



Read the article about a festival.

Match the paragraph (A-F) with the correct headings (1-8). Two headings do not match!

1. TRADITIONAL DECORATIONS
2. SUMMERTIME ENTERTAINMENT
3. GLOBAL CELEBRATIONS
4. ROWING TO VICTORY

5. CUSTOMS FOR WELL-BEING
6. FESTIVE SNACKS
7. PREPARATIONS FOR THE EVENT
8. A LEGENDARY FIGURE

The DRAGON Race



A There are few festivals as dramatic and charming as the Dragon Boat Festival in China. The fun-filled event involves the racing of colourful boats in rivers across the country. As the Chinese calendar is based on the cycle of the moon, the festival can fall at any time from May until July. However, it tends to take place in June at the peak of the Chinese summer; an ideal time of year for water sports!

B The purpose of the festival is to commemorate the Chinese minister Qu Yuan who served in the Emperor's court around 300 BC. He was respected for his loyalty to his country when he provided sound advice to the Emperor in difficult times. He was also a famous poet whose work continues to be read throughout China today. However, his life was cut short when he tragically drowned in the Miluo River in 278 BC.

C After receiving news of his death, the local fishermen raced to retrieve Qu Yuan's body, but it was never found. This act thereby gave birth to the ritual of the dragon boat race. The race involves several teams of people aboard long, narrow boats. These boats are brightly-coloured and feature a dragon's head at the front. Participants row to the beat of a drum towards the finishing line, where the first team to retrieve a flag is declared the winner.

D In addition to the race, the festival is also known for a special kind of dumpling called zongzi. This small, triangular-shaped dumpling is filled with sticky rice and then cooked in bamboo leaves. Different regions have their own variations of the dumpling; some use sweet fillings while others prefer meat or seafood. Either way, the result is a fragrant and tasty treat loved by adults and children alike!

E As well as being a time of remembrance, the Dragon Boat Festival is also a celebration of health and longevity. As such, people clean their homes and climb mountains in search of herbs. These special leaves are then hung on their door frames in order to prevent disease. In addition, many people consume a drink made from realgar, a mineral thought to contain healing properties.

F Although the Dragon Boat Festival originated in China, its significance as a celebration of health has caught on in all parts of the world! Each country has different ways of celebrating the event, such as kite-flying in Japan and washing their hair in flower-scented water in Korea. However, while their customs may vary, the festival as a symbol of national pride remains universal, drawing millions of people together year after year.

A	B	C	D	E	F