

Singapore celebrates 50 years of independence

12th August, 2015



Singapore celebrated its fiftieth birthday on Saturday. The tiny nation became an independent country on August 8th, 1965. The climax of the day was the largest fireworks display ever seen in

Singapore. Tens of thousands of people gathered in the streets to celebrate. The country has been counting down to this anniversary since New Year's Eve. There have been hundreds of events to mark the fifty years since independence. Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong gave a special National Day Message to the nation. He said that Singapore could look forward to "new peaks" ahead. He added that: "The journey ahead is uncharted. But we must press on, because we aspire to do better for ourselves and our children."

Singapore has come a long way in the past fifty years. It became independent from Britain when it was thrown out of the Federation of Malaysia after social unrest. The country was very poor back then but the leadership of founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew made Singapore wealthy. He died last year but there was an empty seat for him at the parade. He made Singapore into one of the world's wealthiest countries. It is the fourth most important global financial centre and is home to the world's second busiest port. A woman said she felt sad that Mr Lee could not live long enough to be at the anniversary. She said: "We definitely feel that something is missing this year, and I still feel the pain in my heart."

Sources: *Yahoo.com / Straits Times / BBC*

Writing

It is easy for a good leader to make a country wealthy. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

fiftieth / birthday / independent / celebrations / fireworks / anniversary / message / a long way / social unrest / wealthy / parade / financial centre / definitely / heart

True / False

- Singapore celebrated its 50th anniversary on a Sunday. T / F
- A fireworks display was the biggest the world has even seen. T / F
- The anniversary countdown started on New Year's Eve. T / F
- Singapore's leader said the country looked forward to new perks. T / F
- Singapore was thrown out of a Malaysia-based group. T / F
- There was an empty seat was for the founding PM of Singapore. T / F
- Singapore is the world's fourth most important financial centre. T / F
- A woman said she had a pain in her foot because of the anniversary. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. tiny | a. met |
| 2. climax | b. trip |
| 3. gathered | c. rich |
| 4. journey | d. high point |
| 5. aspire | e. passed away |
| 6. past | f. economic |
| 7. wealthy | g. small |
| 8. died | h. certainly |
| 9. financial | i. aim for |
| 10. definitely | j. previous |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about Singapore?
- What do you know about your country's independence?
- What happens on your country's national day?
- How proud are you of your country?
- Should there be more countries in the world?
- What important anniversaries are there in your country?
- What is the 'journey ahead' for your country?
- What does your country aspire to do?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. celebrated its | a. independence |
| 2. Tens of | b. back then |
| 3. fifty years since | c. to do better |
| 4. The journey | d. in the past fifty years |
| 5. we aspire | e. in my heart |
| 6. come a long way | f. fiftieth birthday |
| 7. social | g. thousands of people |
| 8. The country was very poor | h. unrest |
| 9. home to the world's | i. ahead |
| 10. feel the pain | j. second busiest port |

Discussion – Student B

- What social unrest has there been in your country?
- How could your country become more wealthy?
- Who is the greatest leader your country has had?
- Why is your country important in the world?
- How do you feel when you hear the name of your country?
- What are the bad things about your country?
- What is the saddest part of your country's history?
- What questions would you like to ask Singapore's leader?

Spelling

- an nenpietendd country
- The climax of the rlentanioescb
- uaohstnsd of people
- a spiecla National Day message
- The ueyjorn ahead
- we peairs to do better
- ialcos unrest
- Lee Kuan Yew made Singapore hlewyat
- inlncfiaa centre
- the world's second tssuieb port
- live long gohneu
- We ltyfdieein feel that

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. a	4. b	5. i
6. j	7. c	8. e	9. f	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Fireworks

You think fireworks is the best way for a country to celebrate. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): music concerts, street parties are or a national holiday.

Role B – Music concerts

You think music concerts are the best way for a country to celebrate. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): fireworks, street parties are or a national holiday.

Role C – Street parties

You think street parties are the best way for a country to celebrate. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): music concerts, fireworks or a national holiday.

Role D – A National holiday

You think a national holiday is the best way for a country to celebrate. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): music concerts, street parties are or fireworks.

Speaking – Celebrate

Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways to celebrate at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| • Fireworks | • Dinner with friends |
| • Street party | • Museum exhibition |
| • National holiday | • Ice cream |
| • Festivals | • Music concerts |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.