

Exploring Traditions: Chinese New Year Fact-File

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Chinese New Year and identify how it is celebrated as a cultural and religious tradition.

Use this fact-file to record your research on Chinese New Year. Think about the symbolism, the history, and the values celebrated during this festival. You may use library books or school-approved research websites to find your information. Remember to write in your own words and ensure your explanations are detailed to show your understanding.

Word bank: Lunar calendar · Zodiac · Prosperity · Tradition · Symbolism · Red envelopes · Festivities · Heritage · Customs

1. The Origin Story: Explain the significance of the lunar calendar in determining the date of the festival and describe one traditional legend associated with the celebration. (4 marks)

2. Symbolic Decorations: Identify two common decorations used during the festival and justify why these specific colours or objects are chosen to represent good fortune. (3 marks)

3. Family and Values: Compare and contrast how families prepare for Chinese New Year compared to a festival you are familiar with. What do these actions reveal about the importance of family? (4 marks)

4. The Zodiac Animals: Choose one animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Explain the characteristics associated with this animal and how these traits are reflected in the celebrations. (3 marks)

5. Economic Reflection: If a family budgets £50 for traditional food and £20 for red envelopes, explain why giving money in red envelopes is considered a gesture of prosperity rather than just a simple financial gift. (3 marks)

6. Critical Analysis: What might happen if a community stopped celebrating these ancient traditions? Justify why it is important to preserve cultural heritage in a modern society. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Nova the owl is curious about the patterns in the sky! Write a short, poetic reflection from the perspective of someone witnessing the lantern festival for the first time. Focus on your sensory observations and the emotions felt during the event.