

# Table of Contents

Introduction . . . . .	3
How To Use This Book . . . . .	4
<b>Holiday Units</b>	
New Year’s Day . . . . .	5
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day . . . . .	10
Groundhog Day . . . . .	15
Valentine’s Day . . . . .	21
Presidents’ Day . . . . .	26
Chinese New Year . . . . .	32
St. Patrick’s Day . . . . .	38
Earth Day. . . . .	42
Cinco de Mayo . . . . .	47
Mother’s Day . . . . .	52
Memorial Day . . . . .	58
Father’s Day . . . . .	63
Ramadan . . . . .	69
Independence Day . . . . .	73
Labor Day . . . . .	78
Columbus Day . . . . .	85
Halloween . . . . .	92
Veterans Day . . . . .	98
Thanksgiving. . . . .	104
Hanukkah. . . . .	109
Christmas. . . . .	113
Kwanzaa . . . . .	119
<b>Answer Key . . . . .</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>Meeting Standards . . . . .</b>	<b>127</b>

# Chinese New Year

## The First Day of the Chinese Calendar— Late January or Early February

The Chinese New Year is based on the ancient Chinese calendar. This calendar follows the phases of the moon. It is celebrated at the start of a lunar month in early spring. Celebrations usually last about fifteen days. Chinese New Year is an important holiday.

Spring Festival is the traditional Chinese New Year. This holiday honors household gods and ancestors.

Today, young people celebrate by taking time off from work. They may still use the time to renew family ties, as well.



---

## Summary of Activities

---

### Reading: Literature

*A Chinese Fairy Tale: Yeh-Shen*—fairy tale with a compare-and-contrast activity

### Reading: Informational Text

*Celebrating the New Year*—nonfiction passage with comprehension questions

### Writing

*Messages of Good Fortune*—activity in which students make scrolls and write messages of good luck for family and friends

### Bonus

*Chinese Lanterns*—activity in which students make Chinese lanterns

**Vocabulary:** ancestors, disguised, fortune, icons, message, phases, recognize, scroll



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Celebrating the New Year

**Directions:** Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Chinese New Year is an important holiday. It honors household gods and ancestors. The holiday is also known as Spring Festival. Spring Festival is when people celebrate the traditional Chinese New Year.

The Chinese New Year is based on the Chinese calendar. It is many years old. This calendar is based on phases of the moon. The calendar has twelve signs along the path of the sun. Each sign represents an animal. Each new year is the year of one of the animals. The Chinese say people have some traits of the animal for the year they were born.

Traditional Chinese New Year celebrations focused on home and family. People cleaned their homes. They wanted to get rid of anything from the old year that might not bring good fortune in the new year. Such cleaning would also please the gods. People offered food and paper icons to ancestors and the gods. They put scrolls with lucky messages on the doors to their homes. Elders gave children an even amount of “lucky money” in red paper packets. People lit fireworks to frighten evil spirits. People hoped for good luck and long life for their parents.

The most important part of the festival is the food. During the first five days of the new year, people eat long noodles. The noodles are a symbol of long life. People eat round dumplings. This food stands for family and protection. Family members share a special meal together. The last course of the meal is a fish. People do not eat the fish. It stands for many good things.

Today, some places have parades. People enjoy time off work. Some families celebrate in the old ways. They get together and share meals with traditional foods. They do things to bring good luck. Other people do different things to celebrate. They watch special shows on TV. They get together with their friends. Old and new, people enjoy thinking about a new year!

1. What is the meaning of the word *ancestor*?
  - a. relative who lived long ago
  - b. a powerful being
  - c. a type of animal
2. Why do people eat long noodles during the New Year’s festival?
  - a. to frighten away evil spirits
  - b. to bring good luck
  - c. to have long life
3. What is the relationship between the Chinese New Year and Spring Festival?
  - a. They happen at different times of the year.
  - b. One is celebrated in China and one is celebrated in the United States.
  - c. Spring Festival is another name for the traditional Chinese New Year.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Messages of Good Fortune

**Directions:** Read the passage. Then follow the instructions to make a Chinese scroll.

One way people celebrate Chinese New Year is by writing and displaying messages of good luck. Sometimes they write on scrolls. They put the scrolls on the doors to their houses. Sometimes they write good-luck messages with brushes on diamond-shaped pieces of red paper. They display them in homes or businesses.

We wish people "Happy New Year!" People in China also greet one another at the new year. They want to wish people good fortune.

### What You Will Need

- a piece of white drawing paper
- red crayon or colored pencil
- scissors
- tape or glue
- two pencils or sticks

### What You Will Do

1. Fold a piece of white drawing paper in half lengthwise.
2. Write a good-luck message on one side of the paper. Consider using one or more of the sayings below. Decorate the paper.



### Popular Chinese New Year's Greetings

Much happiness and prosperity to you.

Fortune will smile on you.

Get wealthy quickly.

Success is on its way.

3. Place a pencil or stick at the top of the paper. Fold over the paper and tape it in place. Follow this same step for the bottom of the paper.