

Class 5 RE: Understanding Chinese New Year

Learning objective: To understand the origins, traditions, and significance of Chinese New Year within a global context.

Read the front of each flashcard and test your knowledge of Chinese New Year traditions. Flip the card in your mind to check if your answer matches the definition provided.

What is another name for Chinese New Year, reflecting the time of year it begins?

The Spring Festival.

Which system is used to determine the date of Chinese New Year each year?

The Lunar Calendar (based on the cycles of the moon).

What are 'Hongbao' or red envelopes used for during the celebrations?

They are given by elders to children or younger family members, containing money as a sign of good luck and blessings for the year ahead.

According to legend, who is the beast that hid from loud noises and the colour red?

Nian, a mythical monster that was said to terrorise villages until people discovered it feared fire and the colour red.

What is the significance of the 'Reunion Dinner' on New Year's Eve?

It is a vital time for family members to travel home to eat together, symbolising unity and the importance of family bonds.

How many animals are featured in the Chinese Zodiac cycle?

Twelve animals, with each year in the cycle represented by a specific animal.

What event marks the official end of the Chinese New Year celebrations?

The Lantern Festival, which takes place on the fifteenth day of the first lunar month.

Why do families clean their houses thoroughly before the New Year begins?

To 'sweep away' any bad luck from the previous year and make space for incoming good fortune.

What does the colour red symbolise in Chinese culture during these celebrations?

It symbolises good luck, joy, and prosperity.

Which animal is often featured in traditional street performances during the festival?

The dragon (or lion), which is believed to bring good luck and drive away evil spirits.

What special items are often displayed on doorways to bring good fortune?

Red paper couplets (banners) featuring poetic messages written in calligraphy about luck and happiness.

How might Max the monkey describe the Chinese Zodiac?

As a repeating 12-year maths sequence where each year corresponds to a specific animal sign.