

Reading

1. Read the text. Then circle the best title.
 - a. How to fly a kite
 - b. The most beautiful kites in the world
 - c. Kite-flying around the world

While you are reading this, people somewhere in the world are probably flying kites. In fact, people have been flying kites for more than 2,000 years. There is disagreement about where people first started flying kites. Some say China, others say the islands of the South Pacific. Most people nowadays fly kites for fun, but in the past they used them for other purposes—religious, military, and scientific. In fact, one of the kite’s earliest uses was to predict or influence the future.

You can find kites in skies all over the world, but people in some countries fly them on special days. In China, the month of April is kite festival time. For the Japanese, the most important day for kite-flying is on May 5, Children’s Day. Look up in the sky on this day and you’ll see beautiful kites in the shapes of birds, fish, turtles, and dragons. Thailand’s international kite festival is in March. The kites at this festival are huge and require several people to fly them.

For kite lovers, one of the most famous international kite festivals takes place in India, on January 14. On this day kite flying starts early in the morning and continues throughout the day. All over the town, visitors can see displays of kites from around the world or watch different competitions, especially the popular “kite fights.” The festival takes place at the time of the Indian festival that celebrates the end of winter. What better way to welcome spring than to be outdoors and flying a kite!

2. Now answer these questions.
 1. Is there a special time for kite-flying in your country? If so, why do people fly kites then?
 2. Would you like to go to a kite-flying festival? Why or why not?
 3. Have you ever tried flying a kite?

