

# mid-autumn moon family festival



**Don't rabbits live on earth? How did the Jade Rabbit, the loyal companion of the goddess Chang'Er, come to call the moon its home?**

Legend has it that many moons ago, the great Jade Emperor needed help making a powerful potion of immortality, which would make whoever drank it live forever. He thought, "Who should I choose to have this great responsibility?" Deciding that humans were too selfish, he turned to animals. But what animal would be worthy of this great honor? The Jade Emperor flew down to Earth and pretended to be a beggar. He fell to the ground and pleaded for help, "Please, I need food!" Three animals came to his rescue: the monkey, the fox, and the rabbit. The three animals went into the forest to look for food. The monkey gathered fruit from the treetops. The fox hunted fish from the nearby river stream. The monkey and the fox returned with the food back to the beggar, but what about the rabbit? The rabbit could only gather grass. After realizing that humans can't eat grass, the rabbit exclaimed, "Please, eat me instead!" and jumped into the fire, sacrificing itself. The beggar revealed himself to be the Jade Emperor and quickly saved the rabbit from being burned. Touched by the rabbit's kindness, the Jade Emperor decided the rabbit was the bravest creature and carried the rabbit to the moon. The rabbit got the name Jade Rabbit because of its precious, jade-like fur, and lived on the moon, working hard making the potions of immortality. Some people say, during the full moon, you can see the outline of the Jade Rabbit making the potions of immortality!