

Celebrating Chinese New Year with Nova and Zara

Learning objective: To understand the significance, traditions, and symbolism of Chinese New Year as a major festival in Chinese culture.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of cultural celebrations to provide full, clear answers. Use the word bank to help you complete your sentences.

Word bank: Zodiac · Lunar · Red envelopes · Lantern Festival · Lion dance · Family · Spring Festival

1. Nova the owl is curious about the calendar. Why is Chinese New Year sometimes called the 'Lunar New Year'? Explain how this is different from the calendar we use every day. (2 marks)

2. Zara the zebra has noticed that many decorations for the festival are red. In Chinese culture, what does the colour red represent during this celebration? (1 mark)

3. Many families participate in the tradition of giving 'hongbao'. What are these, and what is their purpose during the New Year festivities? (2 marks)

4. Chinese New Year is often associated with the 12 animals of the Chinese Zodiac. If you were born in a specific year, how does this system link you to the festival? (2 marks)

5. The festival concludes after 15 days with a specific event. Identify this event and describe one activity that typically happens during it. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a traditional Chinese lantern decorated with patterns that you think would bring good luck. Label your design with the symbols you have chosen.



Extension challenge: Research the 'Lion Dance'. Write a short paragraph explaining why this performance is an important part of the street parades during the New Year celebrations.