

Exploring Chinese New Year: A Cultural Fact-File

Learning objective: To understand the traditions and significance of Chinese New Year, reflecting on how communities celebrate festivals across the world.

Use this fact-file to record your research on Chinese New Year. Think about the history, the symbolic traditions, and the values that families share during this time. Remember to use precise vocabulary and provide explanations to show your deeper understanding of the festival.

Word bank: Lunar calendar · zodiac · tradition · prosperity · symbolism · festivities · ancestors · customs

1. The Lunar Calendar: Explain why Chinese New Year falls on a different date each year compared to the Gregorian calendar. (3 marks)

2. Symbolic Customs: Describe two traditional customs performed during the festival and justify why these actions are believed to bring good fortune. (4 marks)

3. The Zodiac Legend: Summarise the significance of the Chinese Zodiac. Compare and contrast the personality traits associated with your birth year to your own character. (4 marks)

4. Family Values: Explain why the 'Reunion Dinner' is considered the most important part of the celebration for many families. (3 marks)

5. Critical Thinking: What might happen if a family chose not to follow traditional customs during the New Year? Justify your answer based on the cultural importance of these rituals. (4 marks)

6. Global Perspective: Compare the way Chinese New Year is celebrated in a major city like London or Beijing with how other cultural festivals you have learned about are celebrated. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an event organiser helping Zara the Zebra plan a community celebration. Write a proposal explaining which three traditions you would include to ensure the event is respectful, educational, and brings the community together. Use at least five words from the word bank in your proposal.