The Great Festival: Celebrating Chinese New Year

Learning objective: I can identify the traditions, symbols, and history behind the Lunar New Year celebrations.

About 15 minutes. Grown-up tip: Ask your child which animal represents their birth year and why that animal is significant.

Read the questions carefully and select the best answer. For multiple-choice questions, choose the option marked with an asterisk (*).

Chinese New Year, also known as the Lunar New Year, is a major festival celebrated globally. The date changes each year based on the cycles of the moon. Each year is represented by one of twelve animals in the Chinese zodiac. Families gather for reunions, clean their homes to sweep away bad luck, and give red envelopes containing money for good fortune. The celebrations conclude with the spectacular Lantern Festival.

Word bank: Lunar · Zodiac · Prosperity · Lantern · Tradition

1. 1. What is another name for Chinese New Year? A) Solar Festival B) Lunar New Year* C) The Winter Solstice D) The Harvest Moon (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: The date of Chinese New Year is the same every year. (1 mark)

3. 3. How many animals are in the Chinese zodiac cycle? A) 7 B) 10 C) 12* D) 24 (1 mark)

4. 4. Why do families clean their homes before the New Year? A) To prepare for guests B) To find lost coins C) To sweep away bad luck* D) To decorate the walls (1 mark)

5. 5. What is traditionally inside the red envelopes given to children? A) Sweets B) Jewellery C) Handwritten letters D) Money* (1 mark)

6. 6. Which festival marks the end of the Chinese New Year celebrations? A) The Spring Carnival B) The Lantern Festival* C) The Dragon Boat Race D) The Moon Feast (1 mark)

7. 7. What colour is associated with good luck and joy during the festival? A) Blue B) White C) Red* D) Yellow (1 mark)

8. 8. Identify one animal from the Chinese zodiac (1-word answer): (1 mark)

9. 9. Why is the festival sometimes called the 'Spring Festival'? (Give one reason). (2 marks)

10. 10. Which of these is a common food tradition during the New Year? A) Eating chocolate eggs B) Eating dumplings for wealth* C) Eating turkey D) Eating hot cross buns (1 mark)

Draw: A festive scene showing a traditional Chinese dragon dance taking place in a UK high street, decorated with red lanterns and gold banners.

Extension challenge: Research your birth year to find your Chinese zodiac animal. Write a short paragraph explaining the personality traits associated with that animal and if you think they match your own.

I did it! Name: _____ Date: _____

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