

The Lunar New Year Celebration with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand the traditions, symbolism, and significance of Chinese New Year, reflecting on how communities celebrate festivals with shared values.

Ellie the elephant has been learning about the Lunar New Year. She has gathered some fascinating facts and symbolic meanings, but they have become muddled! For each statement, decide whether it is True or False. If you mark it as False, you must justify your answer by explaining the correct tradition or meaning behind it.

Word bank: Red envelopes · Lunar calendar · Lion dance · Prosperity · Zodiac · Fireworks · Family reunion

1. True or False: Chinese New Year is always celebrated on the 1st of January every year. Justify your answer. (2 marks)

2. True or False: Giving red envelopes (hongbao) is a tradition meant to bring good luck and ward off bad spirits. Explain why. (2 marks)

3. True or False: The twelve animals of the Chinese Zodiac appear in the same order every year regardless of the lunar cycle. Explain the significance of the cycle. (2 marks)

4. True or False: Cleaning the house thoroughly before the New Year is considered unlucky because you are washing away your wealth. Justify your answer. (2 marks)

5. Compare and contrast: How does the emphasis on 'family reunion' during Chinese New Year compare to traditions your own family might have during special celebrations? (3 marks)

6. Justify your answer: Why do you think the colour red is so prominent in decorations, clothing, and gifts during this festival? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene featuring a traditional red lantern or a lion dance costume. Incorporate at least three symbols of luck or prosperity you have learned about.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are planning a New Year feast for your community. If you had a budget of £50, create a list of items you would purchase to decorate your space and provide symbolic snacks. Explain why your choices represent values like health, wealth, or happiness, and calculate the total cost to ensure you stay within your £50 limit.