

Celebrating Chinese New Year: A Cultural Journey

Learning objective: To write a descriptive and informative account of the traditions and significance of Chinese New Year.

Use this writing frame to structure your report. Think about the traditions Ellie the elephant has shared about the history of the festival, and use the word bank to add detail to your descriptions.

As the moon begins its new cycle, communities across the globe prepare for the spectacular arrival of the Lunar New Year.

Word bank: traditionally · symbolises · furthermore · prosperous · consequently · vibrant · in addition · spectacular · signifying · customary

1. Introduction: What is Chinese New Year and why is it significant? Start by saying: Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is a time when... (2 marks)

2. The Legend of the Zodiac: Briefly explain how the animal signs are chosen. Start by saying: According to ancient legend, the twelve animals were selected after... (3 marks)

3. Traditions and Customs: Describe the activities families take part in, such as cleaning homes or decorating. Start by saying: To welcome good fortune, families participate in various customs, for example... (3 marks)

4. The Symbolic Feast: Explain the importance of the food served during the reunion dinner. Start by saying: Food plays a vital role in the celebration; for instance, serving fish represents... (3 marks)

5. The Grand Finale: Describe the atmosphere of the Lantern Festival. Start by saying: The festivities conclude with the Lantern Festival, where the night sky becomes... (2 marks)

6. Reflective Conclusion: Summarise why these traditions remain important today. Start by saying: Ultimately, these traditions help people to connect with their history because... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: 1. Explain why the colour red is considered so significant during these celebrations. 2. Compare and contrast the traditions of Chinese New Year with a festival you celebrate at home. 3. Justify why it is important for communities to keep these ancient traditions alive in modern times. 4. What might happen if a family chose to ignore the traditions of cleaning their home before the new year? 5. If you were designing a new lantern for the festival, what shape would it be and what would it symbolise? 6. Research the 'Red Envelope' tradition; explain its purpose and why giving money is a sign of respect.