

HORSE RACE ཉ་རྒྱལ་ལ།

I like horse races very much, because I like riding horses. In my hometown a horse race festival is held every year on the seventeenth day of the third month. Local women milk the yaks and the men make offerings to mountain deities in the early morning. People dress in Tibetan robes, and wear decorations of gold and silver necklaces, coral, and flint. Afterwards, they drive their livestock to the mountains to graze.

They ride their motorbikes and horses to the race ground on a large grassland. The grassland is covered by millions of flowers. Thousands of people enjoy everything themselves on the day of the horse race. People are happiest in my hometown that day because many family members gather. They have a picnic and talk to each other all day.

People make offerings to mountain deities for good luck. Leaders announce, "The first race will start at one o'clock. We hope this will be a peaceful festival. We also hope you will be successful in the horse race." Then they make groups. Five horses are in one group. The fastest two horses are chosen in a group.

Villagers walk up a hill near the race ground and watch. Some groups of young women laugh loudly and happily. Meanwhile, boys look for women to talk to. During the race, people are interested and enjoy everything.

There are different villages. Each villager looks for their own village's horses. Most people are very interested in how well the horses race. They talk about this horse and that horse. Elders seem to know everything about horses. They know whom they belong to, and so on. Sometimes I am very surprised, because most horses look very similar. I don't know how the elders remember so many things about each horse.

Finally, village leaders rank horses from first place to fifth place and give prizes.

New Words

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| ¹ festival དུས་ཚེན | ² coral ལུ་རླ། | ³ flint མེ་ཆ། | ⁴ afterwards རྗེས་སྟུ། | ⁵ picnic རྩོལ་སྤྱོད། |
| ⁶ prize དགའ་རྟགས། | ⁷ announce ལྷན་བསྒྲགས་བྱེད་པ། | ⁸ peaceful བག་ཤེས་པོ། | ⁹ hill རི་རྒྱུང། | ¹⁰ remember དྲན་པ། |

Phrases

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| ¹ held every year ལོ་རྒྱུད་དུ་སྟོན་པ། | ¹⁰ villagers walk up a hill ལྗོངས་མི་རྣམས་སྐང་ལ་བུད་པ། |
| ² seventeenth day of the third month ལྷ་གསུམ་པའི་ཚེས་ཅུ་བདུན། | ¹¹ meanwhile དེའི་རིང། |
| ³ local women milk the yaks ས་ཆ་དེའི་བུད་མེད་རྣམས་ཀྱིས་ཚོག་གཞོན་པ། | ¹² enjoy everything གམས་ཅད་ལོངས་སུ་སྤྱོད་པ། |
| ⁴ men make offerings to mountain deities ལྷོས་པ་རྣམས་ཀྱིས་ཡུལ་ལྗོངས་མཚོན་པ། | ¹³ very interested in how well the horses race འདི་འདྲའི་རྟ་རྒྱལ་ལ་ཡག་པོ་ལ་སློ་སེམས་ཁོལ་བ། |
| ⁵ gold and silver necklaces གསེར་དངུལ་གྱི་སྐྱེ་རྒྱན། | ¹⁴ talk about this horse and that horse རྟ་འདི་དང་གན་ཞེས་སྐོང་མོལ་བྱེད་པ། |
| ⁶ drive their livestock to the mountains to graze སློ་ཕྱུགས་རི་ལ་རྩ་ཁར་བཏད་པ། | ¹⁵ elders seem to know everything རྒན་པ་ཚོས་ཚང་མ་ངོ་ཟེན་པ། |
| ⁷ covered by millions of flowers ལྷི་འབྲུམ་མེ་ཏོག་གིས་གཡོགས་པ། | ¹⁶ whom they belong to དེ་དག་གང་གི་ཁོངས་སུ་གཏོགས་པ |
| ⁸ people are happiest...that day མི་རྣམས་ཀྱི་ཚེས་སྤོ་སྤྱོད་ཀྱི་ཉི་མ། | ¹⁷ and so on དེའི་སྟབས་ཀྱིས། |
| ⁹ many family members gather ཉེ་རིང་མང་པོའི་ལྷན་འཛོམས། | ¹⁸ rank horses from first place to fifth place རྟའི་ཨང་རིམ་དང་པོ་ནས་ཙེ་ལྔ་བར་བཀར་པ། |
| | ¹⁹ give prizes དགའ་རྟགས་ལྷེར་བ། |

Spelling

1. In my hometown a horse race festival is held every year. _____
2. People dress in Tibetan robes, gold and silver necklaces. _____
3. Villagers walk up a hill near the race ground and watch. _____
4. They have a picnic and talk to each other all day. _____
5. Some groups of young women laugh loudly and happily. _____
6. The fastest two horses are chosen in a group. _____
7. During the race, people are interested and enjoy everything. _____
8. They know whom they belong to. _____

Match the English phrases with their Tibetan equivalents.

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| 1. held every year _____ | a) གསེར་དངུལ་གྱི་སྐོར་རྒྱུན། |
| 2. seventeenth day of the third month _____ | b) སྐྱེས་པ་རྒྱམས་ཀྱིས་ཡུལ་ལྗང་ལ་མཚོན་པ། |
| 3. local women milk the yaks _____ | c) སློ་ཕྱུགས་ལྗོད་ལྗོད་ལྗོད་པ། |
| 4. men make offerings to mountain deities _____ | d) ས་ཆ་དེའི་བུད་མེད་རྒྱམས་ཀྱིས་ཐོག་གཞི་བ། |
| 5. gold and silver necklaces _____ | e) ལྷ་གསུམ་པའི་ཚོས་ལྷ་བདུན། |
| 6. drive their livestock to the mountains to graze _____ | f) ཉེ་རིང་མང་པོའི་ལྷན་འཛོམས། |
| 7. covered by millions of flowers _____ | g) ལྷན་པ་ཚོས་ཚང་མ་ངོས་ཟེན་པ། |
| 8. people are happiest...that day _____ | h) དེ་དག་གི་ཁོངས་སུ་གཏོགས་པ། |
| 9. many family members gather _____ | i) ལྷ་མེ་རྒྱམས་སྐང་ལ་བུད་པ། |
| 10. villagers walk up a hill _____ | j) དེའི་རིང་། |
| 11. meanwhile _____ | k) དེའི་ལྷ་བས་ཀྱིས། |
| 12. enjoy everything _____ | l) དགའ་ཉུགས་སྐྱེར་བ། |
| 13. very interested in how well the horses race _____ | m) ལྷ་འདི་དང་གན་ཞེས་སྐོང་མོལ་བྱེད་པ། |
| 14. talk about this horse and that horse _____ | n) ལྷ་འབྲུམ་མེ་ཉོག་གིས་གཞུགས་པ། |
| 15. elders seem to know everything _____ | o) མི་རྒྱམས་ཀྱི་ཚོས་སློབ་སྦྱོང་གི་ཉེ་མ། |
| 16. whom they belong to _____ | p) འདི་འདྲའི་ལྷ་རྒྱུགས་ཡག་པོ་ལ་སློབ་སྦྱོང་ལོལ་བ། |
| 17. and so on _____ | u) ཐམས་ཅད་ལོངས་སྤྱད་པ། |
| 18. rank horses from first place to fifth place _____ | r) ལྷའི་ཨང་རིམ་དང་པོ་ནས་ཅོ་ལྔ་བར་བཀར་པ། |
| 19. give prizes _____ | s) ལོ་རྒྱུད་དུ་སྐྱོན་པ། |

Put these sentences in the proper order.

- ___ In my hometown a horse race festival is held every year on the seventeenth day of the third month.
- ___ village leaders rank horses from first place to fifth place and give prizes.
- ___ Then they make groups. Five horses are in one group
- ___ They talk about this horse and that horse.
- ___ Meanwhile, boys look for women to talk to.
- ___ During the race, people are interested and enjoy everything.
- ___ Some groups of young women laugh loudly and happily.
- ___ People dress in Tibetan robes, and decorate themselves with gold and silver necklaces.

Choose the correct words from the words that are underlined below.

1. In my hometown a horse race festival is/was held every year.
2. Women milk the yaks and the men make offerings/offering to mountain deities in the early morning.
3. They drive their/there livestock to/for the mountains to graze.
4. People make offerings to mountain deities for/to good luck.
5. Meanwhile, boys look for women to talk to/too.
6. Each villager looks for their owner/own village's horses.
7. Elders seem/seeming to know everything about horses.
8. Sometimes I am/was very surprised, because most horses look very similar/similars.

Put these words in the blanks below: a, to, in, of, on, inside.

I like horse races very much, because I like riding horses. ___ my hometown ___ horse race festival is held every year ___ the seventeenth day ___ the third month. Local women milk the yaks and the men make offerings ___ mountain deities ___ the early morning. People dress ___ Tibetan robes, gold and silver necklaces, coral, and flint. Afterwards, they drive their livestock ___ the mountains ___ graze. They ride their motorbikes and horses ___ the race ground ___ a large grassland. The grassland is covered by millions ___ flowers. Thousands ___ people enjoy everything themselves ___ the day ___ the horse race.

Mark these sentences true(T) or false (F). If a sentence is false, change it so that it is true.

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| 1. Local women milk the yaks. T/F | enjoy everything. T/F |
| 2. They ride their yaks and horses to the race ground. T/F | 5. They have a picnic and talk all day. T/F |
| 3. Seven horses are in one group. T/F | 6. Villagers walk down the hill near the race ground to watch. T/F |
| 4. During the race, people are interested and | 7. There are different villages. T/F |

Scrambled sentences. Put the words into the correct order.

1. walk a near watch and ground race the hill a up Villagers. _____
2. women the Local milk yaks offerings men and make mountain deities to the. _____
3. mountains to They livestock drive their to the graze. _____
4. The millions is by flowers of grassland covered. _____
5. horses looks villager their for own village's Each. _____
6. fastest The two group chosen in are a horses. _____

Write answers to these questions.

1. Describe a horse race festival that you went to.

2. Do you like to see horse races? Why or Why not?

3. Describe a Tibetan festival you enjoy.

5. What two things did you like least about this text?

6. Do you think a horse race is a good thing? Why?

7. How many festivals does your hometown have in a year? Explain.

9. What do you think of offerings to mountain deities?
