



Aboriginal Cultures of Taiwan

Reading Worksheet — Level C | tahricteaches.com

Taiwan is home to many **indigenous** people. They lived on the island long before other groups came. Today, there are 16 official tribes. Each tribe has its own language, food, and customs.

The Amis is the biggest tribe. They live near the east coast. They love to sing and dance. Every summer, they have a big **harvest** festival. People wear bright clothes and dance in a circle for many days.

The Atayal and Truku tribes live in the **mountains**. In the past, they had face tattoos. The tattoos showed that a person was strong and brave. Today, only a few old people still have these tattoos.

Many tribes are famous for their art. They make beautiful **weaving** with colorful thread. They also carve wood and make clay pots. The Paiwan tribe is known for using glass beads. These items are used in special **ceremonies** and weddings.

Food is also important. Many tribes eat sticky rice, wild plants, and fresh fish. They cook food in bamboo tubes over a fire. Today, you can visit aboriginal villages in Taiwan. You can try the food, watch dances, and learn about their long history. It is a fun way to see another side of Taiwan.

A. Vocabulary

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. indigenous ____ | a. small group of houses in the countryside |
| 2. tribe ____ | b. pictures or marks made on the skin with ink |
| 3. harvest ____ | c. special events with traditional actions, like weddings or festivals |
| 4. mountains ____ | d. to cut wood or stone into a shape |
| 5. weaving ____ | e. very high areas of land, much taller than hills |
| 6. ceremonies ____ | f. making cloth by crossing threads over and under each other |
| 7. customs ____ | g. ways of doing things that a group has done for a long time |
| 8. tattoos ____ | h. first people to live in a place; native |
| 9. carve ____ | i. group of people who share a language, culture, and history |
| 10. village ____ | j. time when crops are picked from the fields |

B. True or False

- | | |
|--|--|
| ___ 1. Taiwan has 16 official aboriginal tribes. | ___ 2. The Amis tribe lives in the western desert of Taiwan. |
| ___ 3. The Amis tribe has a big harvest festival every summer. | ___ 4. The Atayal and Truku tribes live in the mountains. |
| ___ 5. All young people in the Atayal tribe still have face tattoos today. | ___ 6. The Paiwan tribe is famous for using glass beads. |

- ___ 7. Aboriginal people in Taiwan only eat bread and cheese.
- ___ 8. Some tribes cook food in bamboo tubes over a fire.
- ___ 9. Aboriginal people came to Taiwan after all other groups.
- ___ 10. Visitors can go to aboriginal villages and try the food.

C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: indigenous, harvest, mountains, weaving, ceremonies, tribe, carve, village

1. The Amis people have a big _____ festival every summer.
2. The Atayal people live in the high _____ of Taiwan.
3. Aboriginal people are the _____ people of Taiwan.
4. Many tribes make beautiful cloth by _____ colorful thread.
5. Glass beads are used in weddings and other special _____.



D. Comprehension Questions

1. How many official aboriginal tribes are there in Taiwan?
2. What did face tattoos show in the Atayal and Truku tribes?
3. What can visitors do in aboriginal villages today?

E. Discussion Questions

1. Are there indigenous people in your country? What do you know about them?
2. Would you like to visit an aboriginal village in Taiwan? Why or why not?



Answer Key

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A. Vocabulary: 1-h, 2-i, 3-j, 4-e, 5-f, 6-c, 7-g, 8-b, 9-d, 10-a

B. True/False: 1-T, 2-F, 3-T, 4-T, 5-F, 6-T, 7-F, 8-T, 9-F, 10-T

C. Fill Blanks: 1-harvest, 2-mountains, 3-indigenous, 4-weaving, 5-ceremonies

D. Comprehension:

1. There are 16 official aboriginal tribes in Taiwan.
2. Face tattoos showed that a person was strong and brave.
3. Visitors can try the food, watch dances, and learn about the tribes' history.

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