

# The Lunar New Year Celebration: A Journey with Ellie

*Learning objective: To understand the significance, traditions, and symbolism associated with the Lunar New Year (Chinese New Year) and reflect on how such festivals build community and identity.*

Ellie the elephant is planning a grand, respectful celebration of the Lunar New Year. She has gathered many items and traditions but needs you to help her 'Sort and Sequence' them correctly. Categorise the items below into 'Traditions of Preparation' (cleaning and clearing the old) or 'Traditions of Celebration' (welcoming the new). Then, use the provided numbers to sequence the events of the traditional festival period.

*Word bank: Red envelopes · Deep house cleaning · Lion dance · New clothes · Reunion dinner · Setting off fireworks · Settling debts · Decorating with red lanterns*

**1. Sort the items from the word bank into two groups: 'Preparation' (before the New Year arrives) and 'Celebration' (during the festival). Why is the act of cleaning the home considered a vital preparation for the New Year? (3 marks)**

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**2. Explain why the colour red is so significant during these festivities. How does the use of colour change the atmosphere of the celebration? (2 marks)**

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**3. Compare and contrast the Lunar New Year with a festival you celebrate at home. What similarities exist in how families spend their time together? (3 marks)**

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**4. Justify your answer: If a family chose to ignore all traditional customs and simply treat the day as a normal day, what might be the impact on their sense of cultural identity and family history? (3 marks)**

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**5. Ellie wants to buy 8 red lanterns for £2.50 each and 5 red envelopes for 40p each. Calculate the total cost of these items. Show your working out. (3 marks)**

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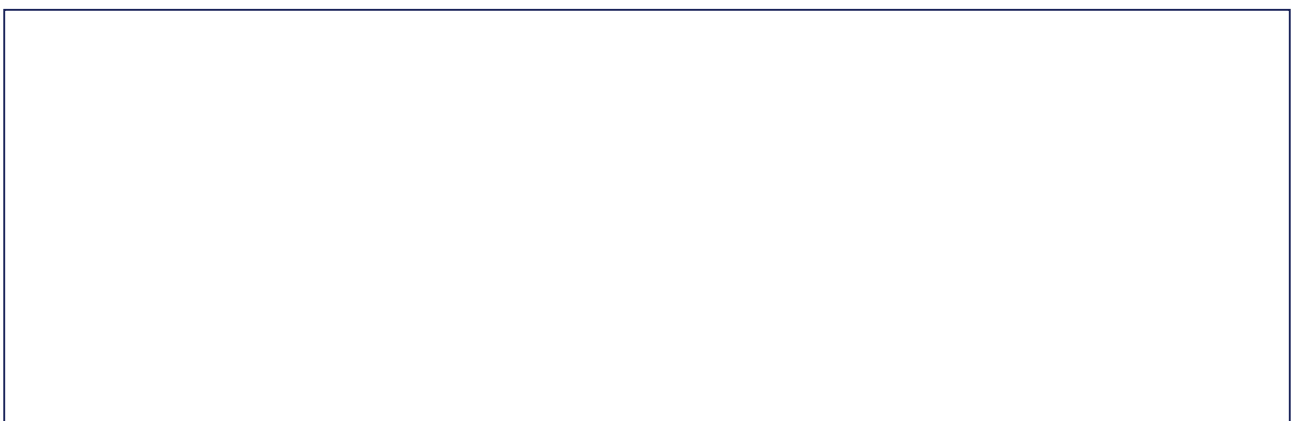
**6. What might happen if the traditions of the Lunar New Year were never passed down from one generation to the next? Explain the long-term consequences for the community. (2 marks)**

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**Draw: Draw a traditional scene featuring a red lantern, a decorative knot, and a symbol of the current Chinese zodiac animal. Ensure your design uses patterns that represent harmony and good fortune.**



*Extension challenge: Design a 'Gift of Meaning' for a friend or family member. Instead of a physical gift, write a short poem in the style of Leo the Lion that focuses on one of the virtues celebrated during the Lunar New Year, such as 'Respect', 'Gratitude', or 'Unity'. Explain why you chose that specific virtue.*