

By Eric



People celebrate many types of holidays and festivals. The topic of my speech is the Dragon boat festival.



Why do people celebrate Dragon boat festival?

Every year the Dragon Boat Festival is celebrated to commemorate the attempt at rescuing Qu Yuan. People began the tradition of throwing sacrificial cooked rice into the river for Qu Yuan, while others believed that the rice would prevent the fish in the river from eating Qu Yuan's body.



Who was Qu Yuan?

Qu was a public servant, serving the king. Slandered by corrupt officials who competed for royal favor, Qu eventually left the capital and lived a life of exile back in his hometown, where he wrote what's considered to be some of the greatest poetry in the Chinese language.

After he got word that the Chu capital had fallen to the Qin army, however, he walked into a river and drowned himself because he was so sad.



How do people celebrate Dragon boat festival?

The most popular activity of the Dragon Boat Festival is racing Dragon boats. Many different groups compete with each other, racing row boats, with a drummer setting the pace for the rowers.



Who usually celebrates Dragon boat festival?

The Dragon Boat Festival falls on the fifth day of the fifth month on the Chinese lunar calendar. The Chinese people will have one day off to celebrate the festival.



Dragon boat competitions have become an international event!

The Toronto International Dragon Boat Race Festival wants to promote the tradition and sport of dragon boating; to enhance awareness of Asian and Chinese-Canadian cultures and to strengthen cross-cultural understanding.. It has been recognized as one of the true cultural events in Toronto that started in this highly diversified region of the Country.



What Dragon Boat Festival means to me.

Because I live in Taichung, I've never seen the Dragon Boat races in person, only on tv. I hope to participate in a Dragon boat race when I am older, perhaps when I am a university student.



Thanks for listening to my speech.