

Water Festival

<http://youtu.be/C4YfPNrM7wc>

Questions

What do the Dai call themselves?

How long have they been living in this area?

What are the two most important things in the Dai's lives?

How are Dai lives changing?

Where do the Dai's rivers come from?

Tapescript

In the remote south west corner of China a celebration is about to take place. Dai people collect water for the most important festival of their year. The Dai call themselves the people of the water. Yunnan's river valleys have been their home for over 2000 years. By bringing the river water to the temple they honour the two things holiest to them – Buddhism and their home. The Dai give thanks for the rivers and fertile lands that have nurtured their culture. Though to some it might just seem an excuse for the biggest water fight of all time.

Dai lives are changing as towns get bigger and modernise but the water splashing festival is still celebrated by all.

The rivers which lie at the heart of Dai life and culture flow from the distant mountains of Tibet. Southward through central Yunnan in great parallel gorges. The Dai now live in the borders of tropical Vietnam and Laos but their legends tell of how their ancestors came here by following the rivers from mountain lands in the cold far north.



Answers

the people of the water.

2000 years

Buddhism and their home

owns get bigger and modernise

distant mountains of Tibet

