

Celebrating Chinese New Year with Ellie

Learning objective: To write an informative recount about the traditions and significance of Chinese New Year.

Use the prompts below to help you structure your writing. Think about the history and customs that Ellie the elephant has been researching. Use your word bank to add detail to your descriptions.

As the winter frost begins to fade, millions of people around the world prepare to welcome the arrival of the Lunar New Year with vibrant celebrations and ancient traditions.

Word bank: traditionally · furthermore · in addition · symbolising · vibrant · festivities · lunar calendar · consequently · customary

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

2. The Lunar Calendar: How is the date decided and why is it linked to the moon? Start with: Unlike the calendar we use every day, the date of this festival is determined by... (2 marks)

3. Traditions and Customs: Describe the decorations and food. Start with: To prepare for the new year, families clean their homes to sweep away bad luck and... (2 marks)

4. The Zodiac Animals: Explain the significance of the animals. Start with: Each year is represented by one of twelve animals, and people believe that those born in a specific year... (2 marks)

5. Conclusion: How do the celebrations finish? Start with: Finally, the festivities reach their peak during the Lantern Festival, which is a spectacular sight because... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research one of the twelve Chinese zodiac animals. Write a short paragraph explaining why that animal was chosen and what traits people born in that year are said to possess.