

Lunar New Year: A Celebration of Prosperity

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

Read the provided passage carefully. Use the word bank to help you answer the questions. Some questions require you to explain your reasoning using full sentences.

Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is based on the lunar calendar. It is a time for family reunions and honouring ancestors. Families often share a feast, and children may receive money in red envelopes, symbolising good luck and prosperity for the year ahead. The celebration lasts for fifteen days, concluding with the Lantern Festival. Each year is represented by one of twelve animals in the Chinese zodiac. During the festivities, streets are filled with the vibrant colours of decorations, and traditional lion dances are performed to ward off bad luck and invite joy. The atmosphere is filled with hope as people clean their homes to 'sweep away' the past and prepare for a fresh start.

Word bank: Zodiac · Lunar · Red envelope · Lion dance · Prosperity · Lantern · Reunion · Fireworks

1. Chinese New Year is based on which type of calendar? A) Gregorian B) Solar C) Lunar* D) Julian (1 mark)

2. True or False: The celebration lasts for exactly one week. (1 mark)

3. What is the symbolic meaning of receiving a red envelope? (1 mark)

4. Why do families clean their homes before the festival begins? (1 mark)

5. Which animal is NOT mentioned in the text as part of the celebration? A) Lion* B) Dragon C) Rabbit D) Tiger (1 mark)

6. What is the final event of the fifteen-day celebration called? (1 mark)

7. Explain why the lion dance is considered an important part of the tradition. (1 mark)

8. 8. Compare and contrast the purpose of a 'reunion dinner' with a birthday party. What makes the reunion unique? (1 mark)

9. 9. Justify your answer: Why might the colour red be chosen for envelopes and decorations instead of blue or grey? (1 mark)

10. 10. What might happen if a family did not participate in the traditional cleaning of the home? Use evidence from the text. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a vibrant scene of a Lantern Festival. Include at least three traditional red lanterns and one of the animals from the Chinese zodiac, ensuring the pattern on the lantern reflects Zara the Zebra's love for intricate designs.



Extension challenge: Max the monkey is calculating the cost of gifts for his friends. If he buys 5 small lanterns at £2.50 each and 3 red envelopes with a gold coin inside costing £4.00 each, what is the total cost of his preparations? Show your working out and explain why gift-giving is a key component of building community spirit during this festival.