

Loy Krathong Festival

One of the most beautiful and popular festivals in Thailand is Loy Krathong. This takes place on the first full moon in November.

The word *loy* means to float, and a *krathong* is a banana leaf cup. During the evening, many people go down to their local canal or river to float their *krathongs*. The *krathongs* contain flowers, a candle and three incense sticks which are lighted before being placed on the water. Some people also put a coin in their kratongs. As they push away their *krathong*, they ask for forgiveness in polluting the water and also for good luck in the coming months.

By the end of the evening, when the dark comes, there are firework displays. All over a river, hundreds of flickering lights bobbing up and down on the water. The reflection of the lighted candles look like the tiny stars in the sky. It is really a memorable and romantic night.

The first Loy Krathong festival was back to the time of the Sukhothai Kingdom, about 700 years ago. At that time, people thanked the water god for the water. All of this is in honor of the mother of water, *Mae Khongka*.

**Part A**     Answer the questions.

1. According to the story, when does the Loy Krathong take place?
  - a. The first day of November
  - b. The fifteenth of November
  - c. The first full moon in November
  - d. The third Saturday of November
  
2. Which sentence is false?
  - a. People make kratongs with coconut leaves.
  - b. People float their kratongs in the canal or river.
  - c. People celebrate Loy Kratong from evening until night.
  - d. People began to celebrate Loy Kratong seven hundreds years ago.

3. What does the word "Loy Kratong" mean?
- a. To make firework displays.                      b. To float a banana leaf cup.  
c. To have a full moon party.                      d. To place a boat on the water.
4. What is "Mae Khongka"?
- a. The mother of water                              b. The honor of the river  
c. The forgiveness to the water                      d. The festival of the water
5. Which of the following word best describes Loy Kratong Festival?
- a. Scared                      b. Funny                      c. Sad                      d. Romantic

**Part B**      Match the word and their definition.

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|----------------------|--|
| _____ 1. festival    | a. special thing that burns with bright colors or a big noise                              |
| _____ 2. float       | b. one of the green parts of a plant or tree, which grow from the side of a stem or branch |
| _____ 3. firework    | c. to show you think a lot of someone  |
| _____ 4. flicker     | d. time when many people come together for singing, dancing, etc                           |
| _____ 5. leaf        | e. so special that you will remember it for a long time                                    |
| _____ 6. in honor of | f. giving back light, pictures, etc.   |
| _____ 7. reflection  | g. stay on the top of a liquid   |
| _____ 8. memorable   | h. shine or burn on and off in a week way  |

**Part C**      Read the passage of Loy Kratong Festival once again.  
Then write a few sentences telling about your Loy Kratong Day.

*Where did you go?      What did you do?      Why do you like Loy Kratong Day?*

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**Part D**      Draw and color the picture of your Loy Kratong Day.

