

Max and Ellie's Lunar New Year Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the traditions, symbols, and significance of Chinese New Year within the context of global religious and cultural celebrations.

Join Max the monkey and Ellie the elephant as they explore the wonders of Chinese New Year! Read the facts carefully and answer the 10 questions to test your knowledge.

Answer Key: 1. A (Spring Festival); 2. True; 3. C (Red); 4. False (It is based on the lunar calendar); 5. Prosperity; 6. B (12); 7. False (They are given to children and unmarried adults); 8. Lion or Dragon dance; 9. C (Nian the beast); 10. True. Explanation: Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, marks the beginning of the new year on the traditional lunisolar calendar. It is a time for families to gather, honour ancestors, and welcome good fortune.

Word bank: Zodiac · Lantern · Prosperity · Red envelopes · Lunar · Spring Festival · Tradition · Firecrackers

1. 1. What is another name for Chinese New Year? A) The Summer Gala, B) The Spring Festival*, C) The Winter Fair, D) The Moon Party (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Chinese New Year is celebrated over several days, not just one. (1 mark)

3. 3. Which colour is considered lucky and represents good fortune? A) Blue, B) White, C) Red*, D) Black (1 mark)

4. 4. True or False: The date of Chinese New Year is exactly the same every year on the solar calendar. (1 mark)

5. 5. What does the word 'Fu' (often seen on decorations) symbolise? (One word answer) (1 mark)

6. 6. How many animals are there in the Chinese Zodiac? A) 10, B) 12*, C) 7, D) 24 (1 mark)

7. 7. True or False: Everyone is expected to give money to their boss during the festival. (1 mark)

8. 8. What kind of traditional street performance involves dancers wearing a large, colourful costume to bring luck? (Two words) (1 mark)

9. 9. Legend says the festival began to scare away a beast called: A) The Dragon, B) The Tiger, C) Nian*, D) The Phoenix (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: Oranges and tangerines are often given as gifts because they symbolise wealth. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene showing a traditional red lantern. Add patterns to the lantern that represent your own hopes for the coming year.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why families place such high importance on the reunion dinner during this festival. 2. Compare and contrast the customs of Chinese New Year with a festival celebrated in the UK, such as Christmas or Diwali. 3. Justify your answer: Why do you think the use of the colour red is so consistent across these celebrations? 4. What might happen if a culture lost its traditions? 5. If you were creating a new animal for the Zodiac, which animal would you choose and what character traits would it have? 6. Research and describe the significance of the final day of the festival, known as the Lantern Festival.