

LOY KRATHONG

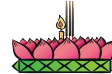
Tradition

cartoon edition



LOY KRATHONG

Tradition



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preface

Loy Krathong tradition is a Thai tradition that has been passed down since ancient times and it was registered as a national intangible cultural heritage of 2011 in the field of social practices, rituals and festive events based on Buddhist and Hindu beliefs as well as rituals and beliefs about “water” which is an important factor in the life and culture of Thai people. Although the purpose or belief in the Loy Krathong tradition may differ, on every full moon day of the 15th waxing moon of the 12th lunar month which is during the flood every year, people will come out to express their “gratitude”, knowing their gratitude for the water. They will put flowers, incenses and candles, or other things into artifacts in various forms that are not drowned and then float along the river to pay homage. This is the practice that reflects one of the best and most valuable culture elements of Thailand.

At present, the Loy Krathong tradition is not only an important cultural heritage element of the country, but it also plays an important role in promoting the dissemination of Thai identity to the world through tourism and bringing more income to the country. It is a mechanism that has played an important role in the economic recovery of the country’s cultural tourism sector during the ongoing global pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019. Therefore, Department of Cultural Promotion has published this Loy Krathong Book Cartoon Edition with the purpose to disseminate meaning, values, essence, practice guidelines and body of knowledge of the Loy Krathong tradition and to introduce its accurate and exquisite customs in Thai and English. At last, Department of Cultural Promotion sincerely hopes that this Loy Krathong Book will not only help to enhance knowledge and understanding about the Loy Krathong tradition but will also lead to an accurate practice or a suitable practice model.

Department of Cultural Promotion



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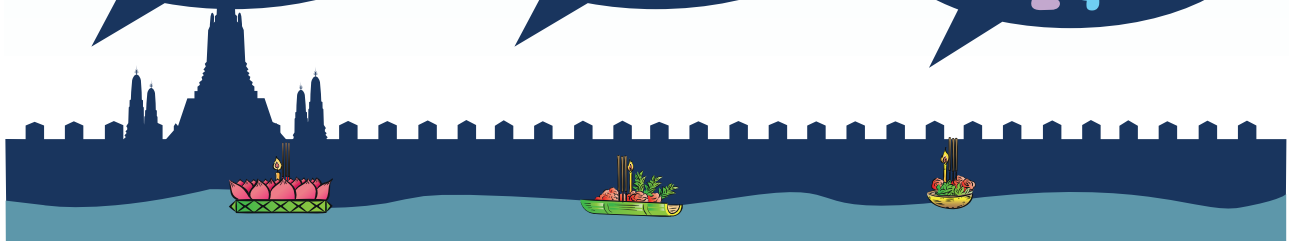
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Loy Krathong Tradition

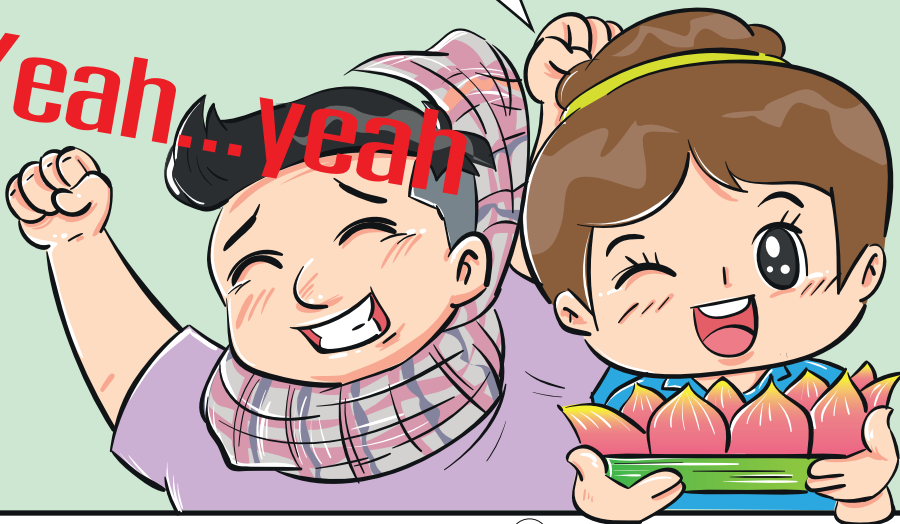


It's almost
Loy Krathong day.
I really like
Loy Krathong day.



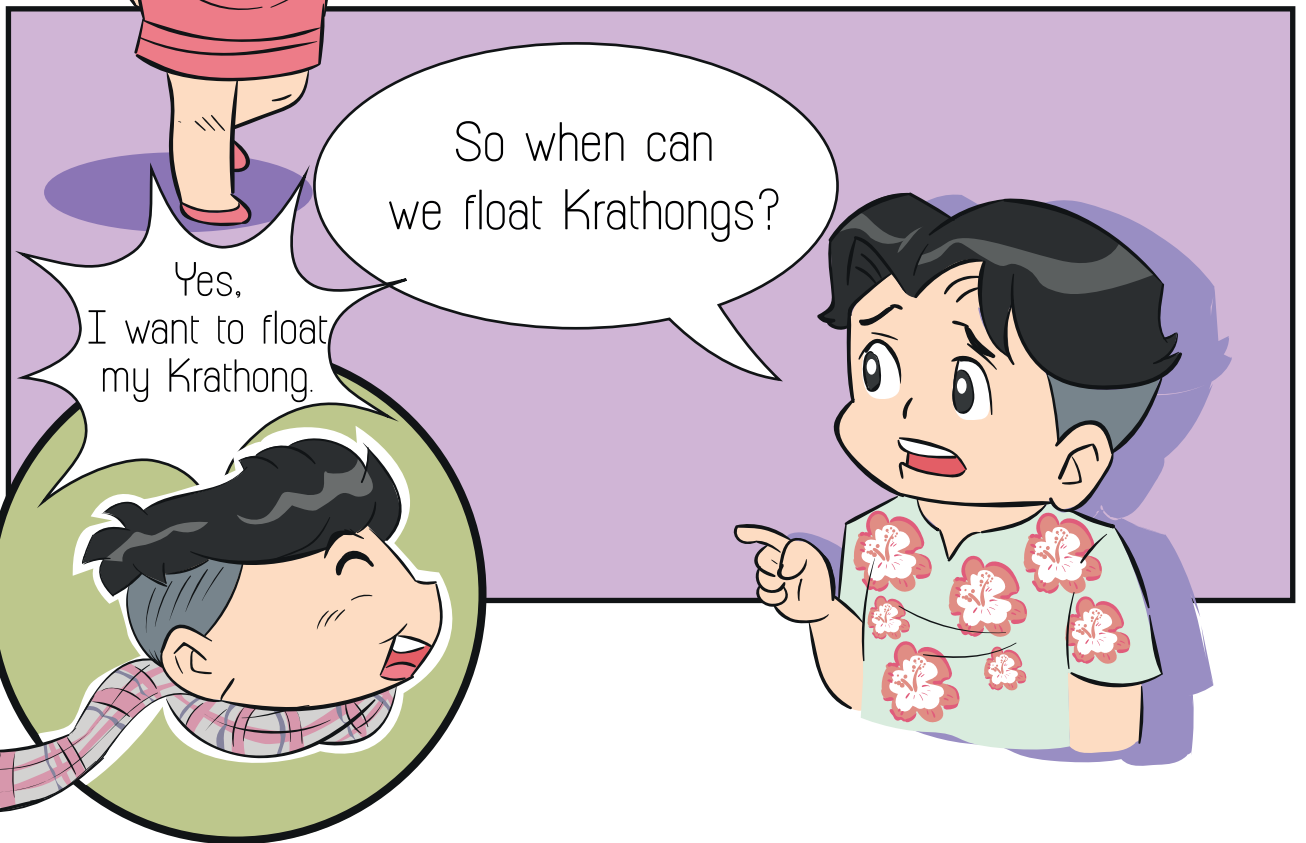
Loy Krathong tradition is a cultural heritage element of Thailand in terms of social practices, rituals and festive events. It is a festival of joy and fun that hides the essence as well.

Yeah...yeah





Oh... There are also other nations with the preservation of Loy Krathong traditions, such as China, India, the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. They differ only in the details of the rituals and beliefs in each locality. Even in Thailand, localized Loy Krathong tradition comes from a variety of beliefs as well.



So when can we float Krathongs?

Yes,
I want to float
my Krathong.

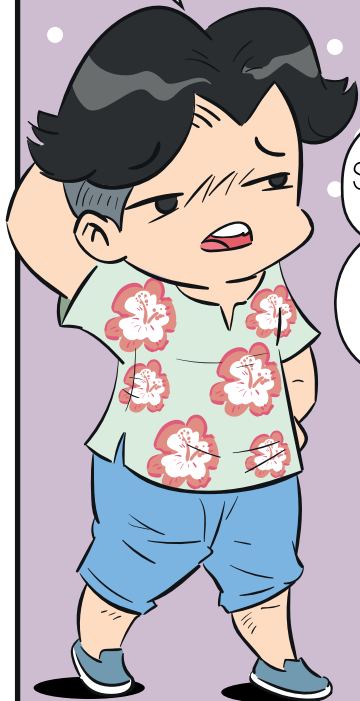
The traditional Loy Krathong practice is done on the night of the full moon of the 12th lunar month or on the 15th day of the 12th lunar month, which is the full moon day and when the banks are flooded. On the day, flowers, incense sticks, candles or other objects are put into various non-drowned artifacts such as Krathongs, boats, rafts, lotus flowers, etc., and floated along the river with different objectives and beliefs.

The full moon is so beautiful!!
A lot of people come to float their Krathongs.

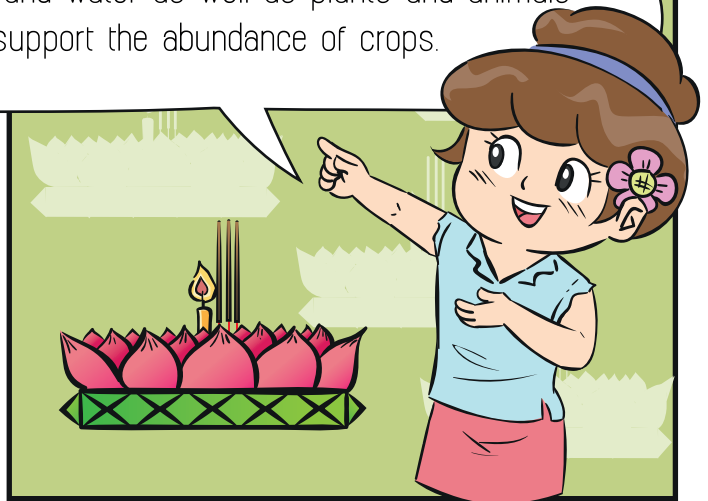


The History of Loy Krathong Tradition

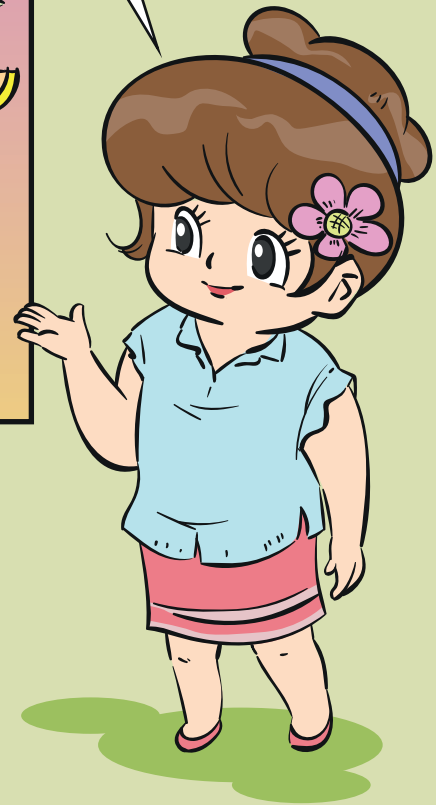
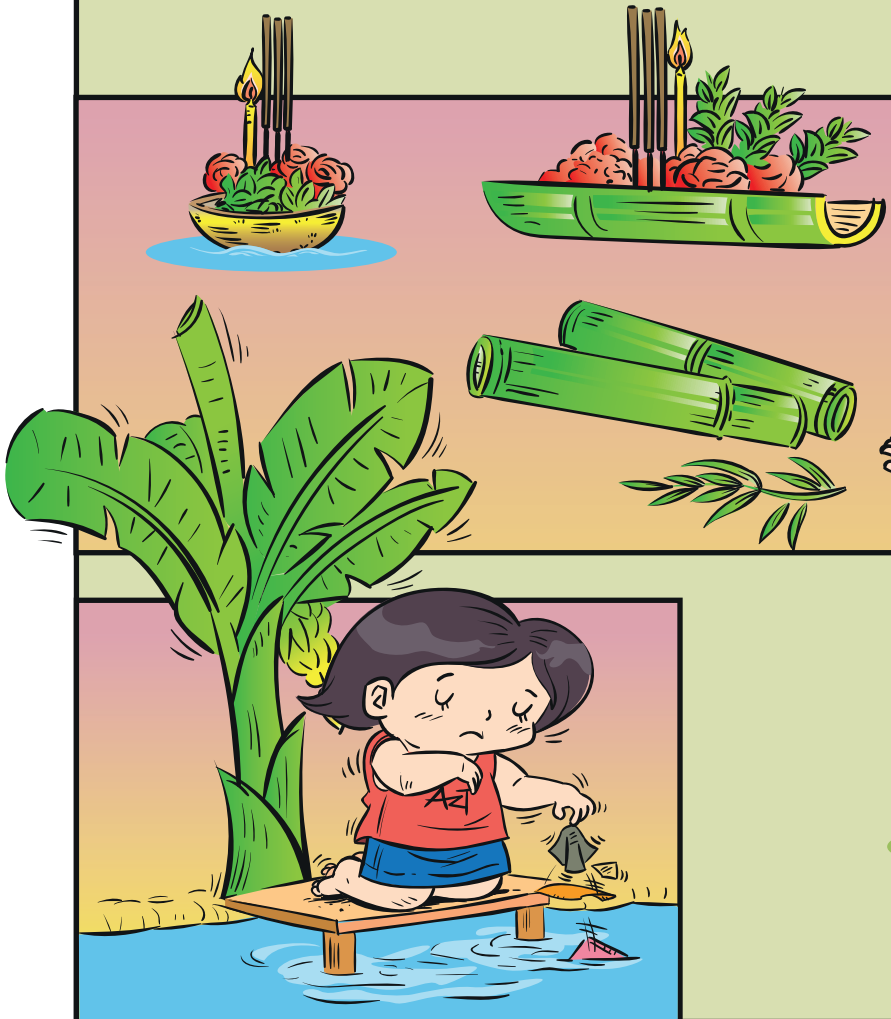
I want to know.

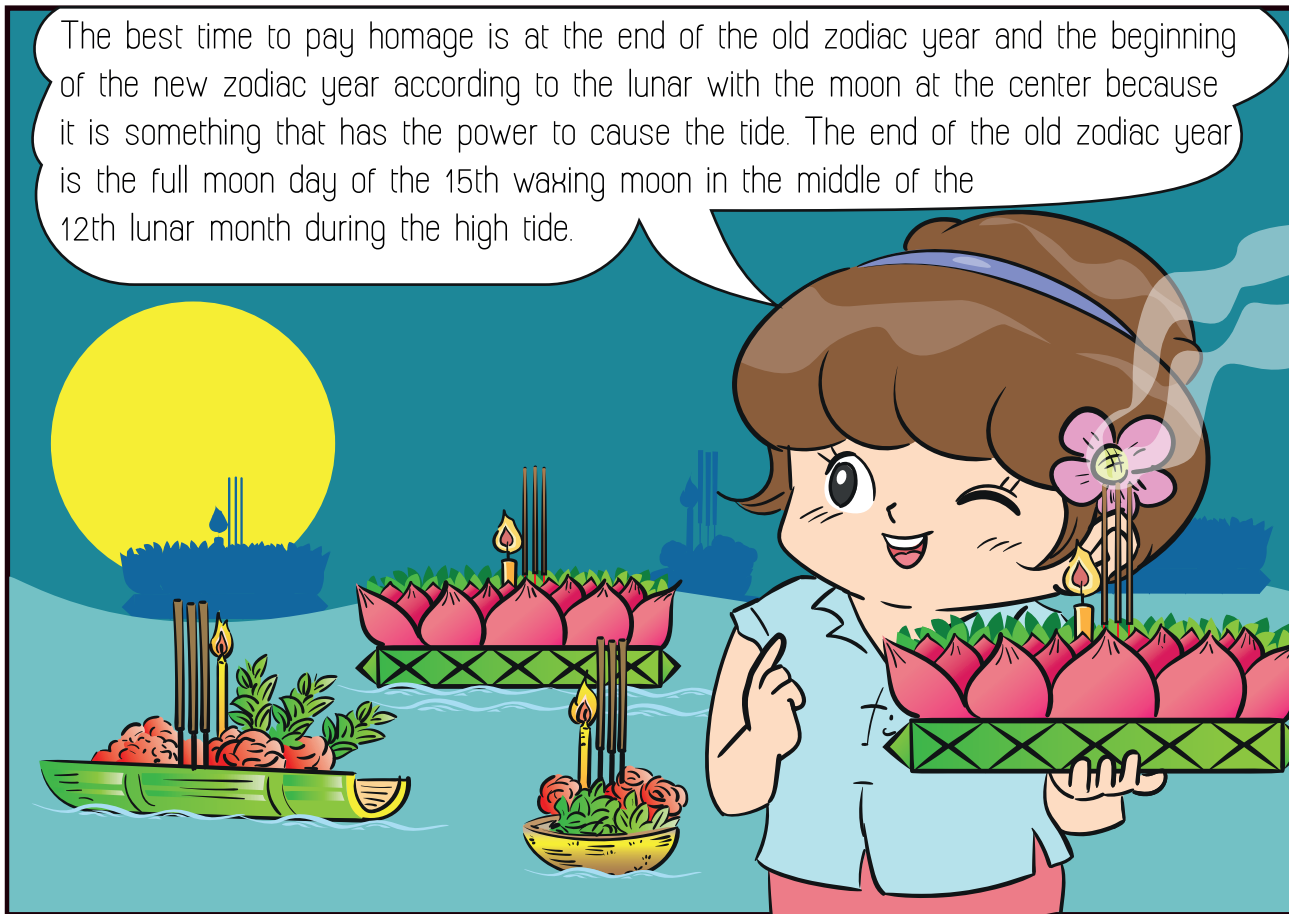


Loy Krathong tradition is a common ritual of people in communities in both Suvarnabhumi or Southeast Asia, which has been practiced since the prehistoric era to pay homage to nature including nourishing soil and water as well as plants and animals that support the abundance of crops.

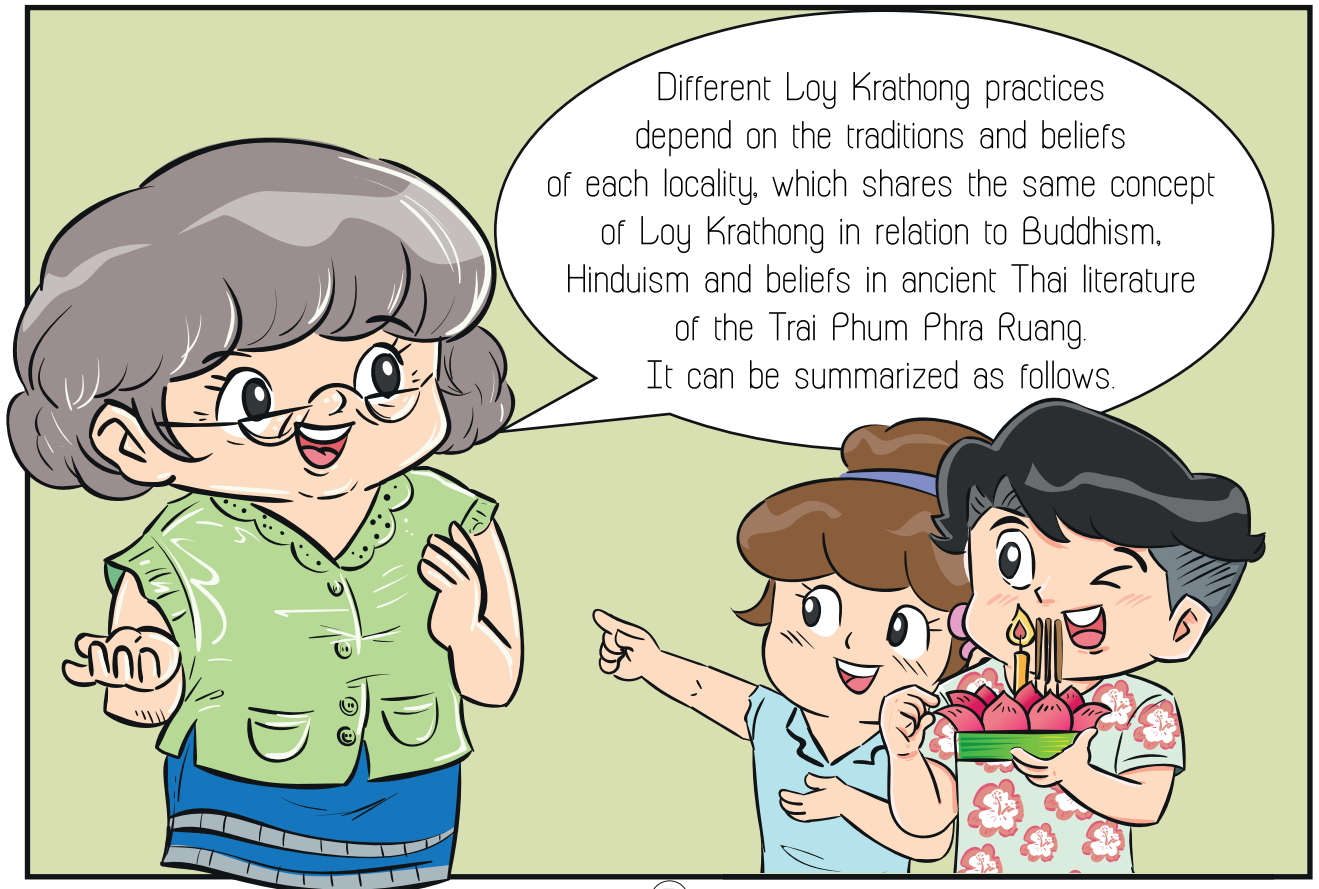


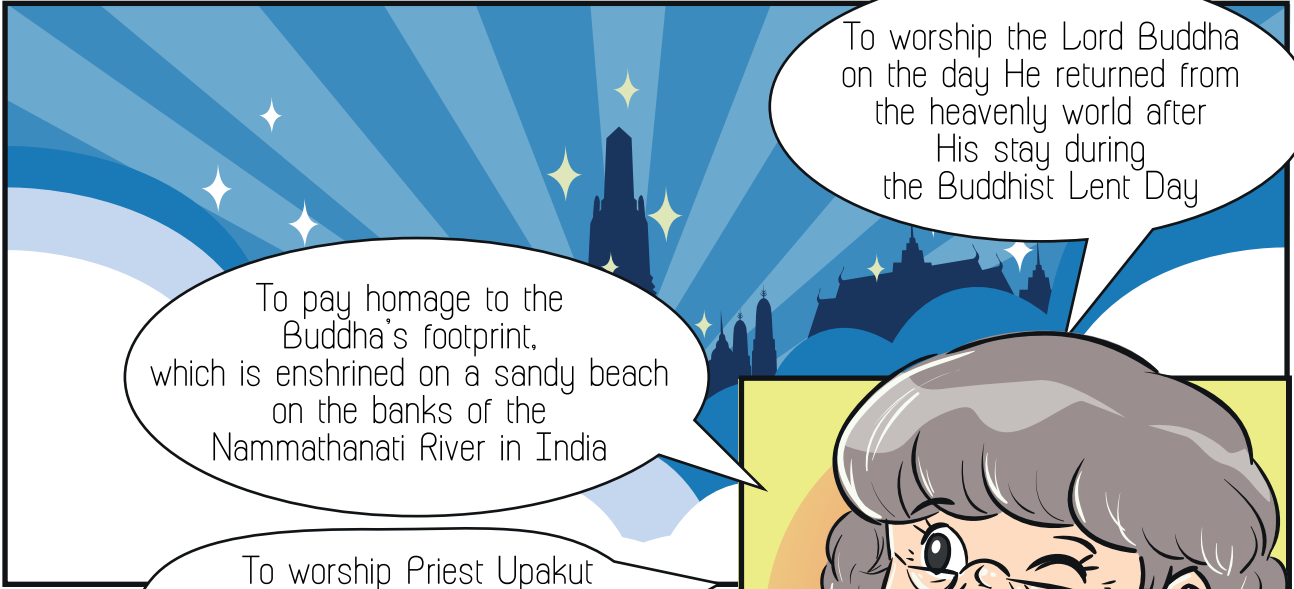
People in Suvarnabhumi know that they can survive because water and soil matter and water is the most important because it is the source of life. Therefore, when a person survives for a year, he or she performs a ceremony to pay homage for inadvertently trespassing, such as trampling, dumping, or doing anything inappropriate once. At the same time, he or she performs a ceremony of gratitude at the same time by using floating materials, such as banana trees, bamboo tubes, coconut shells, etc., to put offerings to float on the water.





Objectives of the Loy Krathong Tradition





To worship the Lord Buddha on the day He returned from the heavenly world after His stay during the Buddhist Lent Day

To pay homage to the Buddha's footprint, which is enshrined on a sandy beach on the banks of the Nammathanati River in India

To worship Priest Upakut Thera priest who practiced spells in the deep sea or the navel of the sea and the legend also tells that he was a Thera priest who was very powerful and able to defeat the great devil

To worship the god Phaka Brahma in the heavenly Brahma world



Priest Upakut Thera

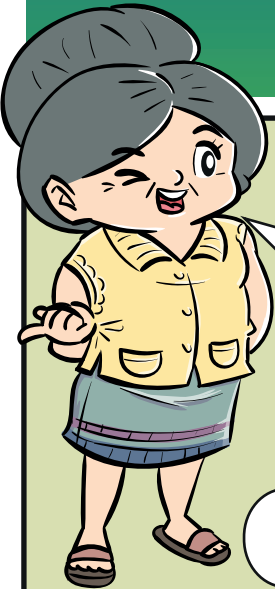


To express gratitude for the water source for human use, to pay homage to the goddess Ganga for the garbage dumped into the water by humans, to remember the kindness of the deceased ancestors, to evict or float the suffering and various ailments similar to the ritual of floating sins of a Brahmanism, and to pray for the wish




Legends and Tales about the Loy Krathong Tradition

The
first legend



Loy Krathong tradition originated from Buddhism. Lady Suchada Upasika had a maid bring the Mathupayas rice (rice stirred and cooked with honey or sugarcane juice) put on a golden tray to offer to Lord Buddha sitting under a Bodhi tree before his enlightenment. When He finished all of it, He then floated the tray onto the Neranjara River and made a wish that if one day He successfully became a Buddha, the tray would be expected to float upstream to the navel of the sea. After Lady Suchada Upasika was informed of that, times until that day every year she would always bring incenses and flowers on a tray to float in the water to pay homage to the Buddha's footprint regularly, and later it has been Loy Krathong tradition until today.

The
second legend



Based on the legend, the Brahmin scholars said that lantern floating ceremony (Loy Prateep or Tam Prateep ceremony) was originally a Brahmin religious ceremony. It was performed together with Loy Krathong ceremony to worship the three gods, namely Shiva, Vishnu, and Brahma. Before floating, there must be a lantern floating (Tam Prateep), which, according to ancient scriptures, was called "Dipavali" by astrologically defining that when the sun reached Scorpio and the moon reached Taurus, then it was time for the lantern floating (Tam Prateep), and when the lantern was worshiped for the complete due date, the lantern was to be floated on the water. Later, Buddhists saw it as a good thing and converted it to the Buddha's footprint worship and the Lord Buddha reception, which has taken the 12th month or the Yi month as a criterion so far.

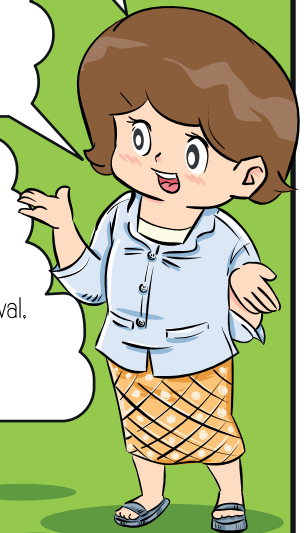
The
third legend



This is a Burmese legend and is said that, once in the reign of King Asoka the Great, His Highness wanted to build a total of 84000 pagodas, but was blocked by a great devil. He thus went to ask one of the arahants, Priest Upakut, to help. Priest Upakut therefore asked the Naga of the Underworld for help. The Naga accepted the request and defeated the devil successfully. King Asoka the Great then successfully built the pagodas as he wished. Since then, on the full moon day of the 12th month, people have performed Loy Krathong ceremony to worship the contribution of the Naga.

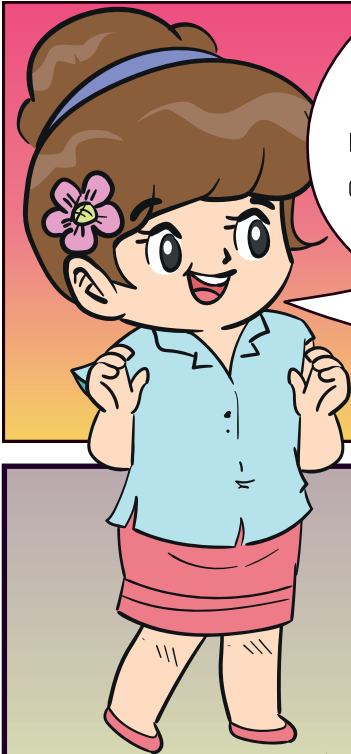
The
forth legend

This legend was based on the belief in ancient Lanna times that there was a cholera epidemic in the Haripunchai Kingdom, causing a large number of people to die. Those who had not died migrated to Setom and Hongsawadee for six years, and some had their families there. When the cholera had subsided, some came back to the Kingdom. On the anniversary of their immigration, they arranged an offering of incense and candles together with commodities in Sapao (pronounced Sa-Pao, meaning a junk or a Krathong) to be floated along the river in remembrance of their relatives in Hongsawadee. This practice existed only in some areas in Lanna. Mostly, in this Yi Peng or lantern festival, Lanna people would prefer a ceremony of Tang Dhamma Luang or preaching of a long scripture like the Mahachat Sermon and lighting of lanterns more widely.



The Legend of Nang Noppamas

From the royal writing on Thao Si Chulalak or Nang Noppamas textbook by King Nang Klao Chao Yu Hua, it was assumed that the scene of the story took place in the era of Phra Ruang, the king of the Capital of Sukhothai. The textbook mentioned that Nang Noppamas was the chief concubine of Phra Ruang who invented a banana leaf Krathong in the shape of a Kamut lotus flower, seeing that it was a special lotus that bloomed at night only once a year.



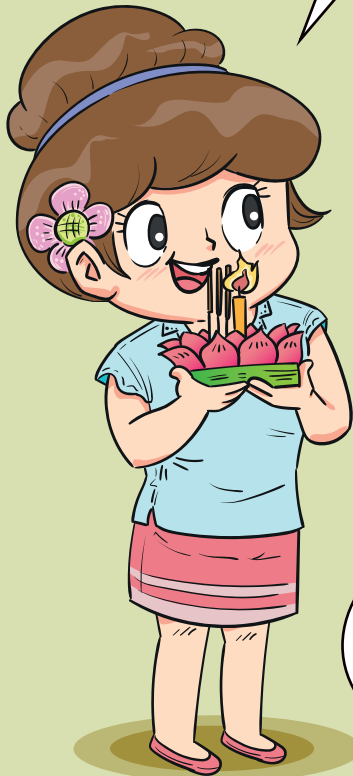


So what's next after
Nang Noppamas invented
a Krathong?

It was then appropriate to make a lantern Krathong for floating to pay homage to the Buddha's footprint. When Phra Ruang saw the Krathong, His Highness asked what it meant. Nang Noppamas then explained until His Highness was satisfied.



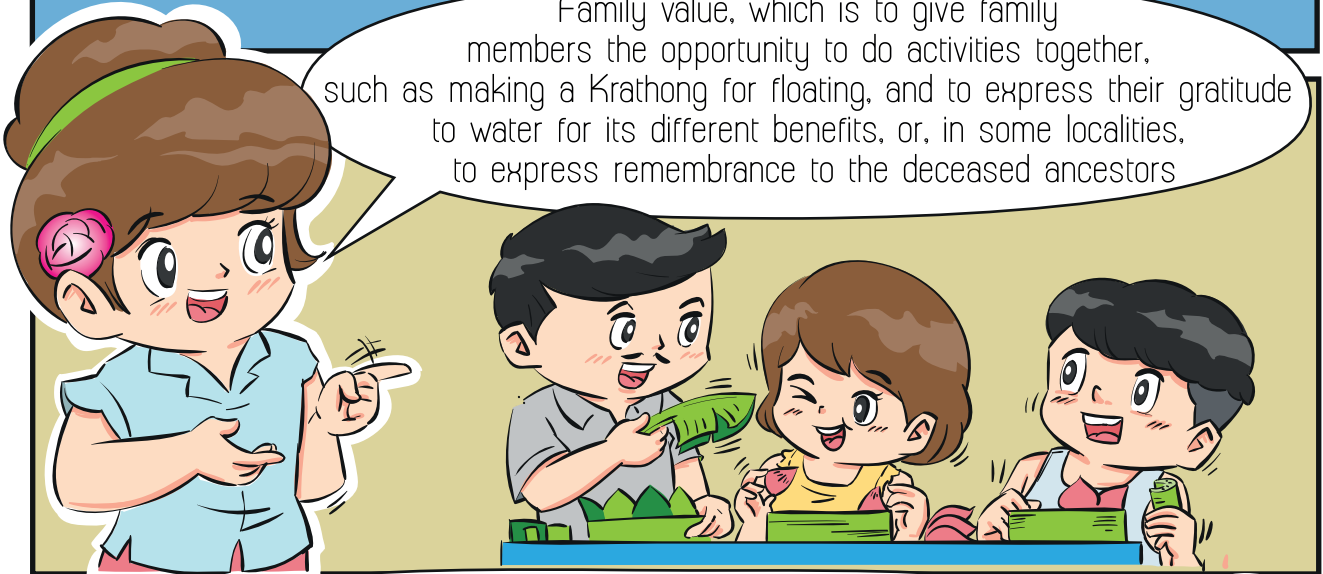
Therefore, His Highness said, "In successive order from now on, Siamese kings, when it is the occasion of the full moon day of the 12th month, are supposed to make a lotus-shaped lantern in dedication to paying homage to the Buddha's footprint enshrined in the Nammathanati River perpetually. As a result, there occurred a Krathong made of banana leaves instead of other materials, and it has gained popularity for floating and making one in the shape of a lotus until the present time.



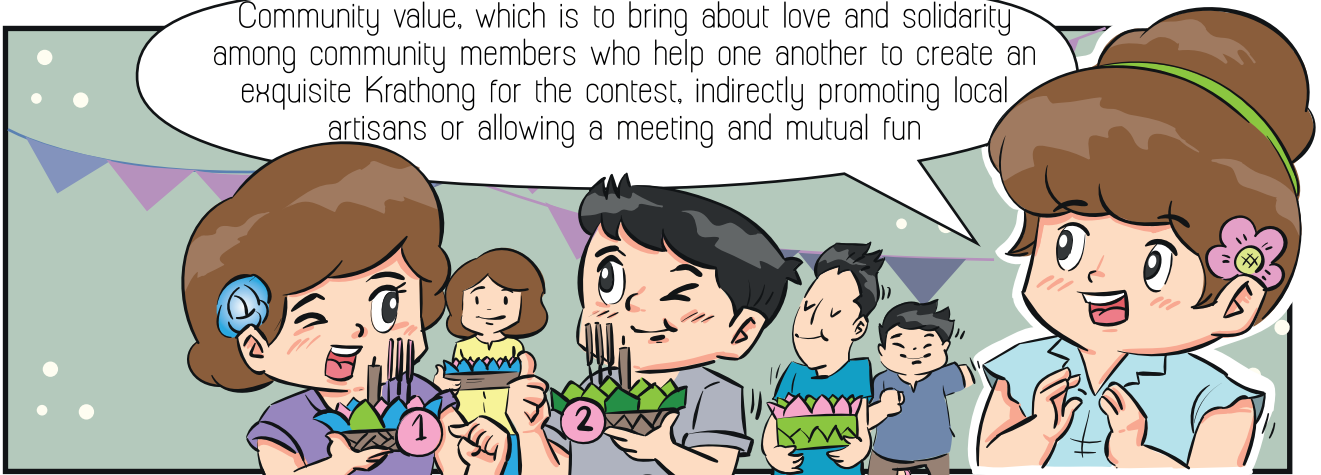
I have gained knowledge and made a Krathong from natural materials.

The Value of the Loy Krathong Tradition

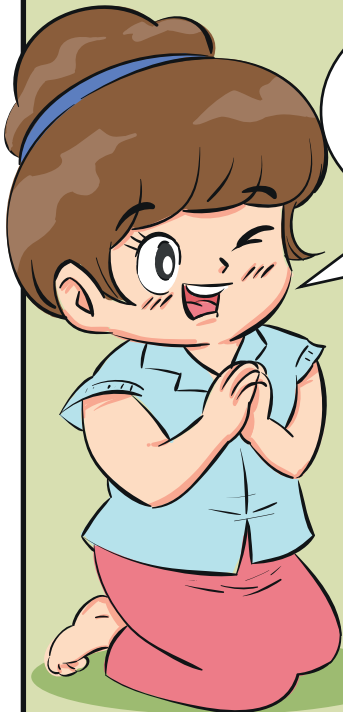
Family value, which is to give family members the opportunity to do activities together, such as making a Krathong for floating, and to express their gratitude to water for its different benefits, or, in some localities, to express remembrance to the deceased ancestors

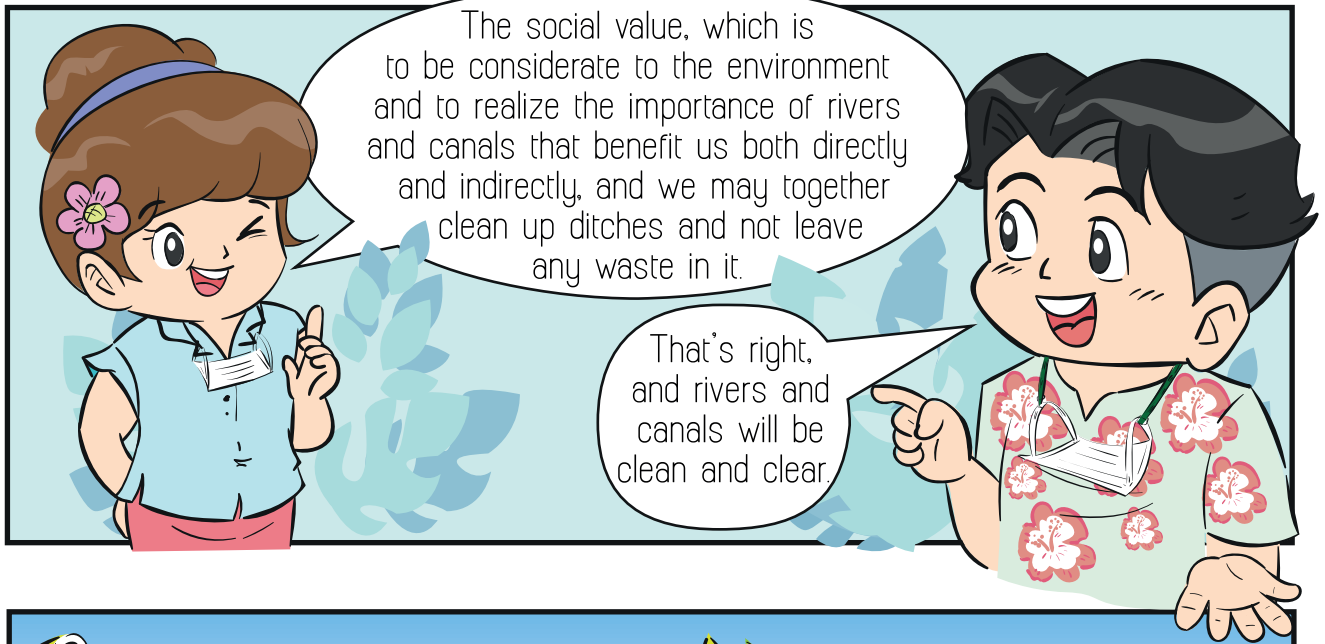


Community value, which is to bring about love and solidarity among community members who help one another to create an exquisite Krathong for the contest, indirectly promoting local artisans or allowing a meeting and mutual fun



Religion value, which is to help nurture the religion, such as merit-making and alms-giving in northern Thailand, religious precepts observation in temples, or Loy Krathong practice to pay homage to the Buddha's footprint, which are ways in remembrance of the teachings of the Buddha

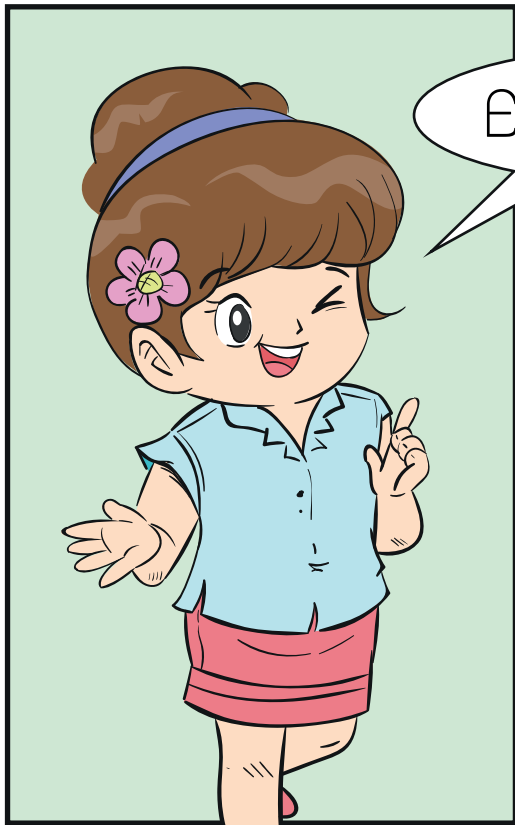




The Essence of the Loy Krathong Tradition

Gratitude is an important value that all Thai people hold. Ancient Thai people believe that the Loy Krathong practice is to pay homage to water or a river that nourishes life and provides various benefits.





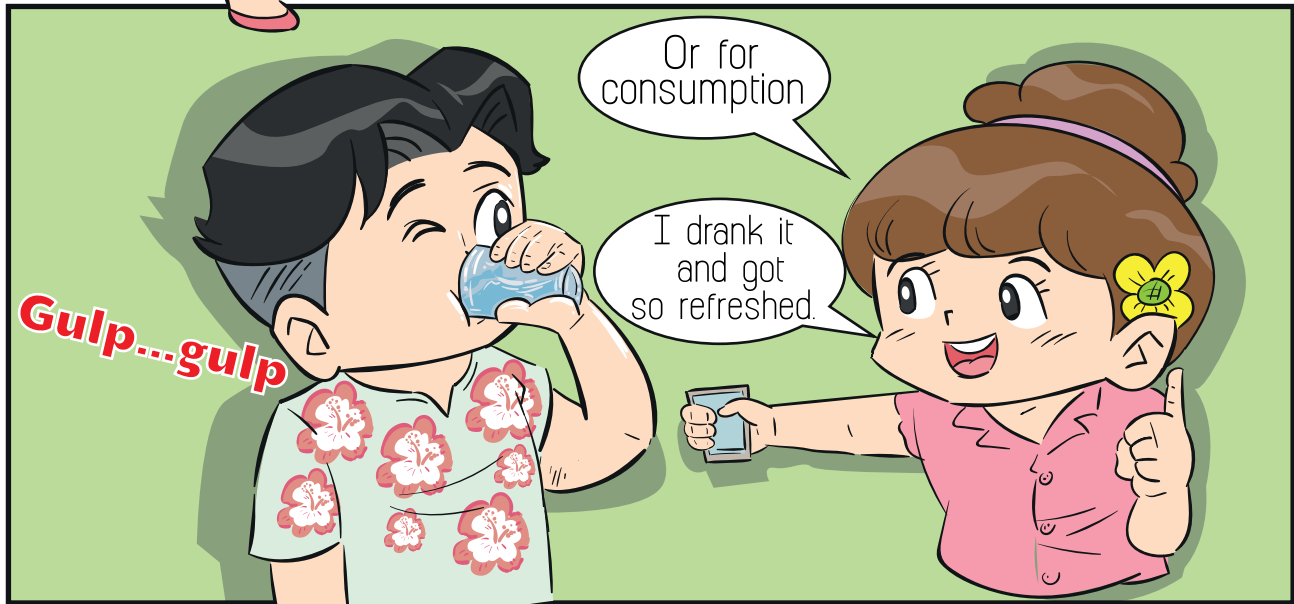
Either for use



Yeah...yeah

Splash


Splash



Or for consumption

I drank it and got so refreshed.

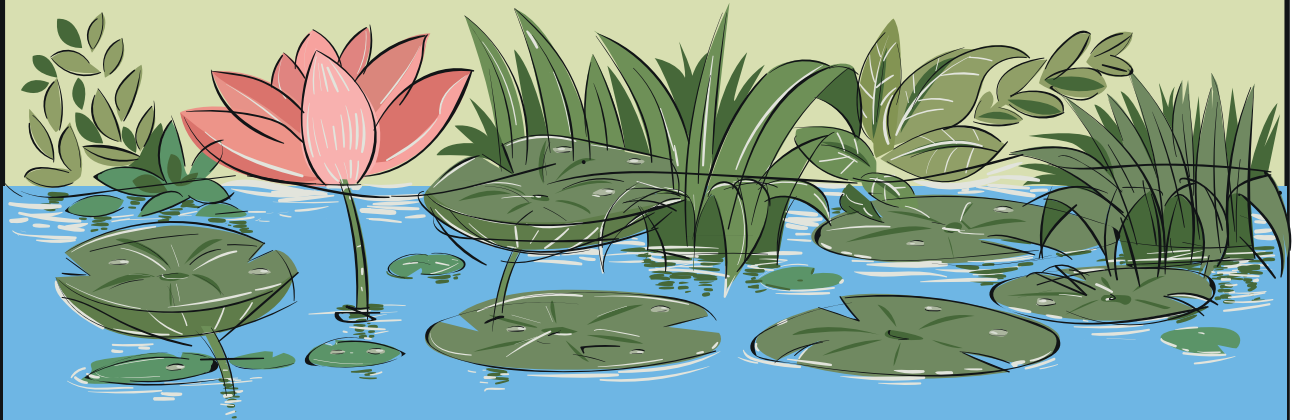
Gulp...gulp



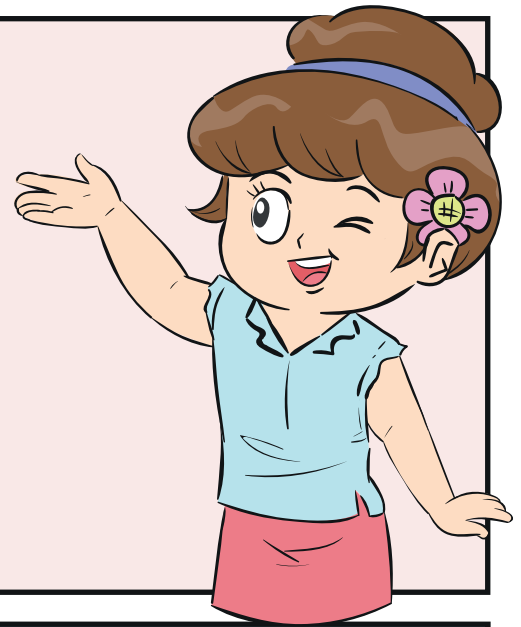
Water also nourishes crops.
With gratitude for water, a day
of an auspicious occasion
has thus been set up to express
gratitude once a year.



Wow!!
Clear water,
beautiful plants

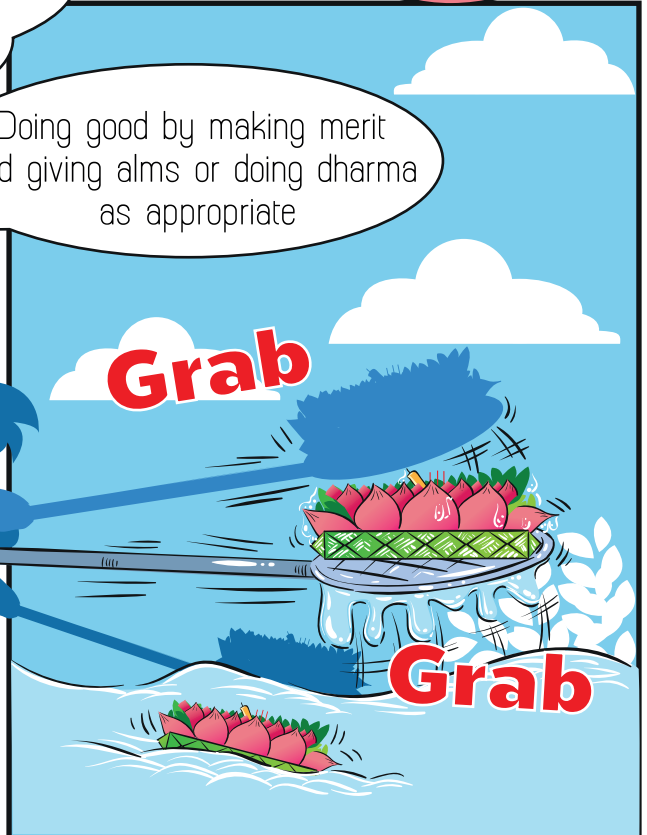


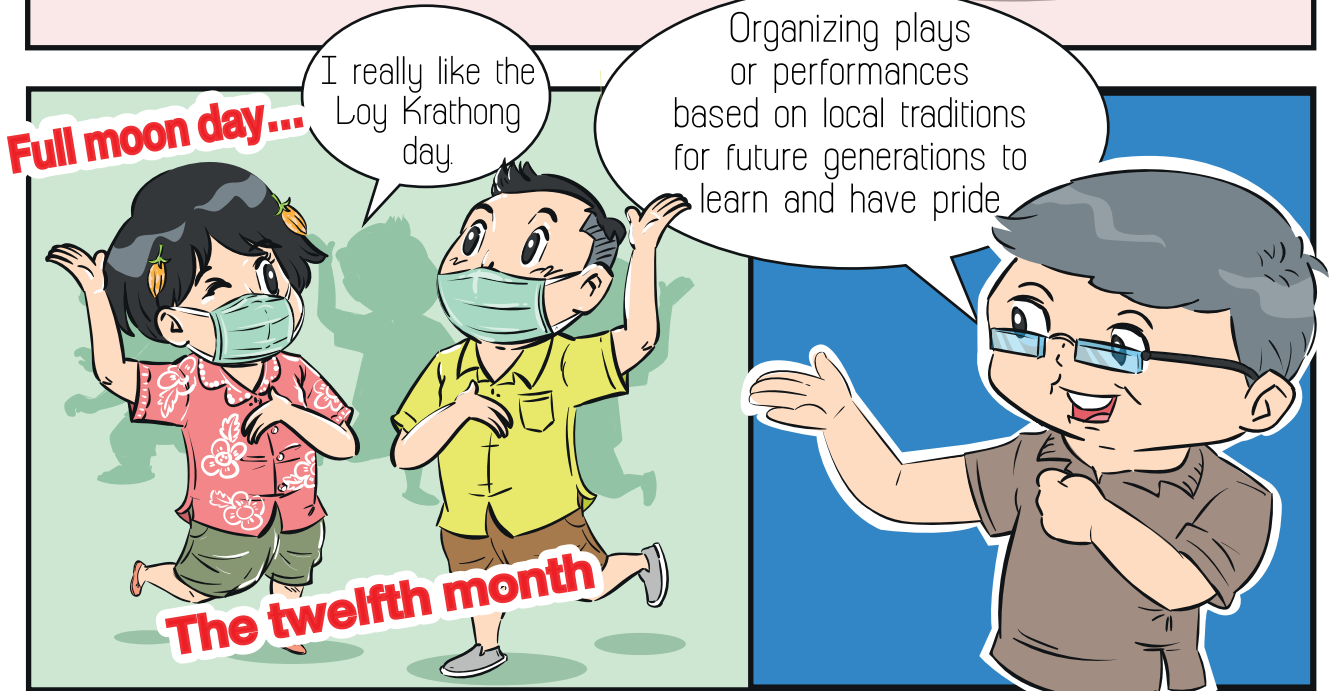
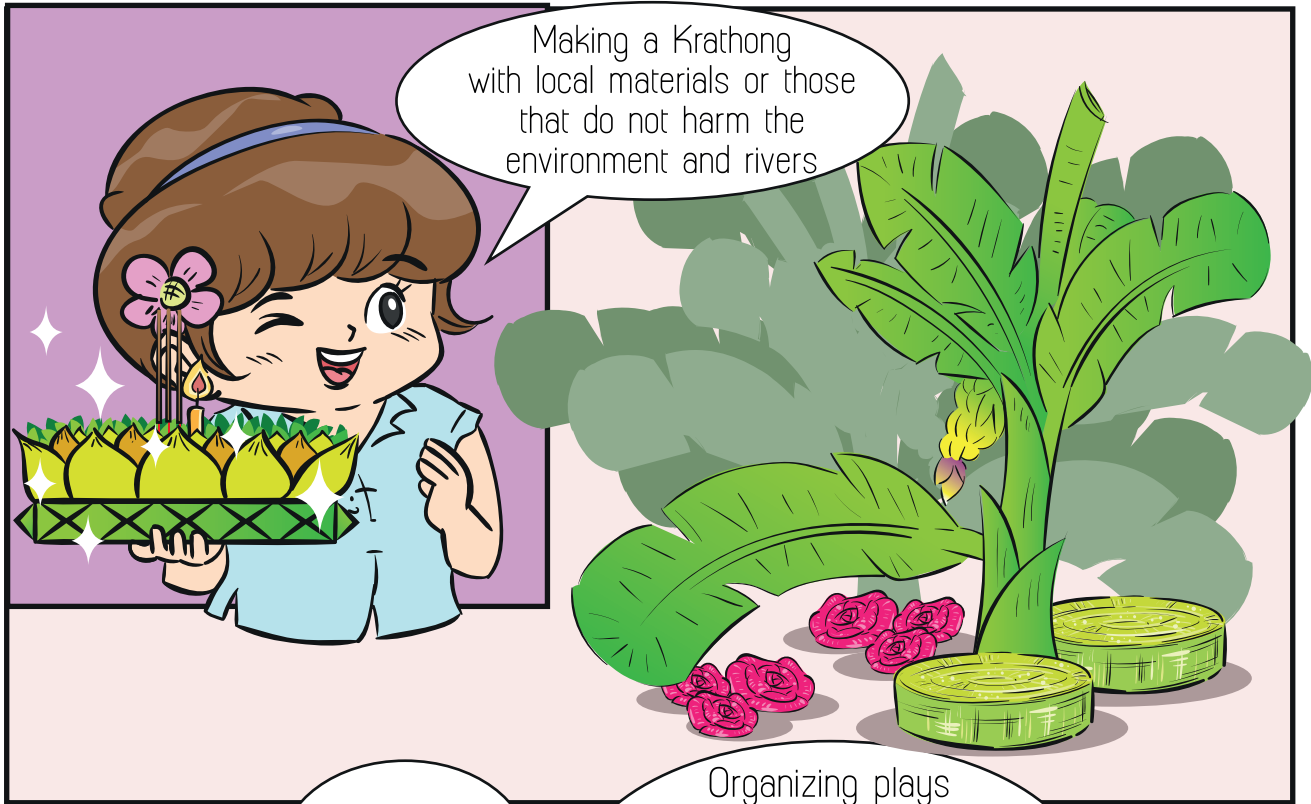
Expected Activities

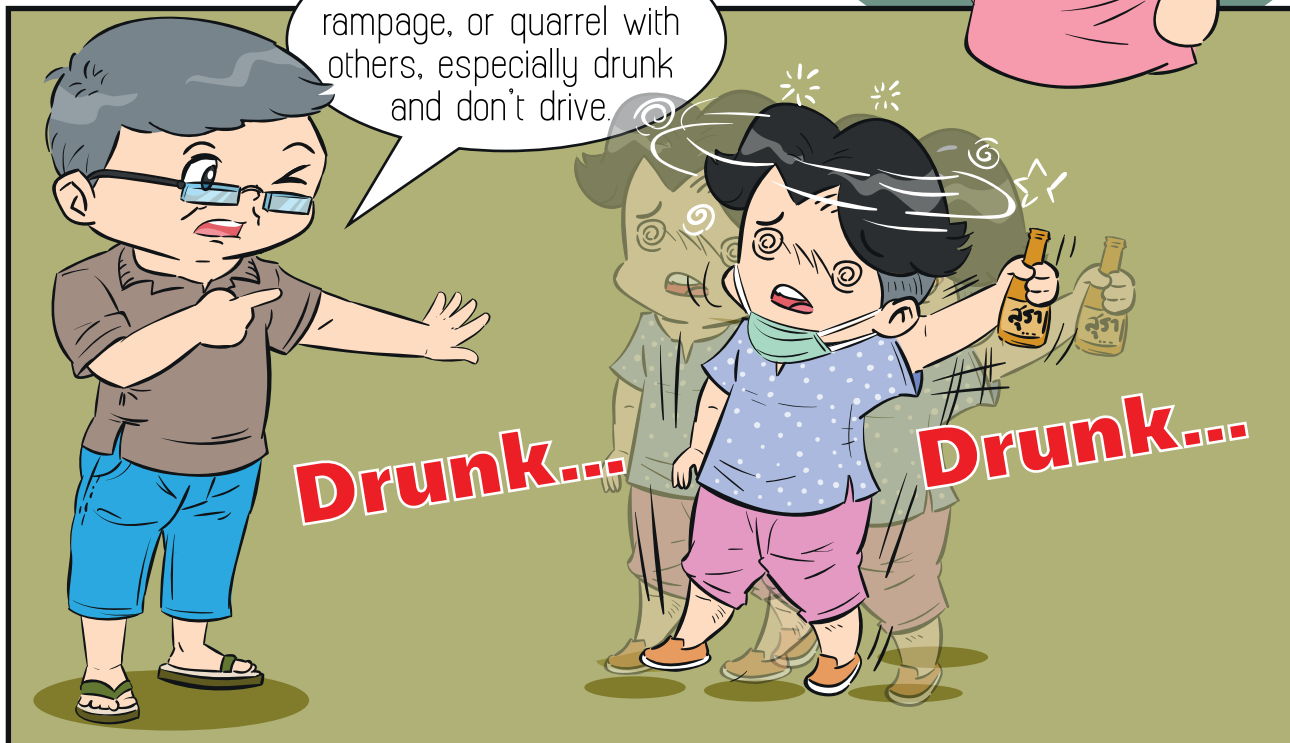


Cleaning rivers and canals together both before and after the Loy Krathong event to conserve them to be clean and beneficial to the public.

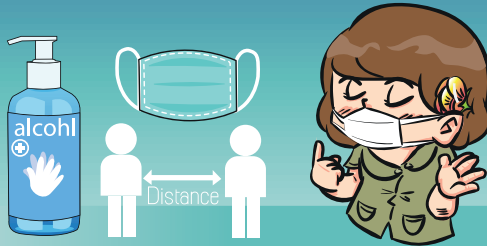
Doing good by making merit and giving alms or doing dharma as appropriate







Practices for the Loy Krathong Tradition during the Spread of Covid-19



Organizing activities according to the traditions of each locality; adjusting the event area to be appropriate, not to be crowded and to be spacious; following the measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19; arranging round by round to enter the Loy Krathong event area, waterfront or pool; keeping an appropriate distance from one another for safety; and avoiding being too close



Refraining from playing with fireworks, firecrackers or other hazardous materials in public or community areas

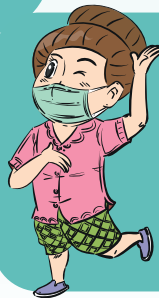
Refraining from selling liquor and intoxicants and drinking them in the event area



No allowing of sick or unwell family members to participate in activities but asking them to rest at home instead



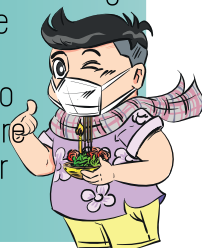
Organizing various local cultural performances with the safety measures against Covid-19



Promoting the dressing in Thai cloth for the Loy Krathong tradition to jointly promote the use of Thai cloth to represent the uniqueness of the dresses of each locality and to help generate income for communities



Having a family member float a Krathong for the shared Krathong in a family to avoid congestion; and using a Krathong from the materials that are biodegradable and do not damage the nature of the event area or nearby areas



Loy Krathong Tradition



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