

A FREE ELEMENTARY RESOURCE FROM EDMENTUM

Chinese New Year

PreK-6th

Grade Range

Chinese New Year Elementary Teaching Resources

What Does This Pack Include?

This pack has been created by teachers, for teachers. In it you'll find high quality teaching resources to help your students learn about the celebrations of Chinese New Year.

FACT SHEETS:	
Pre-K – Grade 2	Grades 3-6
Discover when Chinese New Year is celebrated and how people celebrate the special event.	Discover the meaning behind Chinese New Year and the legends associated with the event.
ACTIVITY SHEETS:	
Pre-K – Grade 2	Grades 3-6
Learn how to make a paper lantern for Chinese New Year.	Learn how to write "Happy New Year" in Chinese.
CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS:	
Pre-K – Grade 2	Grades 3-5
Discuss the Chinese Lantern Festival and the different message each color lantern communicates.	Discuss why January 25th is a special day in China.
POSTER:	
Pre-K – Grade 6	

Enjoyed these resources?

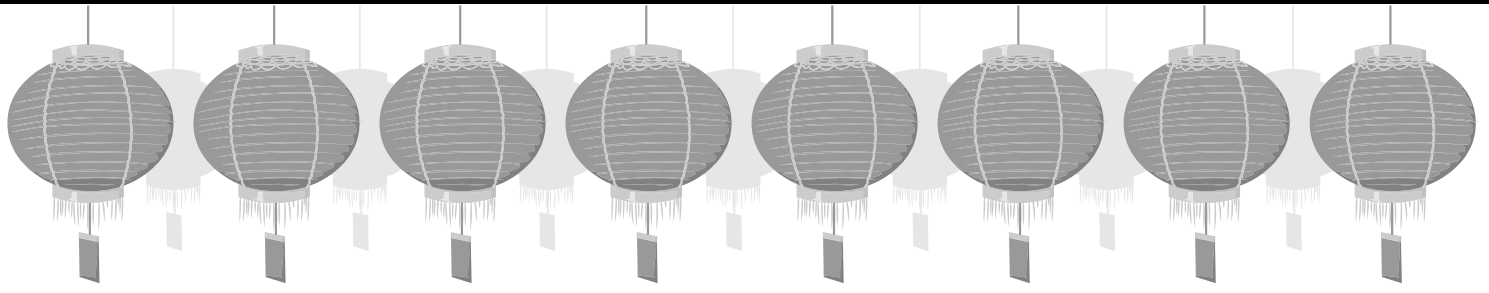
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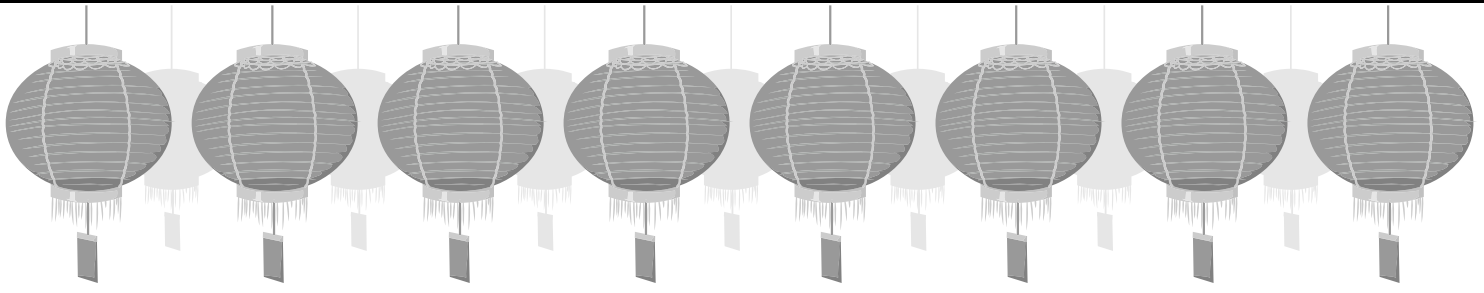


Chinese New Year

Did you know that the New Year falls on different days on different calendars?

- In 2020, Chinese New Year's Day is on January 25th and lasts until February 11th 2021.
- During that time, many Chinese people celebrate the Spring Festival.
- The celebration begins on New Year's Eve.
People clean out their homes to brush away any bad luck from the old year and make room for more luck in the new year.
- Many families gather together for a special meal.
They may eat dumplings or rice pastries.
- Homes are decorated with red because it is considered a lucky color.
- Children get red envelopes with money in them.
Adults give gifts to each other as well.
- The Spring Festival lasts for 15 days. At the end there is often a Lantern Festival and a dragon dance or parade.
- The dragons are huge costumes. They are made from bamboo, silk, and paper.
Several people hide inside and dance around.
- Sometimes people light firecrackers at midnight.

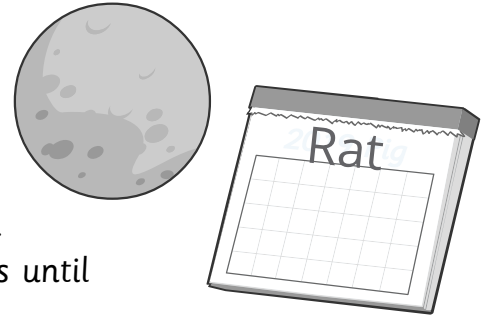
Name: _____ Class: _____



Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is an important celebration in the Chinese calendar, but when does it start and what is the meaning behind it?

- Chinese New Year is mapped to the lunar calendar. Each lunar month is 29 or 30 days long—the time it takes for the Moon to orbit Earth.
- This means the New Year starts on a different date each year. In 2020, Chinese New Year's Day is on January 25th and lasts until February 11th 2021.
- Chinese New Year is also known as the Spring Festival and lasts for fifteen days. It starts when the Moon is at its darkest and ends when the Moon is at its brightest.
- Celebrations usually start the night before on Chinese New Year's Eve.



What is the meaning behind Chinese New Year? There are legends associated with Chinese New Year. Here are some of them.

- Legend tells of a mythical beast called the Nian. People believed it lived in the sea for most of the year but came out on New Year's Day to frighten them. They soon realized that the beast was scared of the color red, loud noises, and fire. People used these things to frighten it away.
- Another belief is that the Jade Emperor wanted to find a way to organize dates on a calendar. He invited animals to enter a swimming race, explaining that the first twelve who finished would have a year named after them. The traits of each animal were displayed during the race, and it is believed that people born in these years inherit some of these characteristics.



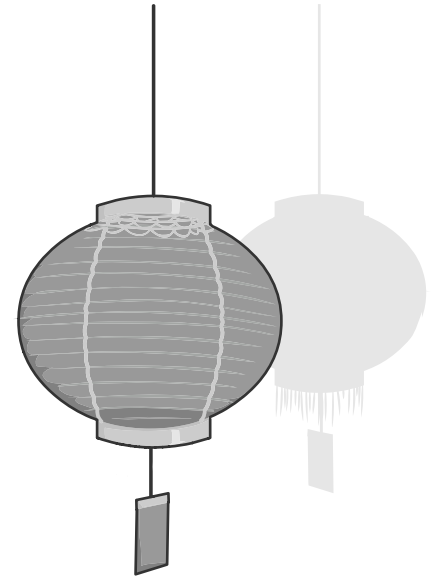
Name: _____ Class: _____

What year is 2020?

- 2020 is the year of the Rat. It is believed that those born in this year will be clever, quick thinkers and successful.

How do people celebrate?

- Before New Year's Eve, houses are swept to brush away any bad luck from the previous year and make room for good luck.
- Families gather together on New Year's Eve for a family reunion. They celebrate by eating special foods—usually pork, chicken, and fish. They may also have a party or visit a temple.
- Traditionally, firecrackers were lit at midnight to scare off Nian and chase away other evil spirits but these are now banned in many countries as they can be dangerous.
- People wear red because it is considered to be a lucky color.
- Children are given money in red envelopes, and adults exchange gifts as well.
- Celebrations end with a Lantern Festival and a dragon dance or parade. Homes are decorated with lanterns, and a dragon up to 30 meters long, made from silk, bamboo, and paper, is paraded through the streets.

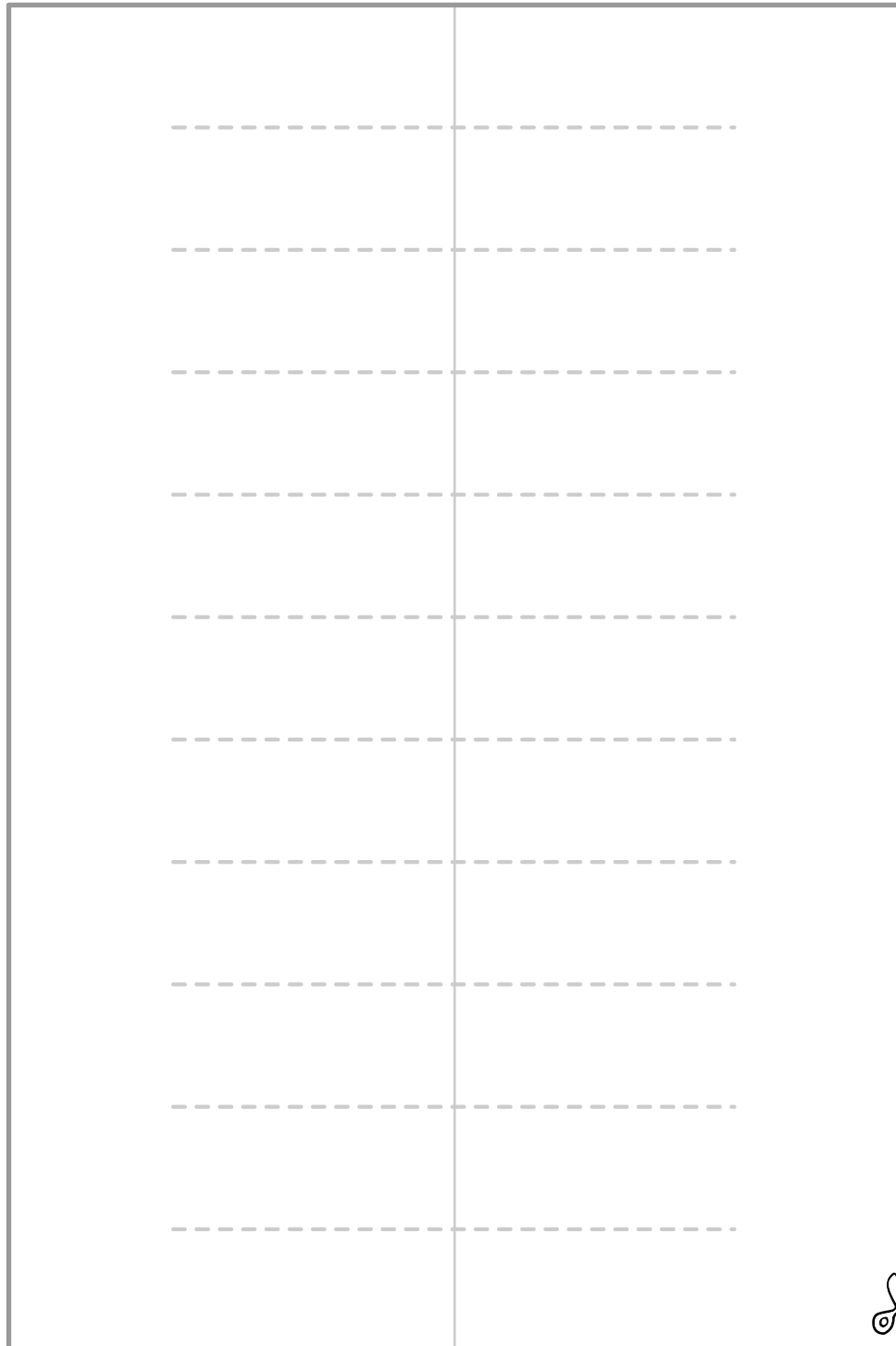




Name: _____ Class: _____

Make a paper lantern for Chinese New Year!

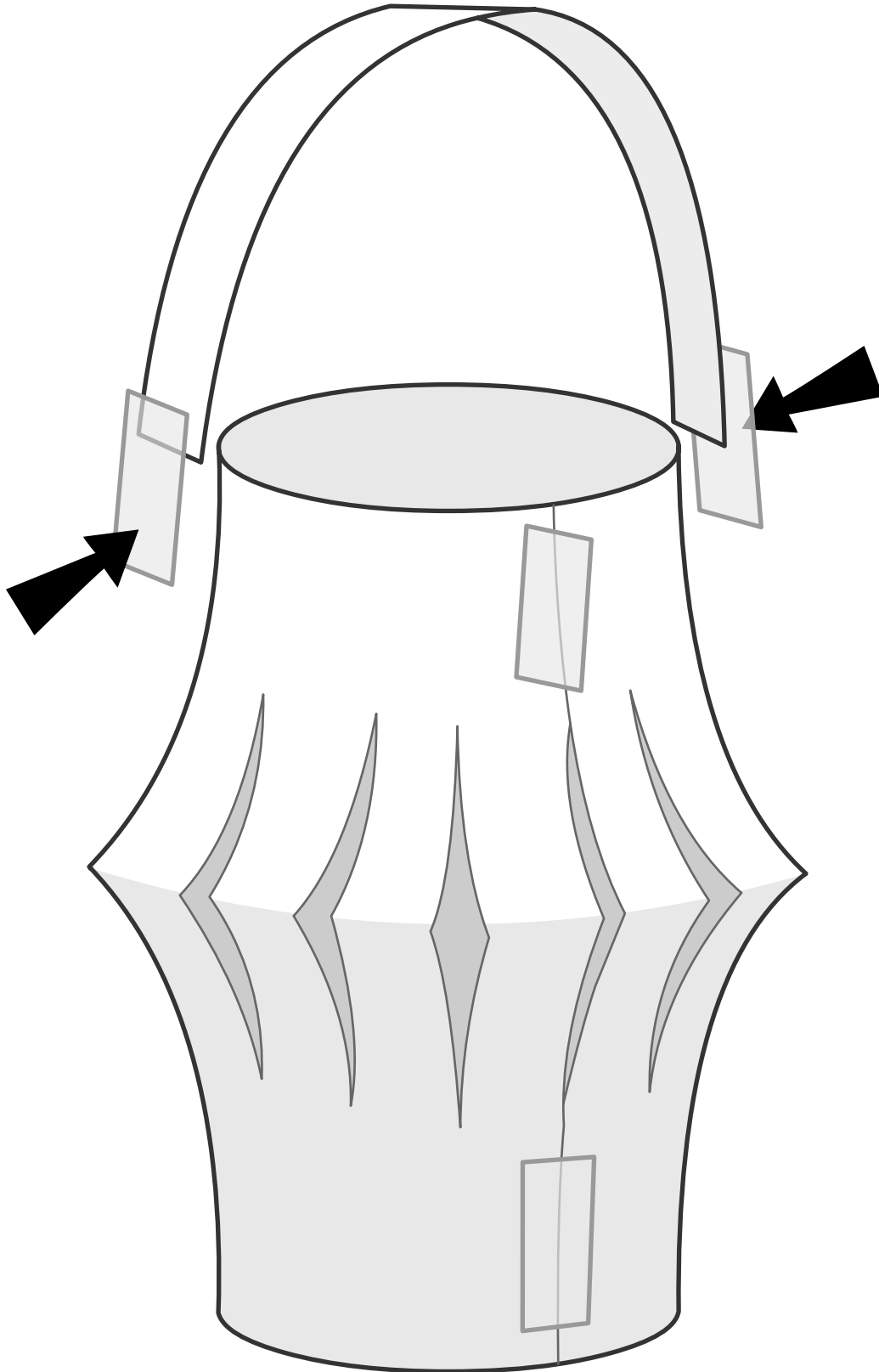
1. Color the lantern.
2. Cut out the two rectangles on the bold lines.
3. Fold the large rectangle in half along the middle line. Press the fold.
4. Cut on the dotted lines to make slits.
5. Open the lantern up. Tape the top and bottom together to make a can shape.
6. Tape the handle on the top.





Name: _____ Class: _____

Completed lantern.





Name: _____ Class: _____

Learn to write and say “Happy New Year” in Chinese.

Copy the characters to write the greeting!

Say the words to wish a friend Happy New Year!

xīn

新

nán

年

kuài

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Critical Thinking Question

During the Chinese Lantern Festival, that marks the end of the Chinese New Year festivities, thousands of **brightly** lit lanterns are used to celebrate.

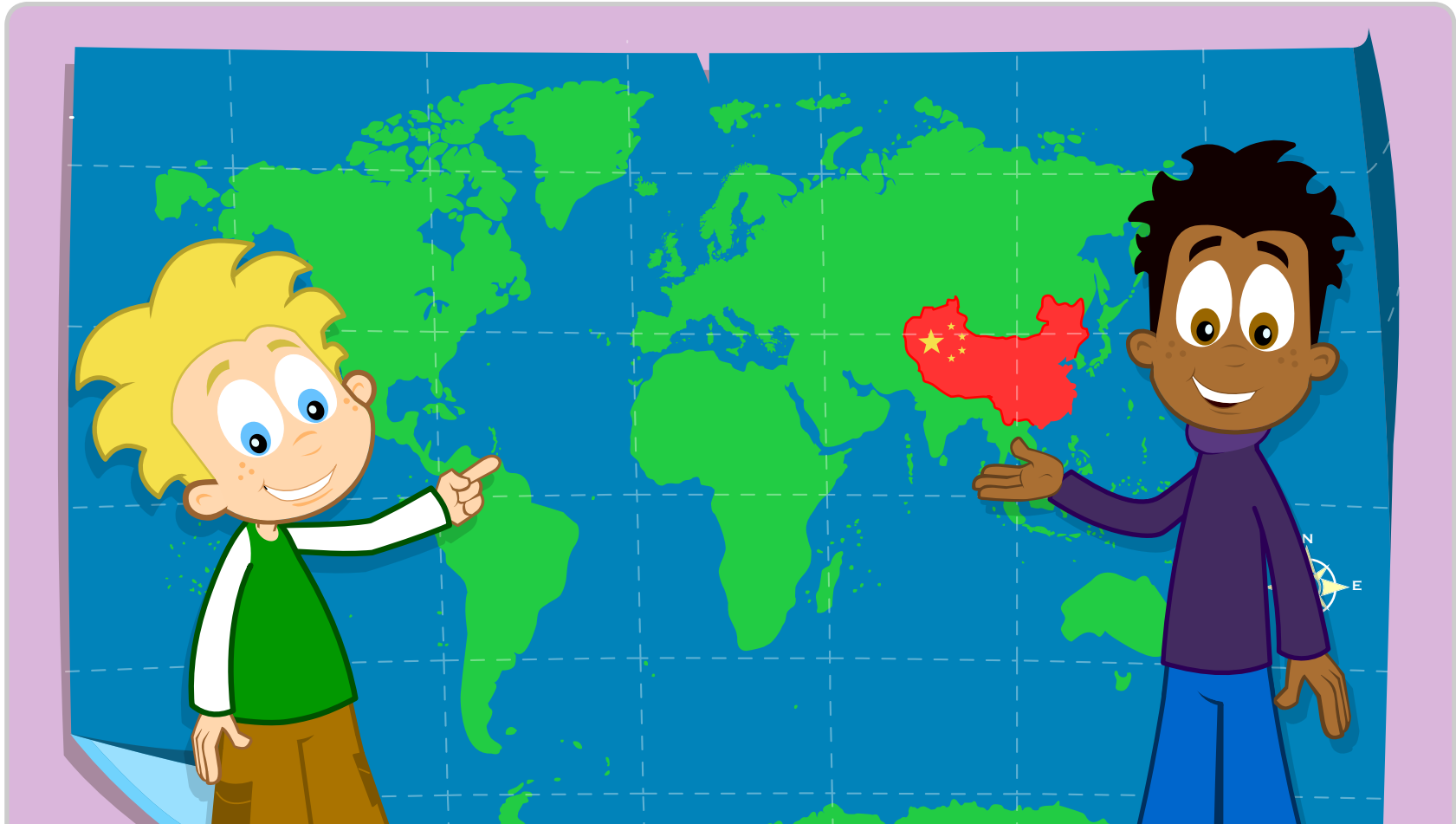


The color of a lantern is used to communicate a particular message.
Can you match the lanterns to their messages?



The Lantern Festival is traditionally held on the 15th day of the first month of the new year. This year it will fall on **February 8th**.

Critical Thinking Question



**February 5th is a very special day in China.
Do you know why?**

January 25th 2020 is the start of this year's **Chinese New Year** or Spring Festival. It lasts for fifteen days and starts when the Moon is at its darkest and ends when the Moon is at its brightest.



During Chinese New Year people hang up red decorations and light fireworks, to scare away **Nian**, a mythical beast that eats their crops and livestock.

How does this compare to your New Year celebrations?

Chinese

New Year

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