

**Describe a traditional celebration in your country that you enjoy (传统庆典)**

**You should say:**

**What it is**

**What you do to celebrate it**

**Who you celebrate it with**

**And explain why you enjoy it.**

**知识点:**

**和传统节日庆祝有关的表达:**

- **Get reunited** 团圆
- **Moon Festival/ Mid-autumn Festival** 中秋 (15th day of the 8th lunar month)
- **Duanwu Festival/ Dragon Boat Festival** 端午 (the 5th day of the 5th month of the lunar calendar)
- **Chinese New Year/ Lunar New Year/ Spring Festival** 春节 (falls between late January and mid-February)
- The celebration takes place on (date)/ falls on (date)
- **XXX is celebrated on (date)**
- **Lunar calendar** 阴历
- **Mooncake** 月饼
- **Dumpling** 水饺
- **Zongzi/ traditional Chinese rice-pudding** 粽子
- **Appreciate/worship the moon/ the beauty of the moon** 赏月、拜月亮
- **Express gratitude/ practise gratitude** 表达感恩, 实践感恩
- **Solve/do riddles** 猜字谜
- **Have reunion dinner** 吃团圆饭
- **Watch Chinese New Year's Gala show** 看春晚
- **Exchange red envelope/ hongbao** 交换红包
- **Set good wishes to each other** 祝福好运
- **Fireworks and Lion/Dragon Dances** 烟花和舞龙舞狮: **Set off fireworks and firecrackers to scare away evil spirits** (赶走厄运); lion and

dragon dances are performed on the streets to bring good luck (带来好运) .

- **Dragon boat races:** Teams paddle in long and narrow dragon boats (划细细的龙舟) to the beat of drums, competing in races in a river or a lake.
- **Hanging Pouches** (挂香囊) : People hang silk pouches filled with herbs around their homes to drive away (赶走) evil spirits and bring good luck.

Today, I'd like to talk about a traditional celebration in China: The Moon Festival (中秋节) , also known as the Mid-Autumn Festival.

The Moon Festival is an ancient Chinese celebration that takes place on the 15th day of the eighth month of lunar calendar (阴历) , when the moon is believed to be the biggest, roundest, and brightest (最大、最圆、最亮) .

In terms of what we do to celebrate this special day, well, the most important tradition is to eat mooncakes (吃月饼) , which are super tasty round-shaped pastries filled with various delicious fillings (好吃又圆形的带馅儿的点心) such as lotus seed (莲仁儿) , red bean (红豆) , or even salted egg yolks (咸蛋黄) . They're very high in calories (高热量) , I have to admit, and they're very heavy on the stomach (不好消化) , but it's really worth it (很值得) and also, it's just once per year (一年一次) , very much like how people in North American would save roasted turkey for Thanksgiving (把火鸡都留在感恩节吃) . You know what I mean? When you spot a mooncake, it's an instant reminder of (即可的提醒) the Moon Festival, just like how turkey screams Thanksgiving (火鸡呐喊着感恩节) ! So, we eat mooncakes with our families and friends, sharing and exchanging different flavours, meanwhile enjoying the time together.

Another thing my family and I would do, which is also very common among other Chinese families, is to appreciate the beauty of the moon (赏月, 欣赏月亮之美) . Normally we go to the balcony with a better view, and set up a small table (支一个小桌子) with food and snacks, such as fruits, tea, and of course, a plate of mooncakes. As we gaze at (凝视) the

moon while sipping on the tea (小口抿茶), we do/solve riddles (猜字谜). It is a tradition to write riddles on a small piece of paper and let other people guess the answer, you know, to spice it up (加点佐料, 炒气氛) and make it more exciting. My understanding is that, back in the old days (在很久以前) in ancient China, people's ways of getting entertained (找乐子) were quite limited, they didn't have TV, radio, not even newspapers. Therefore, solving riddles was like an interactive and fun game that everyone could participate. it added more fun and could bring people together.

That's why I love this festival. It's a time when family get reunited (团聚) and spend quality time together. We taste mooncakes, we talk and laugh, share stories, practise gratitude (实践感恩). I have so many fond memories about this day.

So, yeh, that's the traditional celebration. Thank you.

### Part3:

1. Is it important for children to learn traditional festivals at school? It's so essential. The way I see it, schools really play an important role in (其重要角色) teaching children about their own cultural identity and heritage (文化认同感和文化传承), and bring everybody together (把大家团结在一起) and promote a sense of community (促进团体感). Through learning about traditional festivals, children can have a better and deeper understanding of (更好的理解) who they are and where they come from (自己是谁, 从哪里来), and then gain a deeper appreciation of their own culture (对自己文化的欣赏). They will have higher self-esteem and feel proud of who they are. (原因, 正向假设)

2. Do children like to learn about traditional festivals?

Some do and some don't. Some kids naturally feel connected to their cultural root (文化根基) and are very interested in all kinds of traditions, whereas some kids couldn't care less (完全不关心) about things like this. And also, I feel that it has a lot to do with (与……有很大关系) the style and the way of teaching. If school teachers (学校老师) can teach traditional festivals in a very fun and engaging way, for example, playing games, playing musical instruments, learning to sing a song, or doing stage plays

(舞台剧) by wearing traditional costumes, I think kids will naturally feel more engaged in learning. (分群体+假设+举例子)

3. Why do people hold events to celebrate?

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Some people have a strong sense of ceremony/ritual (仪式感很强), they love holding events such as birthdays, weddings, anniversaries in order to create lasting memories (长久的回忆). I think it's a really beautiful thing to do. Personally, I'm the kind of person who loves hosting events for special occasions (直播课经典句型). For me, that's the best way to celebrate the moment. And also, those celebrations can bring people together and express gratitude, joy, and appreciation towards one another. (原因)

4. Are traditional festivals disappearing?

I wouldn't say that traditional festivals are disappearing completely, but there is definitely a shift (一个变化转型) towards more modern 安定 commercialized celebrations, for example, Valentine's Day, Double 11 day (Chinese black Friday 中国的黑五). However, I still see people who continue to value and celebrate traditional festivals. So, I don't think we can say that they are disappearing altogether. (细节)

5. Is music important in traditional festivals?

Yes, big time (太重要了)! For me, music is so vital in different occasions, not just traditional festivals. It can set the mood (奠定情绪基调) of doing certain things. So, during traditional festivals, say, Spring Festival, I always play really festive and upbeat (带有节日气氛又欢乐的) traditional Chinese music to create an atmosphere (渲染氛围) for New Year's celebration. When I hear the traditional instruments being played in the music, it immediately puts me into the mindset of the celebration. (原因, 举例子)

6. Do you think good food and drinks are important for celebrations?

I feel that any celebrations are always and should always be associated with good food and drinks because it's an all-encompassing (全方位的) experience, right? You celebrate the event by eating and drinking and having a good time. Good food and drinks can definitely enhance the whole experience (改善体验感). I remember one time I went to my friend's wedding anniversary dinner and they had the best food and wine accompanied with music. I had such a blast (玩儿得如此之快乐) that up until today (时至今日) I still remember that dinner. But I also have memories like going to a birthday party with terrible food and drinks and end up wanting to leave the party sooner. (原因, 举例子)