

Vietnam

Culture and Tradition

Vietnamese culture has a strong connection to the natural world. The people's organic relationship to their environment is very important aspect of Vietnamese identity.

Although many Vietnamese customs vary regionally, celebrating the family through the male line is a common practice in Vietnamese culture. The extended family is also very important in Vietnamese society. It is normal for multiple generations to live in the same household.

The most important event in Vietnamese society is the celebration of the Lunar New Year (Tet Nguyen Dan). During this special holiday season, families will gather together and pay respects to family ancestors.

In Vietnam, last names (also known as family names) are used before first or given names. However, people refer to each other by the last syllable in their given names. For example, Nguyen is the family name of President Nguyen Van Thieu, but he is known as "Thieu."

Hoàn Kiếm turtle or the Golden Turtle, is a local legend in Hanoi. Similar to the Loch Ness Monster, it is said that a giant sacred turtle lives in the lake near the country's capital. Spotting this illusive Golden Turtle was said to be a sign of good luck. Tortoises are one of four sacred animals in Vietnamese tradition. They represent strength, longevity, and wisdom. Turtle bookmark craft: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HhJ18fIR-LM>

Water puppetry is a unique art still practiced in Vietnam. It is said that the original water puppet shows were performed in actual rice paddies around the Red River Delta in North Vietnam. To learn more, watch this clip: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jIHV_nyT78

The Ao Dai is the traditional woman's dress of Vietnam. To learn more about its long history, watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EUcmb3NHOIM>

Works Cited

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