

Celebrating Chinese New Year

Learning objective: To understand the traditions, symbols, and beliefs associated with Chinese New Year.

Max the monkey is helping to organise a celebration! Use your knowledge of Chinese New Year to answer the questions below. Use the word bank if you get stuck.

Word bank: Lunar · Red Envelopes · Zodiac · Lanterns · Firecrackers · Family

1. Why is the festival called the 'Lunar' New Year instead of just the New Year? (1 mark)

2. Red is a very important colour during this celebration. Give two reasons why red is used in decorations and clothing. (2 marks)

3. What are 'Hongbao' (red envelopes) and why are they given to children during the festival? (2 marks)

4. The Chinese Zodiac is made up of 12 different animals. How is a person's zodiac animal decided? (1 mark)

5. Many people set off firecrackers or use loud drums during the celebrations. According to tradition, what is the purpose of making these loud noises? (2 marks)

6. Imagine you are inviting your friends to a Chinese New Year feast. Name two traditional activities or foods you would include to make it feel authentic. (2 marks)

Draw: In the box below, draw a traditional Chinese dragon. Remember to use bright colours and patterns, just like Zara the zebra would!



Extension challenge: Research which animal represents the current year in the Chinese Zodiac. Write one personality trait that is often associated with that animal.