

S. Korea lantern festival on UNESCO heritage list

19th December, 2020



The United Nations has given a special award to a festival in South Korea. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) decided to add South Korea's Lotus Lantern Festival to its list of intangible

cultural heritage of humanity. The festival was one of 25 things the UN decided to add to its heritage list this year. Some things that UNESCO adds to its heritage list are tangible - this means we can touch them. Examples are the Pyramids in Egypt or Machu Picchu in Peru. If something is intangible, we generally cannot touch it. Events like South Korea's Lotus Lantern Festival or a dance or a method for weaving baskets are examples of intangible heritage.

South Korea's Lotus Lantern Festival is a springtime event that is held to celebrate Buddha's birthday on April the 8th. It symbolizes lighting up the world to make things fair for everyone. The festival dates back two millennia. Historians say there was an ancient kingdom in 57BC where royals visited a temple to see lotus lanterns. Today, it is one of South Korea's biggest festivals. People make lanterns with paper and bamboo. They decorate temples with these. Many villages, towns and cities hold parades in which the lanterns are carried through the streets. A spokesperson said: "We will try to make the festival a cultural heritage that can be loved by people around the world regardless of their religion."

Sources: koreabizwire.com / koreaherald.com / kbs.co.kr

Writing

Festivals are an essential part of culture. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

award / festival / list / humanity / heritage / Pyramids / touch / Peru / weaving / springtime / celebrate / lighting / fair / ancient / kingdom / paper bamboo / religion

True / False

- a) UNICEF gave a South Korean festival a special award. T / F
- b) There are now 25 aspects of Korean heritage on the United Nations list. T / F
- c) Machu Picchu is an example of tangible heritage. T / F
- d) A basket weaving method is an example of intangible heritage. T / F
- e) The lantern festival in South Korea celebrates Buddha's birthday. T / F
- f) The lantern festival dates back 200 years. T / F
- g) The lanterns are made from paper and wood. T / F
- h) A spokesperson wants the festival to be popular worldwide. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. award | a. normally |
| 2. humanity | b. despite |
| 3. generally | c. procedure |
| 4. method | d. just |
| 5. examples | e. humankind |
| 6. celebrate | f. attempt |
| 7. fair | g. instances |
| 8. decorate | h. prize |
| 9. try | i. adorn |
| 10. regardless | j. commemorate |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What festivals in your country do you like most?
- c) What do you know about Buddha?
- d) What do you know about lotus flowers?
- e) What were festivals like two millennia ago?
- f) What street parades do you like?
- g) Should there be a world festival?
- h) What questions would you like to ask UNESCO?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. The United Nations has | a. to its heritage list |
| 2. one of 25 things the UN | b. birthday |
| 3. things that UNESCO adds | c. of their religion |
| 4. If something is intangible, we generally | d. decided to add |
| 5. or a method for weaving | e. back two millennia |
| 6. a springtime | f. cannot touch it |
| 7. held to celebrate Buddha's | g. paper and bamboo |
| 8. The festival dates | h. given a special award |
| 9. People make lanterns with | i. baskets |
| 10. loved by people around the world regardless | j. event |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of your country's heritage?
- What do you know about UNESCO?
- What was the last festival you went to?
- How important is heritage to a country?
- What do you know about the Pyramids?
- What do you think happens at a lotus lantern festival?
- What is your country's most important dance?
- What are your country's most important crafts?

Spelling

- given a special aadwr
- cultural ahreiteig
- diceedd to add
- ilbngtae - this means we can touch them
- we lelrygnae cannot touch it
- a hmedot for weaving baskets
- held to cableteer Buddha's birthday
- It melsybozsi lighting up the world
- there was an entanci kingdom
- They cdaeert temples with these
- towns and cities hold dearsp
- regardless of their egoniril

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. a	4. c	5. g
6. j	7. d	8. i	9. f	10. b

Role Play

Role A – Music

You think music is the most important part of heritage. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): festivals, architecture or natural landscapes.

Role B – Festivals

You think festivals is the most important part of heritage. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): music, architecture or natural landscapes.

Role C – Architecture

You think architecture is the most important part of heritage. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): festivals, music or natural landscapes.

Role D – Natural Landscapes

You think natural landscapes is the most important part of heritage. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): festivals, architecture or music.

Speaking –

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important aspects of heritage at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| • Literature | • Music |
| • Food | • Festivals |
| • Religion | • Dance |
| • Landscapes | • Architecture |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.