

Max and the Lunar New Year Puzzle

Learning objective: To understand the traditions and significance of Chinese New Year (Lunar New Year) and its place within global celebrations.

Max the monkey is helping his friends prepare for a Lunar New Year celebration, but he has mixed up the order of the events! Use the word bank to fill in the blanks to correctly sequence the preparation and celebration steps. Once finished, answer the questions to show your understanding of why these traditions are important.

Word bank: red envelopes · cleaning · lion dance · reunion dinner · fireworks · zodiac

1. 1. Before the festival begins, families spend time _____ their homes to 'sweep away' bad luck from the previous year. Why is this considered an important start to the new year? (2 marks)

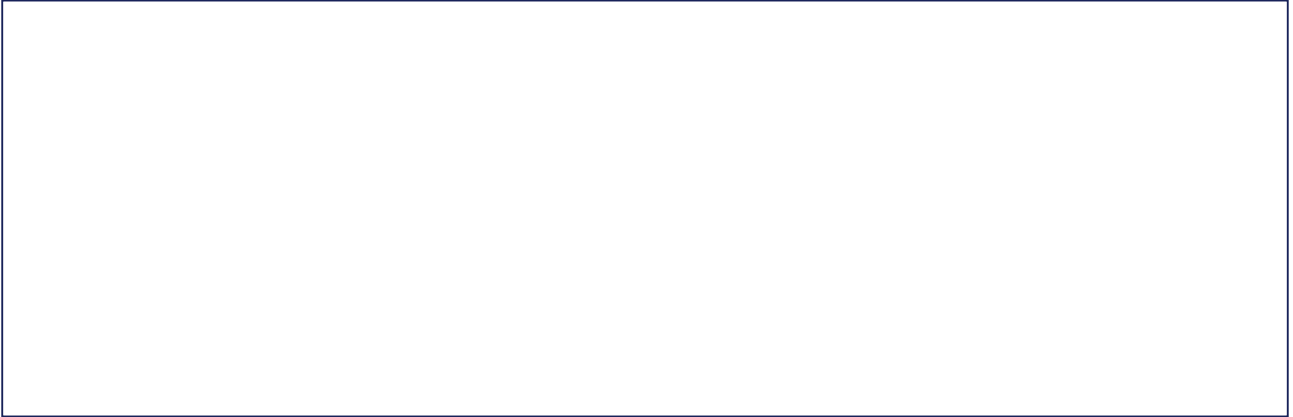
2. 2. On New Year's Eve, families gather for a _____, which is a special meal to bring relatives together. What does this suggest about the values of the festival? (2 marks)

3. 3. Elders often give children _____, which contain money as a symbol of good luck and blessings for the year ahead. (1 mark)

4. 4. Many celebrations feature a vibrant _____ to drive away evil spirits and bring good fortune. Describe two colours often used in this celebration and why they are chosen. (2 marks)

5. 5. The festival is based on the lunar calendar and is linked to the twelve animals of the Chinese _____. If you were born in a specific year, how might this tradition affect how you view your 'birth animal'? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a traditional Chinese lantern decorated with patterns that you think represent good luck, happiness, and prosperity for the coming year.



Extension challenge: Research which animal represents the current year in the Chinese zodiac. Write a short paragraph explaining three character traits associated with that animal and whether you think they describe you!