Moon Festival

The Moon Festival is also known as the Mid-Autumn Festival and is held on the 15th day of the eighth month in the Chinese lunar calendar (between September and October). It is when the moon is full and at its brightest. It is believed that the moon provides positive influences over the earth during this time of year. The festival is celebrated in many south-east Asian countries and districts including: China, Vietnam, Taiwan, Korea and Malaysia. It is one of the most important traditional events in the Chinese and Vietnamese year and is a public holiday in these countries.

Mooncakes

Mooncakes are a traditional Chinese delicacy. They are usually round and have an elegant crust pattern on top. The baked cakes are a sweet treat and can have several fillings including lotus seed paste, sweet bean paste and different nuts. They are eaten in wedges and accompanied with Chinese tea. Mooncakes are considered a symbol of family reunion and are served in a beautiful box.

A Chinese Moon Festival legend is that of Chang'e. Chang'e was a famous mythical lady known for her beauty. She swallowed a magical potion that made her fly to the moon and she has lived there ever since. It is said that you might see her dancing on the moon during the moon festival. The festival is celebrated by eating some of Chang'e's favourite foods- fruit and mooncakes.

The Moon Festival is a time for families. People travel all over the country to be with their families during this time. When the full moon rises, families get together to watch and enjoy the beauty of the moon. Many people pray to the moon to give them blessings. When the families are together they eat mooncakes and participate in traditional activities. Families sing moon poems and children make flying lanterns that they light up and send into the sky. In Hong Kong, they celebrate the Moon Festival with fiery dancing dragons. Many families continue the celebrations by going out for a delicious dinner afterwards and eating lots of special food.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Questions

1. Read the sentences below and circle the correct word.
   - It is when the moon is full and at it's brightest / biggest.
   - She swallowed a medicinal / mythical potion that made her fly to the moon and she has lived there ever since.
   - It is believed that the moon provides positive imagination / influences over the earth during this time of year.

2. Choose the correct answer.

   Why is the Moon Festival celebrated with Mooncakes and fruit?

   a. because people like eating cakes and fruit

   b. because Chang'e liked to dance on the moon

   c. because Chang'e liked to eat Mooncakes and fruit

3. Choose the correct answer.

   What do the children make?

   a. paper planes

   b. mooncakes

   c. flying light lanterns

   d. mythical potions

4. True or False?

   a. The Moon Festival is based on the Chinese lunar calendar. _____

   b. The Moon festival is not celebrated with mooncakes. _____

   c. The moon festival is held during a full moon. _____

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5. Circle the correct answer.

   What does the word festival mean?

   a. a day off school

   b. a day or period of celebration

   c. it is a full moon

   d. you have fun

6. List four countries/districts that celebrate the Moon Festival.

   _____

   _____

7. What is the Moon Festival a time for?

   _____

   _____

8. What are mooncakes considered to be a symbol of?

   _____

   _____

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Answers

1. Read the sentences below and circle the correct word.
   - It is when the moon is full and it's **brightest** / biggest.
   - She swallowed a medicinal / **mythical** potion that made her fly to the moon and she has lived there ever since.
   - It is believed that the moon provides positive imagination / **influences** over the earth during this time of year.
2. Choose the correct answer. Why is the Moon Festival celebrated with Mooncakes and fruit?
   because Chang'e liked to eat Mooncakes and fruit
3. Choose the correct answer. What do the children make?
   flying light lanterns
4. True or False?

   a. True

   b. False

   c. True
5. Circle the correct answer. What does the word festival mean?
   b. a day or period of celebration
6. List four countries/districts that celebrate the Moon Festival.
   Some of the countries/districts that celebrate the Moon Festival are:
   China, Vietnam, Taiwan, Korea, Malaysia.
7. What is the Moon Festival a time for?
   The Moon Festival is a time for families.
8. What are mooncakes considered to be a symbol of?
   Mooncakes are considered to be a symbol of family reunion

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