六一是从哪里来的

每年六月一日，孩子们上台表演，可是很少有人知道，这个节日是从哪里来的。

答案藏在战争年代里。第二次世界大战期间，许多孩子失去了父母和家园。1942年，捷克村庄利迪塞遭到毁灭，男人被杀害，妇女被送进集中营，孩子们下落不明。战争结束后，孩子们的遭遇被全世界记在心里。

1949年11月，国际民主妇女联合大会在莫斯科召开，各国代表提出应该有一个属于孩子自己的日子。大会通过决议，把六月一日定为国际儿童节，纪念在战争中死难的儿童，呼吁全世界保障孩子们的生存、健康和受教育的权利。

中国的六一，是在新中国成立的时候定下来的。1949年12月，政府宣布每年六月一日为儿童节。在那之前，中国孩子没有一个统一的节日；从这一年起，每逢六一，小学生和中学生都放假一天。

六一在中国怎么过？最热闹的地方是学校。节前几天，各班就开始排练节目，演出当天，操场上搭起舞台，唱歌、跳舞、小品、朗诵轮番上场。有的孩子第一次登台，下台时手心全是汗，脸上却亮堂堂的。不少学校还会在这一天举行少先队入队仪式，新队员在队旗下宣誓。博物馆、少年宫和公园也安排专场活动，家长们常抽空陪孩子出去走走。

其他国家也有自己的儿童节日。日本的儿童节在五月五日，家门前竖起高高的旗杆，挂着彩色的鲤鱼旗，盼着孩子像鲤鱼跃龙门一样结实勇敢。土耳其的儿童节在四月二十三日，这一天孩子们可以走进议会，坐到议员席上，甚至扮演一天的总统。印度的儿童节在十一月十四日，首任总理尼赫鲁的生日，他说过，孩子决定一个国家的未来。联合国还把十一月二十日定为世界儿童日。

日期各不相同，意思却是相通的：在这一天，全世界都把小孩子放在第一位。

Where June 1st Comes From

Every year on June 1st, children take the stage, yet few know where this day comes from.

The answer lies in the war years. During World War II, many children lost their parents and their homes. In 1942, the Czech village of Lidice was destroyed: the men were killed, the women sent to concentration camps, and the children vanished to unknown places. After the war, the suffering of children was remembered by the whole world.

In November 1949, the congress of the Women's International Democratic Federation met in Moscow, and delegates from many countries proposed that children should have a day of their own. The congress adopted a resolution designating June 1 as International Children's Day, in memory of the children who perished in the war,

calling on the world to protect children's rights to life, health, and education.

China's June 1st was set at the founding of the People's Republic. In December 1949, the government declared that June 1 would be Children's Day every year. Before that, Chinese children had no unified holiday; from that year on, primary and middle school students take a day off every June 1st.

How is June 1st celebrated in China? The liveliest place is the school. Days before the holiday, classes start rehearsing, and on the day itself a stage goes up on the playground, with songs, dances, skits, and recitations taking turns. Some children perform on stage for the first time; their palms are sweaty when they step down, but their faces shine. Many schools also hold Young Pioneers admission ceremonies, with new members swearing an oath under the team flag. Museums, children's palaces, and parks arrange special programs, and parents often take time off to go out with their children.

Other countries have their own children's festivals too. Japan's Children's Day falls on May 5, when tall poles in front of homes fly colorful carp streamers, wishing children to grow strong and brave like carp leaping the Dragon Gate. Turkey's Children's Day is on April 23, when children walk into parliament, sit in the deputies' seats, and even play president for a day. India's Children's Day is on November 14, the birthday of first Prime Minister Nehru, who said that children decide a nation's future. The United Nations also set November 20 as World Children's Day.

The dates differ, but the meaning is the same: on this day, the whole world puts children first.