

# Kingdom of Bhutan's Fun School

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Why is Bhutan Called the Land of Happiness?



Gring and Woodin came to visit the Kingdom of Bhutan. It's a mountainous country located to the south of the Himalayas. It's about the same size as Switzerland.



What kind of country is Bhutan?



What a wonderful country, being protected by a dragon!



Perhaps now it has become famous as the Land of Happiness.

Why is it called that?



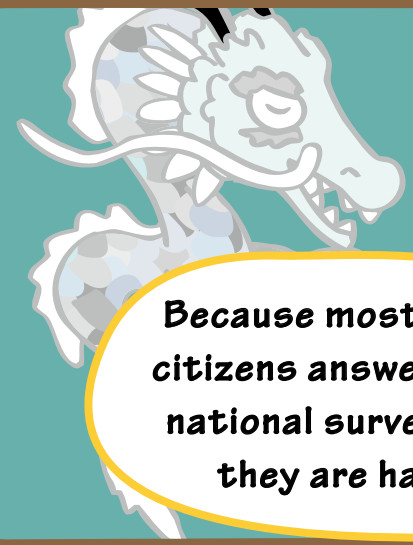
Thunder rumbled, and a white dragon appeared in the sky.



I am Druk, the Thunder Dragon. The country I protect is called the Land of the Thunder Dragon. My image is on Bhutan's national flag.



Look, a dragon!



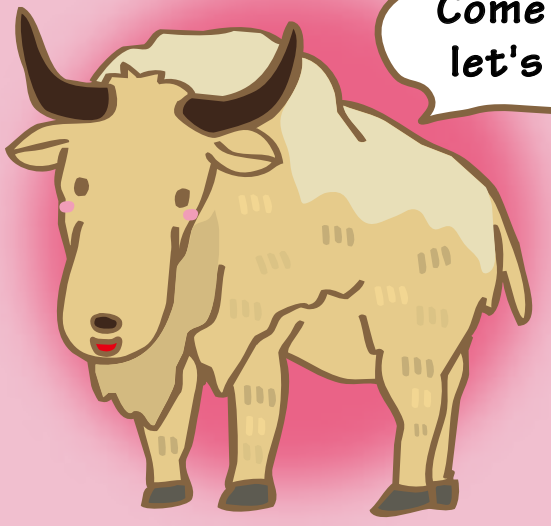
Because most of the citizens answered in a national survey that they are happy.



Why do they feel so?

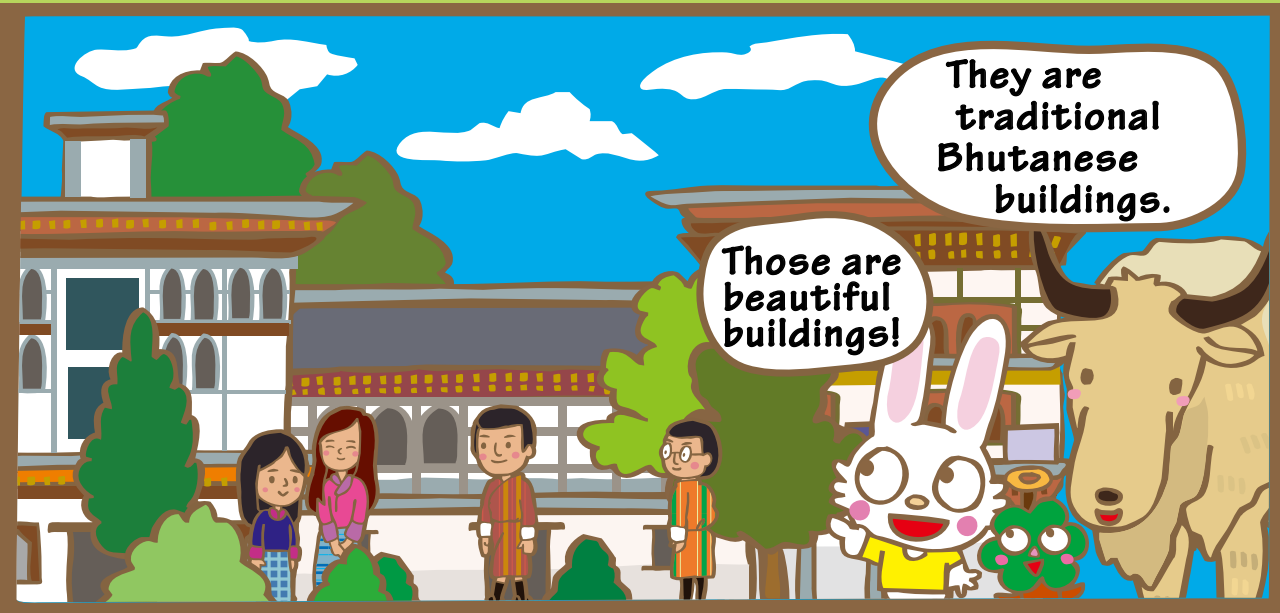


I'm Takin, a friend of Druk. I will show you what the Bhutanese people value.



Come on, let's go.





They are traditional Bhutanese buildings.

Those are beautiful buildings!



They value their architecture and clothing because they are unique to Bhutan.



Are there other things they cherish?

Yes! Take a look.



In Bhutan, it's customary to wear traditional clothing, 'Gho' and 'Kira' on a daily basis.

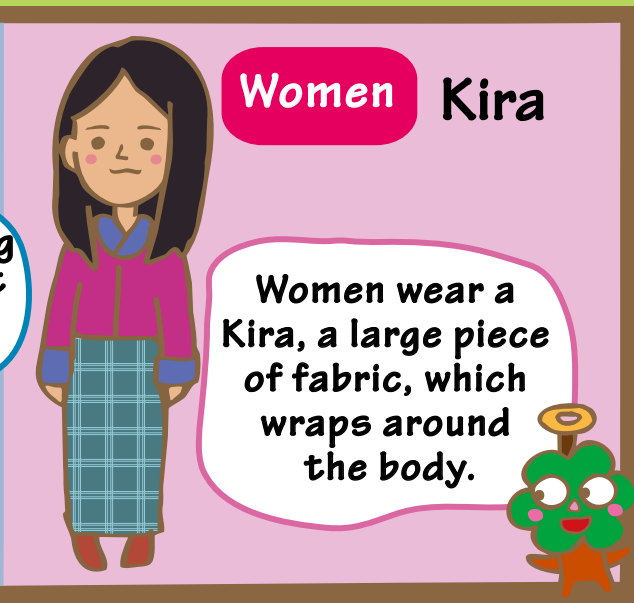


In Japan, people used to wear kimonos, but now they wear Western clothes.



**Men Gho**

That's nice clothing. The clothing for men has different designs from that of women's.



**Women Kira**

Women wear a Kira, a large piece of fabric, which wraps around the body.



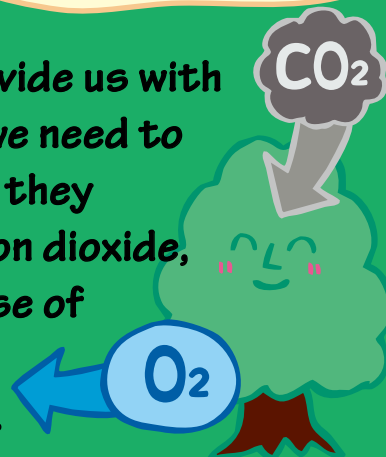
What high mountains! The greenery is abundant.

There is wildlife and beautiful rivers as well.

This rich nature is Bhutan's treasure; it's what people here value. Only by living in harmony with nature can humans truly be happy.

Will cherishing nature make us happy?

Forests provide us with the things we need to survive, and they absorb carbon dioxide, a major cause of global warming.



Carbon dioxide is released when burning oil or coal, right?



We Takin, too, can live happily here because of these forests.



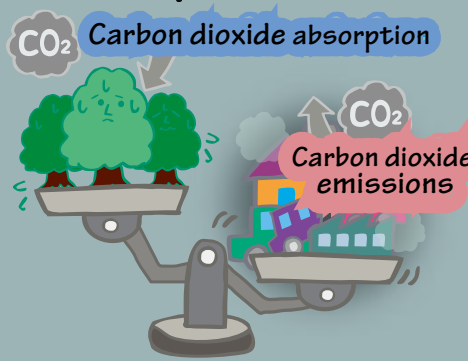
So how was your experience?

Oh, Thunder Dragon!

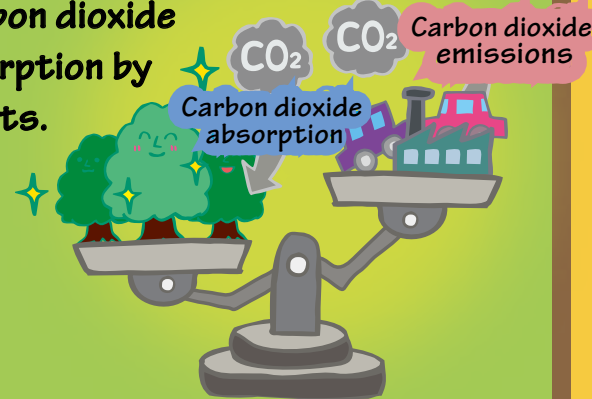
We've found that many things are cherished here.



Currently, on earth, carbon dioxide emissions by humans are greater than carbon dioxide absorption by forests.



However, Bhutan is one of the few countries where carbon dioxide emissions by humans are less than carbon dioxide absorption by forests.



Bhutan is a country that puts the happiness of its people and the environment first. This idea was introduced by His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the Fourth King of Bhutan.



2022 Laureate of the Blue Planet Prize

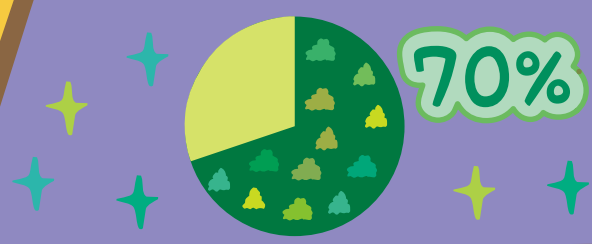


\*Gross National Happiness (GNH) is a philosophy to achieve the ultimate goal of the nation, the happiness of its people. To ensure that people can pursue happiness, four pillars have been established: 'sustainable and equitable socio-economic development,' 'environmental conservation,' 'preservation and promotion of culture,' and 'good governance.'

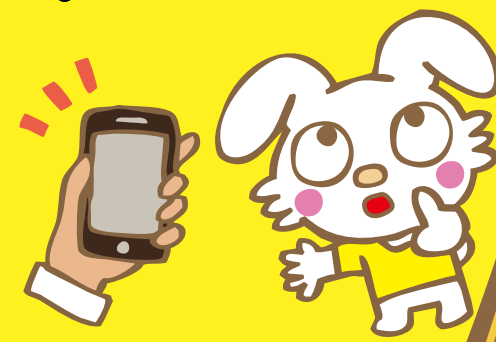
That's because the people of Bhutan have protected their abundant forests to ensure that carbon dioxide does not increase too much.



Bhutan's constitution requires that at least 60% of the country be forested, but the actual forest coverage is over 70%.



Don't they use new technology in Bhutan? But everyone has a smartphone, right?



New things are not always bad. In Bhutan, people have adopted some new things to make life more convenient.



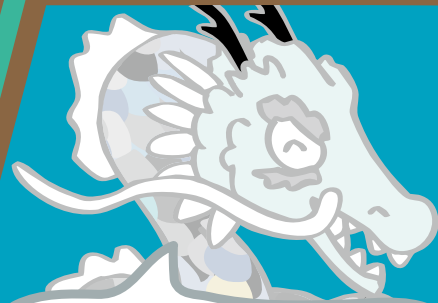
Happiness is really not about having new things or money. It is about having a fulfilled heart.



That's why in Bhutan, people wouldn't even consider destroying its precious nature for the sake of making money.



How about some tea before heading back?



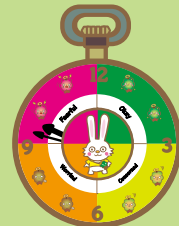
It's really delicious. I'm very happy.



Thank you for showing us around Bhutan!



Please don't forget about Bhutan.



Environmental Doomsday Clock

HM Jigme Singye Wangchuck,  
the Fourth King of Bhutan's  
Fun School  
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af THE ASAHI GLASS FOUNDATION  
[www.af-info.or.jp](http://www.af-info.or.jp)