

Chinese Dragon Boat Festival



Manjuan He

Table of Content

Chapter 1	Introduction	3-4
Chapter 2	History	5-8
Chapter 3	How to Celebrate	9-14
Chapter 4	Special Pouch for Children	15
	Glossary	16
	Questions	17
	Works Referenced	18
	Common Core Standards	19

Chapter 1

Introduction to Chinese Dragon Boat Festival



The Dragon Boat Festival is a traditional celebration in China, when people gather together to hold a memorial ceremony for a famous Chinese poet Qu Yuan.

2017

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL																																															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
MAY							JUNE							JULY							AUGUST																																															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER																																															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

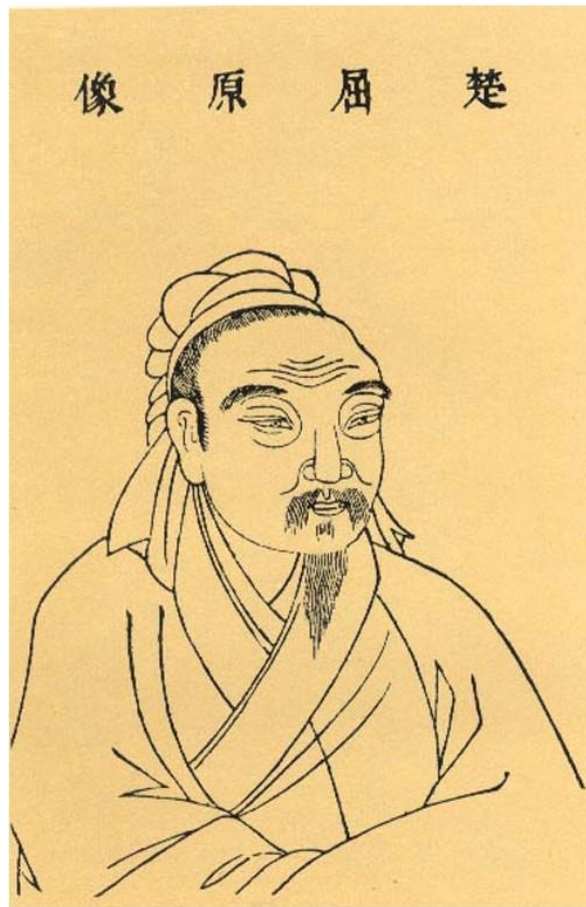
The date of the Dragon Boat Festival is changing every year according to the Lunar Calendar. It always happens on the fifth day of fifth lunar month on the Lunar Calendar.

This year, the Dragon Boat Festival is on Sunday, May 28, 2017.

Chapter 2

The History of the Dragon Boat Festival

Who is the Dragon Boat Festival celebrating for?



This is Qu Yuan, who is a patriotic poet. He wrote lots of poems to show his love and passion for the country. Qu Yuan ended his life and jumped into a river when he knew his country's defeat on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month.

Why is the festival named for the Dragon Boat?



People paddle the river loudly. The leader, who stands in the front of the dragon boat, plays the drum to scare the evil away.

People extremely respected this patriotic poet. When they were notified by Qu Yuan's death, everyone felt sad. They rowed the boats down the river, and tried to find his body back.

In order to scare the evil spirits away from Qu Yuan, people hit the water with the paddles and beat the drums while rowing the boats. People rowed the dragon boats every year on this day to commemorate Qu Yuan's death.

Why make *zongzi* for the Dragon Boat Festival?



People couldn't find Qu Yuan's body, so they dropped lumps of rice, which is called *zongzi*, into the river. In this way, the fish would eat the rice and Qu Yuan's body would not be bitten. This is a way that people used to preserve Qu Yuan's body.

Chapter 3

How to Celebrate Food:

People make *zongzi* together. It is tasty and sticky. People will eat them on that day.



How to make *zongzi*:

Ingredients:

Leaves

Rice

Strings

First of all, people collect a special type of the leaves. This leaf is used to wrap up the rice and the smell of the leaf can make the rice taste better at the same time.





After preparing the leaves, it's time to select some glutinous rice. It looks like white rice, but it tastes much stickier. People fold the leaves into a triangular shaped box so that the rice can be kept inside the leaves.



The final step is to use a string to wrap up the leaves and then the *zongzi* is ready to be steamed.

Activity:



Young people, especially young men, have a dragon boat race on this day. There is a leader on each dragon boat who beats the drum and cheers for the teammates. The rest of the teammates row the boat and compete with other dragon boats.

Chapter 4

Special Pouch for Children

Each kid gets a perfume pouch from their parents. The perfume pouch is sewn from bright silk cloth. Inside the pouch are some perfumes or herbal medicines, which make the bag smell great. The most popular perfume pouches are usually sewn with 12 Chinese zodiac animals.



The perfume pouch is usually tied to the children's clothes, which looks beautiful. Some people also say that the perfume pouch can keep the evil away from the kids.

Glossary

Gather: to bring together into one group, collection, or place.

Poet: a person who composes poetry.

Lunar Calendar: a calendar based upon cycles of the Moon's phases.

Patriotic: having or showing great love and support for your country.

Paddle: a tool, that is usually made by wood and used to move a small boat.

Questions:

1. When is the Chinese Dragon Boat Festival?
2. Who is the festival celebrating for?
3. What are the origins of *zongzi* and the dragon boats race?
4. Which part of the Chinese Dragon Boat Festival interests you most? Why?

Works Referenced

Chinese Dragon Boat Festival 2015. (2015, June 19). Retrieved April 23, 2017, from <http://www.chinesecultureshop.com/chinese-dragon-boat-festival/>

Traditional Chinese Festivals. (n.d.). Retrieved April 23, 2017, from <http://www.china.org.cn/english/features/Festivals/78316.htm>

Dragon Boat Festival in China. (n.d.). Retrieved March 23, 2017, from <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/china/dragon-boat-festival>

Dragon Boat Festival History and its Legends. (n.d.). Retrieved March 23, 2017, from <http://www.chinahighlights.com/festivals/dragon-boat-festival-history.htm>

Common Core State Standards

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.1 Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.3 Describe the connection between a series of historical event, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.7 Explain how specific images (eg: a diagram showing how a machine works) contribute to and clarify a text.

This e-book and any prints are released under a [CC BY 3.0 license](#) by the author.

This means that you are free to share, remix, transform, and build upon this book as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author.

Included works (e.g., images and other media) may have separate licensing requirements, and this release does not supersede or replace those requirements.

This e-book template is provided under a CC BY 3.0 license by the University of Idaho College of Education. If you use, share, remix, or transform this template, you should include this page at the end of your book.

University of Idaho
College of Education
