

Customs related to rivers

Rivers provides freshwater and other major necessities to human. However, it causes damaging destruction when flooding. Therefore, many people respect and worship river as god. Many customs related to rivers developed and some are still prevailing. In general, these customs are develop for achieving the following aims:

1. Pray for good fortune and seek for directions.
2. Expiate their sins
3. Thanks giving to god
4. Relieve the anger of god
5. Go to heaven / nirvana

For example, the Hindus in India believe that water of the River Ganges is a gift from Brahma (the god of creation), so the river water is sacred. Bathing in the river can purify their souls. Hindus also use the sacred water for drinking and washing etc.





The customs related to rivers became part of the culture of a particular place. Base on the facts of the customs, let see if you could think about the aim and rationale.



5.2.1

People of the Shang dynasty of Ancient China offered sacrifices to the god of river before building bridges across a river. The sacrifices included white horses, luxury jewelleryes and living men as well.

Aim : _____

Rationale : _____

5.2.2

The Bagmati River in Nepal is originated from the Mountain Himalayas. Nepalese hold the cremation along Bagmati River and spread the ashes of dead people on the River.

Aim : _____

Rationale : _____





5.2.3

Tibetan celebrate the Muyu (Bathing) Festival in early autumn every year. All of them go bathing in rivers or lakes and have fun on that day.

Aim : _____

Rationale : _____

5.2.4

In Indonesia, they bring baby to riverside on the eighth date after birth, they wash its hair by the river water. . Many people will visit and bless the baby on that day.

Aim : _____

Rationale : _____

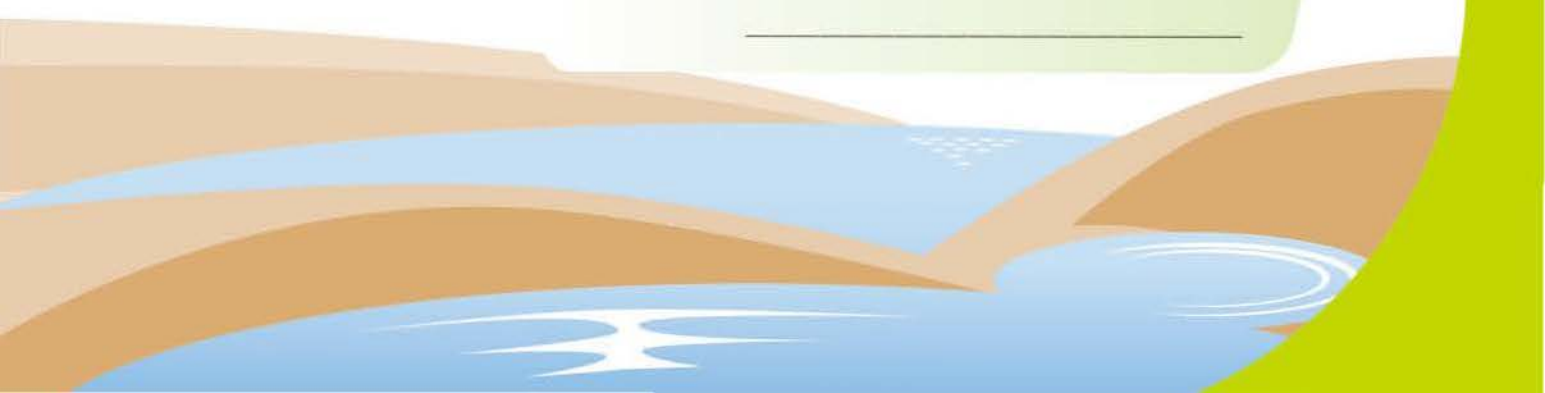


5.2.5

The Thai celebrate the Loi Krathong (Lights Festival) in November. They launch Krathong floats (floating lanterns) on rivers at night. The lantern is made of leaves of banana which resemble a blooming lotus, with a piece of candle.

Aims : _____

Rationale : _____





5.2.6

Some tribes of the Amazon Basins restricted pregnant woman to see her husband, in particular when he was fishing in the river.

Aim : _____

Rationale : _____

5.2.7

Judaists celebrate the Teshuva (a festival to expiate sin) in July and August. On the first day of Teshuva, some Judaists throw stones or bags of crumbs into rivers.

Aim : _____

Rationale : _____



5.2.8 Have you ever heard about other customs related to rivers? If yes, please share with your classmates?

