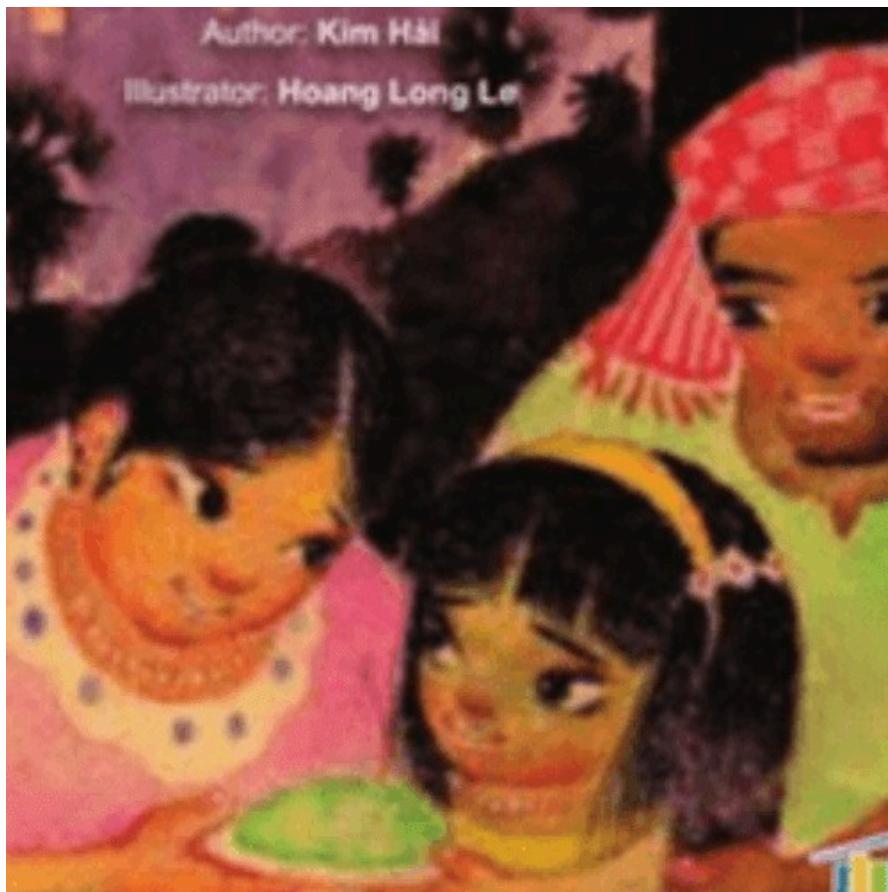


The Ok Om Bok Festival

A Guide for Teachers and Parents



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THEMES

Culture & Tradition

Family & Friends

SUB-THEMES

Traditional cuisine

Festivals

Story Discussion Guide

- Recognize the significance of cultural festivals in community life.
- Understand the values of gratitude and communal harmony.
- Appreciate the diversity of global traditions and their meanings.

Lesson plan

Students explore the Ok Om Bok Festival through storytelling, discussions, and creative activities, nurturing appreciation for cultural diversity, gratitude, and community values.

Learning Outcome

Before Reading:

- What festivals do you celebrate with your family?
- How do these festivals bring your community together?

During Reading :

- What preparations does Nhây's family make for the festival?
- How does Nhây contribute to the celebrations?

After Reading:

- Why is the Moon significant in the Ok Om Bok Festival?
- How do festivals help in strengthening community bonds?

Activities:

- Festival Collage: Create a collage depicting lanterns, offerings, and traditional attire seen during the Ok Om Bok Festival.
- Gratitude Tree: Students write things they are thankful for on leaves and attach them to a classroom “Gratitude Tree.”
- Cultural Exchange: Students present a festival they celebrate, drawing parallels with the Ok Om Bok Festival.
- Science Extension: How Do Lanterns Float?
- Objective: Understand why warm air rises and how it lifts sky lanterns.
- Materials: Hair dryer (warm/cool), lightweight balloon/ping-pong ball, markers.
- Steps: Decorate the balloon like a lantern, test in cool vs. warm airflow, observe how warm air lifts it higher.
- Discuss: Why does warm air rise? How does this relate to real lanterns at the festival?

Expected Outcomes

Children will become more conscious of their daily plastic use and recognize the power of their choices. They'll feel capable of being part of the solution to ocean pollution.

Applicable SDGs

- SDG 4 – Quality Education
- SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities
- SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

SDG Explanation

- SDG 4 – Quality Education: Introduces young readers to Khmer cultural practices, fostering appreciation of global traditions.
- SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities: Highlights community participation in cultural festivals, underscoring preservation of intangible cultural heritage.
- SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions: Shows how communal rituals promote social cohesion and shared values.

ABOUT ZAMASAMA

Zamasama is a nonprofit initiative that curates children's stories from diverse cultures and lived experiences around the world. It gives children a window into other communities—and a mirror that affirms their own, helping children recognize the shared humanity that connects us across differences.

Through narratives that gently challenge biases and broaden worldviews, Zamasama helps children see difference not as a barrier but as a bridge. Through the power of stories, we sow the seeds of pluralism that can grow into a more harmonious world for all.