

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Fantastic Places of the World

# Vietnam: A Jewel in Southeast Asia

Yesterday, I met a new student in my class named Chim. He is from Vietnam. His parents moved to our country a couple of weeks ago and just yesterday was his first day at our school.

At first, he was reserved and shy. Maybe it was because his knowledge of our language was limited or because everything was so new to him.

After several months in school, he began to speak our language without a problem. Little by little he started telling us interesting things about his country and his culture.



Some new things I learned and things that surprised me the most were:

- The capital of Vietnam is Hanoi; it is the second largest city in the country. The city of Ho Chi Minh is the largest city in Vietnam.
- The typical Vietnamese food is pho, a kind of soup with long rice noodles that are eaten almost any time of the day. Beef, chicken, and fresh vegetables are usually added to these noodles.
- In Vietnam there are two zones, the north zone, and the south. They have 4 seasons a year, spring, summer, autumn and winter, in the northern zone. The southern zone, there are only 2 seasons, the rainy season and the non-rainy season. Strange, but true.
- In a country as small as Vietnam, more than 15 million motorcycles are used. It is the fastest means of transportation to get around the cities.





- Traffic rules are almost non-existent. Drivers just follow the highway code. Even though it gets chaotic, very few traffic accidents occur.

- Most Vietnamese wear a hat in the shape of a flattened cone. This helps to protect them from the scorching sun or heavy rains. It's like carrying an umbrella on the head.

- Vietnamese women love to have white skin. It is rare to see them sunbathing. They usually protect their skin with hats, parasols, or scarves.



- The currency of Vietnam is the Dong. The largest bill is 500,000 dongs, which is worth less than \$20 American money. The smallest bill is 500 dongs, worth less than 1 cent.



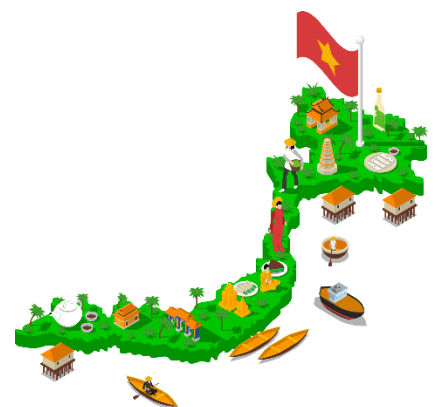
- Vietnam is one of the leading exporters of rice in the world. Remembering that most of their meals include rice, it is common to find rice at breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

- The art of haggling, negotiating the price for a something you want to buy with the merchant, is common in Vietnam. The merchant usually gets the price he wants. I think it would be hard to haggle and get a fair price.



- Ha-Long Bay is one of the seven natural wonders of the world. It consists of several islands of varied sizes and shapes. There is a legend that some dragons, sent by the emperor, spat jewels and jade to defend themselves against their enemies. These jewels became the islands that are in the bay today.

Chim and I became good friends quickly and spend a lot of time together. He is fascinated with my culture and I am fascinated with his. We are planning to make a comic book together and present it at the school literature fair next month. Maybe we'll win first place and have our picture put it in the front hall. I am lucky to have a friend like him.



Name \_\_\_\_\_



## ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Why was one of the characters in the story reserved?
- a. Because he was Vietnamese.
  - b. Because he didn't want to speak my language.
  - c. Because he didn't know how to speak my language well.
  - d. Because his parents wouldn't let him talk to me.



2. To learn another language you have to \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. Practice a lot with other people.
  - b. Move to the country where that language is spoken.
  - c. Overcome the embarrassment of speaking another language.
  - d. All the answers are correct.
3. If you moved to Vietnam, what area would you prefer to live? Explain why.
- a. North Zone
  - b. South Zone

I have chosen the \_\_\_\_\_ Zone,  
because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Reading the text, you know that there are millions of motorcycles in Vietnam but there are very few accidents even though they do not have traffic rules. Why do you think that there are so few accidents? Write 3 ideas.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

5. After reading the text, imagine moving to Vietnam for a year. What do you think would surprise you the most? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_



6. The food of Vietnam is varied, and but the typical food is pho.

- a. True
- b. False

7. Why do Vietnamese women cover their bodies to avoid the sun?

- a. Because there is a lot of pollution produced by motorcycles.
- b. Because they like to be fashionable.
- c. Because they like to have white skin.
- d. Because they like to have tanned skin.

8. If a merchant offers you a very high price and you offer a higher price low, you are \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Trying to fool the merchant.
- b. Haggling
- c. Offering an unfair price.
- d. All the answers are correct.

9. Do you think the legend of the creation of Ha-Long Bay could be true? Why?

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10. Using encyclopedias, books, and the internet, find more information about Vietnam. Write a brief review about it.

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