

Chung yeung

This festival is also known as the 'Double Ninth Festival' as the main day falls on the ninth day of the ninth lunar month.

The festival's origins date back to about 200 BC, when a man in the Han Dynasty avoided a flooding catastrophe for his family and some of his neighbours. He took his family to a high place for the day, and some of his friends and neighbours followed. He took with him food and a jug of chrysanthemum wine. The story has developed over time into a tradition for Chinese families to go for picnics in the mountains on this festival.

On this day in some parts of China, although in some areas the two activities are separated by up to three weeks (as in Macau), family graves are visited to pay respect to their ancestors. They share the food they bring, and especially ko cakes (ko is a homonym for 'top'). Many Chinese believe that those who eat ko on this day will be promoted wherever they work.



- 1 Sit down with the children and show them the series of pictures overleaf. You may wish to lay the sheets out either on a table or the floor, and then read the story.
- 2 Ask the children the following questions and discuss them:-
What part of the story did you like and why?
What part of the story didn't you like and why?
- 3 Talk to the children about climbing hills.
Do you get tired?
Do you like walking?
What food do you like to take on a picnic?
- 4 Talk about floods and what happens when too much water comes.

The Story of Chung Yeung



A Chinese man felt that he had to go away, but he did not know why. He took his family and some of their friends and climbed up a mountain.



**They took food and
chrysanthemum wine
with them.**





Some of their friends went as well.



When they returned home they found their homes had been destroyed by a flood, but they were safe.