

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: 5 () No: ()

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Cheung Chau Bun Festival

1 History

According to legend, the outlying island of Cheung Chau was hit by a deadly plague. Villagers went all the way to borrow a statue of Pak Tai from Tai Ping Shan Street in Sheung Wan in order to drive the disease away. Many people believed that the God answered their cry for help as the **epidemic** soon **subsided**. Then a fortune teller revealed that Pak Tai wished to remain in Cheung Chau. The festival has since become an important occasion in Hong Kong.

Ping On Bun Festival

The Bun Festival began as a fun ritual for fishermen to pray for safety from pirates. The Ping On Buns are distributed to the villagers in the hope that peace and **stability** will grace the island. Nowadays, in addition to lining up for the buns outside Pak Tai Temple, you can also buy them from the bakeries on the island.



The Bun Snatching Contest

Participants race to collect the buns on the 'bun mountain' as the highest ones on the 'bun mountain' bring the best **fortune**. The more you gather, the more blessed you'll be. However, one of the 'bun mountains' collapsed in 1978 and injured 24 people. The British government banned the activity as it was not safe. The competition was **revived** in 2005 under new safety measures. Metal 'bun mountains' replaced bamboo scaffolding ones and plastic buns were used to prevent food wastage. Males and females are both welcome to join in the race.

The Floating Procession

The floating **procession** is the highlight of the Bun Festival. The gods and goddesses of every temple on the island join in the parade. Its purpose is to drive away diseases and bring peace and safety. Children dress up as ancient heroes and **mythical** figures, but now they also **portray** popular **icons** and politicians to express social **sentiments**.

A. Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Which god is believed to have restored peace to Cheung Chau after a deadly plague?

Pak Tai is believed to have restored peace to Cheung Chau after a deadly plague.

2. Why are the highest buns most desirable on the 'bun mountain'?

The highest buns on the 'bun mountain' bring the best fortune.

3. Name **TWO** measures that were used to revive the Bun Snatching Contest to make it safer.

Metal 'bun mountains' replaced bamboo scaffolding ones and plastic buns were used to prevent food wastage.

4. What is the purpose of holding the floating procession?

The purpose of holding the floating procession is to drive away diseases and bring peace and safety.

5. If you were given a chance to dress up as a popular icon in the floating procession in Cheung Chau, whom would you like to dress up as? Why? (*Accept any reasonable answers*)

I would like to dress up as _____ because _____

B. Tick the most suitable answer.

1. In which district is Tai Ping Shan Street located?

Wan Chai

Sheung Wan

Cheung Chau

2. Is there any gender restriction in the Bun Snatching Contest?

Yes

No

3. For how many years was the 'Bun Snatching Contest' cancelled?

27 years

25 years

29 years

C. Match the words in the box found in the passage with their meaning.

Epidemic (n.) (line 5)	Subsided (v.) (line 5)	Stability (n.) (line 11)	Fortune (n.) (line 16)	Revived (v.) (line 18)
Procession (n.) (line 23)	Mythical (adj.) (line 25)	Portray (v.) (line 26)	Icons (n.) (line 26)	Sentiments (n.) (line 27)

1.	<u>Mythical</u>	➤	existing only in stories
2.	<u>Subsided</u>	➤	became less intense, violent, or severe
3.	<u>Procession</u>	➤	a number of people moving forward in an organised manner, especially as part of a ceremony
4.	<u>Icons</u>	➤	very famous people or things considered as representing a set of beliefs or a way of life
5.	<u>Epidemic</u>	➤	a widespread occurrence of an infectious disease in a community at a particular time
6.	<u>Fortune</u>	➤	luck, especially good luck
7.	<u>Sentiments</u>	➤	thoughts, opinions, or ideas based on a feeling about a situation, or a way of thinking about something
8.	<u>Stability</u>	➤	the state of being stable
9.	<u>Portray</u>	➤	to represent or describe someone or something in a book, movie, etc.
10.	<u>Revived</u>	➤	restored interest in or the popularity of

D. Complete the sentences using words from Part C. You may need to change the form of the word.

- The quick spread across the world of Covid-19 has caused the World Health Organization to declare that it is a global epidemic.
- To prevent getting sick, public sentiment is that people should wear face masks and wash their hands regularly to prevent infection.
- Hong Kong experienced many years of stability before Covid-19 struck the city. As a result of the disease, many restaurants, hotels and stores must close and the economy has gotten worse.

