

Student Worksheet A

Look at the images below- what can you see? What do you think connects them all? What is happening?

1



2



3



4



Match the vocabulary with the correct photograph (you will need a dictionary or an online dictionary):

- | | |
|--------|---------------|
| a) 烧香 | shāoxiāng |
| b) 做灯笼 | zuò dēnglóng |
| c) 烧纸钱 | shāo qián zhǐ |
| d) 给食物 | gěi shíwù |

Now read [this website](#) to find the answers.

Tell your partner what you have found out, and teach them the new Chinese you have learned.



Write four sentences in Chinese to tell your partner about Hungry Ghost Festival, using the vocabulary above, for example:

1. 在鬼节你烧纸钱
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Student Worksheet B

Look at the images below- what is happening? What do you think connects them all?



Match the vocabulary with the correct photograph (you will need a dictionary or an online dictionary):

- | | |
|---------|-----------------|
| a) 吹口哨 | chuīkǒushào |
| b) 回头 | huítóu |
| c) 穿高跟鞋 | chuān gāogēnxié |
| d) 游泳 | yóuyǒng |

Now go to [this website](#) and find out the answer...

Tell your partner what you have found out, and teach them the new Chinese you have learned.



Write four sentences in Chinese to tell your partner about Hungry Ghost Festival, using the vocabulary above, for example:

1. 在鬼节你不能吹口哨
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

More Vocabulary

(Hungry) Ghost Month

鬼月 Guǐ yuè

Hungry Ghost Festival:

盂兰盆 Yúlánpén, 中元节 Zhōngyuán Jié, 鬼节 Guǐ Jié

Buddhism

佛教 Fójiào

Taoism

道教 Dàojiào

With your partner, read about the Hungry Ghost Festival:



Hungry Ghost Festival

The Hungry Ghost Festival is one of several important festival days of Ghost Month (鬼月 Guǐ yuè) — the seventh month of the Chinese lunar calendar. It is thought that the ghosts of Chinese ancestors are let out of hell on the first day of the month. It has been the scariest month of the year for thousands of years. They roam around looking for entertainment, and many fearful Chinese try to avoid swimming or being alone at night in case an enemy ghost comes after them.

The ghosts attack their enemies, and they might be angry or malicious in general. So the Chinese have certain traditions about what to do about the situation on the first day, the 14th or 15th for the Hungry Ghost Festival, and the last day of the special month.

The Hungry Ghost Festival is one of several traditional festivals in China to worship ancestors and is still very important in certain regions, and is also observed in other countries with large Chinese populations such as Singapore and Malaysia. The Buddhist name for the Hungry Ghost Festival is the 盂兰盆 (Yúlánpén), and Taoists call it 中元节 (Zhōngyuán Jié). It can also be called “鬼节” (Guǐ Jié) which is the same name for what UK celebration, do you think?

Activity

What happens on the first and last days of the Hungry Ghost Month? Read more and find out:

Student A read about the first day, and tell your partner- including any new words in Chinese.

Student B read about the last day, and tell your partner- including any new words in Chinese.

Student A-

The First Day of Hungry Ghost Month

On the first day of the month, people burn make-believe paper money outside their homes or businesses, along the sides of roads, or in fields. Sometimes, they go to temples for this task. On a trip to China during this time, you'll probably see people occupied with this activity or find the ghost money on the ground with ashes and remains. They want to give the ghosts the money they need during their special month. On some of these notes is printed the word “地狱” *diyù* which means "underworld prison" or 地府, *difǔ* meaning "underworld court" as that is where the souls are believed to be, being judged- the money will help them get a good result!

People also light incense and may make offer food to the hungry unhappy ghosts. People trust that the ghosts won't do something terrible to them after eating their food and while holding their money. They put up red painted paper lanterns everywhere including business and residential areas.

There are street ceremonies, market ceremonies, and temple ceremonies. During street and market ceremonies, people gather at the streets and markets to celebrate the festival. At temple ceremonies, monks in temples organize festive activities. Many believe it is important to appease the ghosts to avoid spiritual attack.

Student B-

The Last Day of Hungry Ghost Month

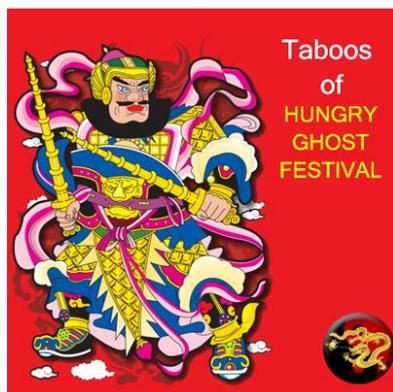
The last day of the seventh lunar month is marked with a special festival too. This is the day that the gates of hell are closed up again. People celebrate and observe this day in various ways. Many burn more paper money and clothing so that the ghosts can use these things. The pictures and tablets of ancestors may be put away back on the shelves or hung back on the walls where they were before.

In order to drive the ghosts away, Taoist monks chant to make them leave. The ghosts are thought to hate the sound. Many families float river lanterns on little boats in the evening. People make colourful lanterns out of wood and paper, and families write their ancestors' name on the lanterns. The ghosts are believed to follow the floating river lanterns away.

Special ceremonies are performed to avoid the anger of the ghosts, the main ceremony is usually held at dusk. People put the family's ancestral tablets and old paintings and photographs on a table and then burn incense near them. Plates of food are put out for the ghosts on the table, and the people may kowtow in front of the memorial tablets and report their behaviour to their ancestors to receive a blessing or punishment. People also feast on this night, and they might leave a place open at the table for a lost ancestor.

They want to feed the hungry ghosts who have been wandering the land since the beginning of Hungry Ghost Month. It is thought that after two weeks of activity, they must be very hungry.

True or False?



1. Swimming is believed to be dangerous during this time, as spirits can pull you under the water.
2. The Festival is only important to Taoists.
3. The spirits are supposed to be hungry because they are trapped between the human and spirit worlds and are unable to eat.
4. Hungry ghosts are believed to be those of people who lived a happy life.
5. You shouldn't wear high heels at this time, as it makes it easier for a spirit to possess you if your heel is lifted from the ground.
6. If someone calls your name, don't look back or respond as it might be a ghost calling you.
7. You should whistle loudly if you are outside.

(answers: 1:T, 2:F, it's also important to Buddhists and in Folk history, 3:T, 4:F they are unhappy in life, or died a violent death, 5:T, 6:T, 7: F whistling attracts ghosts.

Questions:

1. The Hungry Ghost Festival is in July or August each year. How do you write July in Chinese?
2. Can you remember how to say three things in Chinese that you shouldn't do at this time?
3. Can you remember how to say three things in Chinese that you should do at this time, to make the ghosts happy?
4. What two religions are most important to this festival? How do you say their names in Chinese?
5. How would you say "ghosts like paper money"?
6. There are different Chinese names for this festival, can you remember them?
7. How do you write "ghost month" in Chinese?

Extension:

If you want to know more about this festival, take a look at these videos:

<https://youtu.be/wq308fmGOJ8> (Hainan)

<https://youtu.be/ETavtQOXalk> (Hong Kong)

<https://youtu.be/pKxslNpKnxE> (Malaysia)

https://youtu.be/Mue1YQI_g6I (Singapore)

<https://youtu.be/ATOLf53PKuQ> (Singapore)