

MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL

A vibrant display of traditional Chinese lanterns in various colors (red, orange, yellow, and purple) hanging from a dark, intricate metal lattice structure. The lanterns feature different patterns, including floral and geometric designs, and some have tassels hanging from them. The background is a deep blue, suggesting a night sky.

by Ailynn Collins

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WHAT IS THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL?

Children carrying pretty paper lanterns. Families looking at the full moon. People eating mooncakes and fruit. This is the Mid-Autumn Festival.

The Mid-Autumn Festival is a Chinese holiday. But it is celebrated by Asian people all over the world. It is also called the Moon, or Mooncake, Festival.



Different **legends** tell how this day became a holiday. The most common one is about the Lady in the Moon.

Long ago, there were 10 suns in the sky. They made life very hard. Crops dried up. People and animals were hot and thirsty.

A great **archer** shot down nine of the suns with his bow and arrow. The people were very thankful. The gods gave the archer a special gift. It was a **potion** that would make him live forever.



The archer takes aim at the many suns.

Chang'e floats up to the moon.



The archer was married to a very beautiful woman. Her name was Chang'e (Chung-ur). The archer loved his wife very much. He didn't want to live forever without her. They kept the potion safe in their house.

One night, Chang'e was alone at home. A man broke in. He wanted to steal the potion. Chang'e didn't want it to end up in the wrong hands. So she drank it.

Chang'e floated up, up, up to the moon. She would live forever. She would also be separated from her husband for all time.