

DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL || 端午节

THE DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL, ALSO KNOWN AS DUANWU JIE IN CHINESE, IS CELEBRATED ON THE FIFTH DAY OF THE FIFTH MONTH ACCORDING TO THE CHINESE LUNAR CALENDAR.



LEGEND OF THE DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

One theory states that the origin of the festival is derived from activities to commemorate a great patriot poet, Qu Yuan. Another theory states that the festival is originated from the taboo of evil days because the fifth month of the Chinese lunar calendar is traditionally considered to be an evil month and the 5th of the month is supposedly a bad day.

The Dragon Boat Festival of 2012 falls on June 23, and the holiday in China starts from June 22 to June 24, 2012.

THE STORY OF QU YUAN

Similar to other Chinese festivals, there is also a legend behind the Dragon Boat Festival. Qu Yuan was a wise and capable man who served in the court of Emperor Huai during the Warring States. He fought against corruption and angered many of the other court officials. They influenced the Emperor to dismiss and eventually exile him. However, Qu Yuan continued to teach and write about his ideas. His famous works, the Lament (Li Sao), the Nine Chapter (Jiu Zhang), and Wen Tian are still used to study ancient Chinese culture.

When the Chu state was defeated by the Qin State, he committed suicide by throwing himself into the Miluo River.

According to the legend, the people mourned for his death and raced to the spot in their boats to search for his body. The people couldn't find his body and threw zongzi, eggs, and other food into the river to feed the fish so they would not be so hungry as to eat Qu Yuan's body.

Since then, people started to commemorate Qu Yuan and his devotion to the nation on the anniversary of his death, the fifth day of the fifth lunar month, through activities such as dragon boat racing and eating zongzi.



ZONGZI

Zongzi is the most popular food for the festival. It's a special kind of dumpling, usually made of glutinous or sticky rice wrapped in bamboo or banana leaves. You may see zongzi in different shapes and with various fillings. The most common shapes are triangular and pyramidal. Popular fillings include dates, meat, egg yolk, and other ingredients.



HISTORY OF CHINESE KITES

The kite is believed to have originated from China. The first kites were made of light wood and formed in the shape of a bird. The kite developed to a device with narrow ribs, made of light but strong, flexible material and with a thin material such as silk cloth or paper stretched over the ribs.

The earliest kites date from the Warring States. They were called *mu yuan* (wooden kite) and were made of wood. These early versions of the kite were mentioned in the texts of Mozi, a philosopher who lived a century later than Confucius and opposed his teachings and Taoism.

The paper kite or *zhi yuan* was also used as an emergency warning device hundreds of years later.

During the Tang Dynasty, lighter kites made of silk and paper were produced. The kites became a toy and kite making and flying developed into an art form. Kites were decorated with elaborate and colorful decorations of birds, flowers, and calligraphic characters.



**THANK ALL OF YOU FOR A WONDERFUL YEAR! WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN
IN THE FALL!**

GENERAL INFORMATION

PLAYGROUP

BU-Dumpling Playgroups are for adopted Chinese children (ages 4-9) and their families. Through activities such as stories, crafts, and cooking, these children are exposed to Chinese culture and their families have a way to connect and network

Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center:
38 Ash St, Boston, MA 02111

ABOUT US

MIT China Care (MITCC) and **Boston University China Care Fund (BUCCF)** are student-run organizations dedicated to creating life changing opportunities for Chinese orphans and locally adopted Chinese children.

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