

Part 2: Short Answer

6. What do Vietnamese families usually do weeks before Tet?

Answer: _____

7. Why is the "Tat Nien" party important to Vietnamese people?

Answer: _____

8. Why do children feel excited when Tet comes? (Give 2 reasons)

Answer: _____

9. What are some traditional foods mentioned in the passage?

Answer: _____

Listening Questions

Task 1: Listen and circle the correct answer (A, B, or C)

1. What does Nam's family do first to "wash away bad luck"? 

- A. Decorate the house
- B. Clean the house
- C. Go to the pagoda

2. What does Nam's mother put on the altar? 

- A. A five-fruit tray
- B. Only candied fruit
- C. Red envelopes

3. Who does Nam visit on the first day of the New Year? 

- A. His teachers
- B. His friends
- C. His relatives

Task 2: Fill in the missing words from the recording 

Nam's family decorates the house with red banners and a _____ blossom tree.

They go to the _____ to pray for peace and happiness.