



Taiwan's Night Markets

— Where Food, Culture, and Community

Meet

Reading Worksheet — Level F | [tahricteaches.com](https://www.tahricteaches.com)

Taiwan's night markets are one of the most exciting parts of the island's food **culture**. As soon as the sun sets, lights come on, vendors fire up their grills, and a colorful **crowd** fills the narrow streets. For **local** families these markets are an everyday meeting place; for foreign visitors they are a must-see **attraction** that captures the spirit of modern Taiwanese life in a single evening walk.

The **tradition** of evening street trading in Taiwan goes back more than a hundred years. Small markets first grew up around temples, where families gathered after work to share food and conversation. Over time, simple food carts grew into long lines of permanent stalls. Today, every major city has at least one famous night market, and most neighborhoods have a smaller **local** version where regulars stop by several times a week.

Food is the heart of every night market, and the **variety** is amazing. Visitors can try stinky tofu, oyster omelets, beef noodles, bubble tea, pepper buns, grilled squid, and dozens of other **delicious** dishes. Each market also has its own famous **snack**: Shilin is known for giant fried chicken, Raohe for pepper buns, and Liuhe in Kaohsiung for fresh seafood. Most dishes cost only a few US dollars, so people can taste many things in one visit.

The **atmosphere** of a night market is unlike anywhere else. Neon signs, sizzling grills, shouting vendors, and curious shoppers all blend into one warm, noisy stream of life. The thick **crowd** moves slowly past stalls selling clothes, phone cases, toys, and games. Children play arcade machines, students share plates of food, and grandparents bargain over fresh fruit. The whole space feels like a giant outdoor living room where the entire community comes to relax.

Night markets are also a major **tourist attraction** that brings in millions of foreign visitors every year. Travel shows, food bloggers, and social media have spread the image of Taiwan's markets across the world. For many international guests, eating a hot **snack** in a crowded lane is the moment they fall in love with the country. The night market is more than a place to shop — it is a living display of Taiwan's warm and creative **culture**.

A. Vocabulary

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. culture _____ | a. having a very pleasant taste or smell |
| 2. tradition _____ | b. a large group of people gathered closely together in one place |
| 3. snack _____ | c. a person who travels to a place for pleasure or vacation |
| 4. delicious _____ | d. to make people want to come to or notice something |
| 5. local _____ | e. the customs, ideas, food, and arts of a particular group of people |
| 6. crowd _____ | f. a custom or practice that has been passed down for many years |
| 7. variety _____ | g. a small amount of food eaten between regular meals |
| 8. attract _____ | h. belonging to or relating to a particular area or neighborhood |
| 9. atmosphere _____ | i. many different kinds of things within a single group |
| 10. tourist _____ | j. the feeling or mood of a particular place or situation |



B. True or False

1. Night markets are an important part of Taiwan's food culture. _____
2. The tradition of evening street trading in Taiwan only began in the 1990s. _____
3. Small night markets first grew up around temples in Taiwan. _____
4. Every major city in Taiwan has at least one famous night market. _____
5. Most night market dishes cost more than thirty US dollars. _____
6. Shilin is famous for its pepper buns and Raohe for its giant fried chicken. _____
7. The atmosphere of a night market includes neon signs, sizzling grills, and shouting vendors. _____
8. Children, students, and grandparents all use the night market in different ways. _____
9. Travel shows and social media have helped spread Taiwan's night markets around the world. _____



C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: culture, tradition, variety, atmosphere, tourist

1. Night markets are one of the most exciting parts of Taiwan's food _____ .
2. The _____ of evening street trading in Taiwan goes back more than a hundred years.
3. Food is the heart of every night market, and the _____ of dishes is amazing.
4. The _____ of a night market — neon signs, sizzling grills, and shouting vendors — is unlike anywhere else.
5. Night markets are a major _____ attraction that brings millions of foreign visitors to Taiwan every year.

D. Comprehension Questions

1. Where did Taiwan's night markets first appear, and what role did they play?
2. What kinds of food can visitors find at a typical Taiwanese night market?
3. How is each famous market different from the others?
4. What makes the atmosphere of a Taiwanese night market unique?
5. Why are night markets important to Taiwan beyond just selling food?

E. Discussion Questions

1. Some night market food is very high in oil, sugar, and salt. Should the government do more to encourage healthier choices, or should this be left to vendors and customers?
2. If a famous global food chain wanted to open a stall inside a Taiwanese night market, would that be good or bad for the market's culture?

3. Should night markets stay traditional, or change with new trends like vegan food, mobile payment, and English signs for tourists?



Answer Key

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

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

C. Fill Blanks: 1-culture, 2-tradition, 3-variety, 4-atmosphere, 5-tourist

D. Comprehension:

1. Taiwan's night markets first grew up around temples, where families gathered after work to share food and conversation. Over time, simple food carts grew into long lines of permanent stalls.
2. Visitors can try stinky tofu, oyster omelets, beef noodles, bubble tea, pepper buns, grilled squid, and dozens of other dishes — usually for only a few US dollars each.
3. Each market has its own famous snack: Shilin is known for giant fried chicken, Raohe for pepper buns, and Liuhe in Kaohsiung for fresh seafood.
4. The atmosphere blends neon signs, sizzling grills, shouting vendors, and curious shoppers into one warm, noisy stream of life — like a giant outdoor living room where children, students, and grandparents all share the same space.
5. Beyond selling food, night markets are a major tourist attraction and a living display of Taiwan's culture — for many foreign visitors, eating in a crowded lane is the moment they fall in love with the country.