

A Lunar Celebration with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand the traditions, symbolism, and significance of Chinese New Year within the context of world religions and celebrations.

Read the information passage carefully, then answer the ten questions below to test your knowledge about this special festival.

Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is based on the lunar calendar. Families gather for a reunion dinner on New Year's Eve, which is considered the most important meal of the year. Red is the main colour of the festival because it symbolises good luck and joy. Children often receive red envelopes called 'hongbao' containing money. The festival lasts for fifteen days and ends with the beautiful Lantern Festival. Each year is represented by one of twelve animals from the Chinese zodiac, such as the dragon, rabbit, or tiger.

Word bank: Lunar · Zodiac · Lantern · Red Envelopes · Prosperity · Tradition

1. 1. What is another name for Chinese New Year? A) The Winter Party B) The Spring Festival* C) The Summer Gala D) The Autumn Fair (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Chinese New Year is based on the sun's calendar. (1 mark)

3. 3. Which colour is most important during the celebrations? A) Blue B) Green C) Red* D) Yellow (1 mark)

4. 4. What is the name of the red envelopes given to children? (1 word) (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: The festival ends with a Lantern Festival. (1 mark)

6. 6. How many days does the Chinese New Year festival last? A) 5 days B) 10 days C) 15 days* D) 30 days (1 mark)

7. 7. What do the red envelopes usually contain? (1 word) (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: Each year is represented by a different animal from the zodiac. (1 mark)

9. 9. What is the most important meal of the year called? A) Breakfast B) The reunion dinner* C) The picnic D) The snack (1 mark)

10. 10. Which animal is NOT mentioned in the passage as an example of a zodiac animal? A) Dragon B) Rabbit C) Tiger D) Monkey* (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a bright red lantern decorated with gold patterns, just like the ones Ellie the Elephant saw during the Lantern Festival.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are helping a family prepare for the Spring Festival. If you were given three red envelopes each containing £5, how much money would you have in total? Show your working out using a number sentence.