One of the most beautiful and thought provoking festivals in Thailand is Loy Krathong. Traditionally held once a year on the full moon of the 12th lunar month, it usually falls on some day in November. Brahmin in origin, some believe that Loy Krathong was first created in Sukothai around the 14th century, others believe it is a relatively modern invention. Some overlook its origin altogether and focus on the beautiful meaning behind the ritual: to pay respect to the Goddess of the Water, showing their gratitude on their plentiful use of water and asking for forgiveness in the ensuing pollution. Floating the beautiful Krathong away, which is the key activity in Loy Krathong, also refers to “floating” away misfortune and bad things in the past and asking for good luck in the future.

A krathong, in Thailand, is usually made by folding a banana leaf into a boat-like shape. Into it is usually placed a candle, three joss sticks, some flowers, and some coins. In the evening you would take your krathong down to a river bank, say a prayer, and then release it. Hundreds of thousand of these krathong are released every year on this one night.

For Vermont schools and students, learning about Loy Krathong can be a learning experience about traditions from another country, but it also opens up an opportunity to teach ecological awareness in your students. Loy Krathong events can occur inside or outside of a school building. It can happen at the same time it is happening in Thailand or it can happen at any time of the year.

We are able to come to your school, possibly with one or more of our Thai teachers, teach about the festival, and then help organize a Loy Krathong festival of your own.