



Dragon Boat Racing

Reading Worksheet — Level C | tahricteaches.com

Dragon Boat Racing is a fun sport from China. It is more than 2,000 years old. People race long, wooden boats on rivers and lakes. The boats have a dragon head at the front and a dragon tail at the back. They are bright and colorful.

Each boat has about 20 people. They sit in two lines and hold long **paddles**. They pull the paddles through the water to move the boat. One person stands at the back to **steer**. Another person sits at the front and hits a big **drum**. The drum helps the team paddle together.

The race is part of the Dragon Boat **Festival**. This festival happens every year in late spring or early summer. Many people in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and other countries celebrate it. Families eat sticky rice cakes called zongzi. They are wrapped in green leaves.

The festival remembers a famous Chinese poet named Qu Yuan. He lived a long time ago. The story says he jumped into a river. People raced boats to **rescue** him. They also threw rice into the water for the fish.

Today, dragon boat racing is popular all over the world. Cities have big races every year. **Teams** train for many months. They want to be fast and strong. The sport is exciting to watch. The drums are loud, and the boats move very fast.

A. Vocabulary

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. paddles ____ | a. person who writes poems |
| 2. steer ____ | b. contest to see who is the fastest |
| 3. drum ____ | c. do something special for an important day |
| 4. festival ____ | d. round instrument you hit to make a beat |
| 5. rescue ____ | e. save someone from danger |
| 6. teams ____ | f. very old, from a long time ago |
| 7. race ____ | g. short oars used to move a boat through water |
| 8. celebrate ____ | h. control the direction a boat or vehicle moves |
| 9. poet ____ | i. special day or event when people celebrate together |
| 10. ancient ____ | j. groups of people who work or play together |

B. True or False

- | | |
|---|---|
| ___ 1. Dragon boat racing is a new sport. | ___ 2. Dragon boats have a dragon head at the front. |
| ___ 3. Each boat has about 20 people. | ___ 4. One person hits a drum to help the team paddle together. |

___ 5. The Dragon Boat Festival happens in winter.

___ 7. Qu Yuan was a famous singer.

___ 9. Dragon boat racing is only popular in China.

___ 6. People eat sticky rice cakes called zongzi at the festival.

___ 8. People threw rice into the water for the fish.

___ 10. Teams train for many months before a race.

C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: paddles, steer, drum, festival, rescue, teams, race, celebrate

1. The people in the boat use long _____ to move through the water.
2. One person stands at the back of the boat to _____ it.
3. A big _____ helps the team paddle at the same time.
4. The Dragon Boat _____ happens every year in late spring or early summer.
5. People raced boats to _____ the poet Qu Yuan from the river.



D. Comprehension Questions

1. What do dragon boats look like?
2. Why does one person hit a drum during the race?
3. Who was Qu Yuan, and why do people remember him?

E. Discussion Questions

1. Would you like to be on a dragon boat team? Why or why not?
2. What special festival from your country would you like to share with other people?



Answer Key

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

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

C. Fill Blanks: 1-paddles, 2-steer, 3-drum, 4-festival, 5-rescue

D. Comprehension:

1. Dragon boats are long, wooden, and colorful, with a dragon head at the front and a dragon tail at the back.
2. The drum helps the team paddle together at the same time.
3. Qu Yuan was a famous Chinese poet who jumped into a river, and people raced boats to try to rescue him.