The August Moon Festival, also known as the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival, takes place every year on the 15th day of the 8th month of the lunar year. Currently, this celebration marks the end of a harvest season, but it is also a holiday of legend and history. One legend is the story of Chang’e, the woman who now resides on the moon. Once upon a time, there were ten sun-birds who would take turns flying all over the world. One day, all ten suns decided to fly around the earth together, making the world so hot that the imperial emperor of China decided to call on Houyi, a famous archer, to bring down the suns. One by one, the skillful Houyi brought down all but one of the sun-birds. The remaining sun serves as the only sun we see in the world today. The Emperor gave Houyi a pill of immortality as a token of gratitude. Unfortunately, Houyi’s wife, Chang’e, swallows the pill and floats up to the moon. Legend also goes that a jade rabbit, who makes elixirs, and a woodcutter also resides on the moon to keep Chang’e company. While there are many different variations of the story, many mooncake brands today illustrate the story of Chang’e on their box covers.

Schedule

10:30 to 11:00 AM   Opening Activity: Moon Festival booklets
11:00 to 11:15 AM   Play “The Handkerchief Game”
11:15 to 11:30 AM   Legend of Chang’e: Moon Festival Presentation
11:30 to 11:35 AM   Learn Chinese!
11:35 to 11:45 AM   Make origami rabbits and paper mooncakes!
11:45 to 12:00 PM   Lunch