

# Tet Traditional Activities

## Tet “Neu” Pole Erecting Ceremony



In Vietnamese tradition, a bamboo pole called a Neu tree is erected on the few days before the lunar year to ward off evil, honor deities, and seek blessings for the New Year. It is taken down on the when marking the ancestors' return to heaven.

## Calligraphy Given by the Scholar



During the Lunar New Year, people visit scholars to share their wishes for the year ahead. The scholars express these wishes through beautifully crafted calligraphy, which is believed to hold the power to transform aspirations into reality.

## Pick a Lucky Envelope



The Red Envelope, also known as “Li Xi” or “Hong Bao”, is a popular Tet custom in the hope of bringing better things in the future. It has become indispensable in Vietnamese people’s lives whenever the Lunar New Year comes.

## Bingo Show



Loto traces its origins to the 16th-century Italian game of bingo, which later spread across England, France, and other parts of Europe in the 18th century. Introduced to Vietnam by the French in the 19th century, the game reached the height of its popularity, particularly in the southwestern provinces, where it became a favorite pastime during the Lunar New Year festival.

## Tet Five-fruit Tray Decoration



The “Mam Ngu Qua” (five-fruit tray) displayed on the ancestral altar during Tet symbolizes the Vietnamese people’s deep respect and gratitude toward Heaven, Earth, and their ancestors. It also reflects their hopes and wishes for prosperity in the coming year.

## Traditional Toy: Tô He Making



Tô he is a fascinating traditional art form where edible rice dough is skillfully shaped into vibrant, whimsical figurines. These colorful creations are more than mere toys; they are cherished cultural symbols that convey folktales and reflect the essence of the nation’s heritage.