



Teacher Resource

Lunar New Year

Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. This Lunar New Year is year of the...
 - a. Dragon
 - b. Snake
 - c. Horse
2. What countries celebrate Lunar New Year? Give 3 examples.
3. What does the Lunar calendar follow?
 - a. Moon's orbit around the Earth
 - b. Earth's orbit around the sun
4. Every year Lunar New Year happens on a different date. True or false?
5. How do people celebrate Lunar New Year? Give 1-2 examples.

Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN Lunar New Year story as a class. Ask students what they know about Lunar New Year. Use the following questions to guide discussion:

- What is Lunar New Year?
- Which cultures celebrate Lunar New Year?
- How is it celebrated?
- Why does the date of Lunar New Year change every year?
- Lunar New Year 2025 is Year of the...
- What Lunar New Year celebrations do you know about? What might you see?
- Have you ever taken part in Lunar New Year celebrations? Explain in more detail.

Activity: Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Lunar New Year story. Below are some words to get students started.

LUNAR NEW YEAR	TRADITION	LUNAR CALENDAR
ZODIAC	SYMBOLISM	CUSTOM

EPISODE 1

4th February 2025

KEY LEARNING

Students will learn about the significance of Lunar New Year, including customs, traditions and celebrations.

CURRICULUM

HASS – Year 3

Celebrations and commemorations in places around the world (for example, Chinese New Year in countries of the Asia region, Bastille Day in France, Independence Day in the USA), including those that are observed in Australia (for example, Christmas Day, Diwali, Easter, Hanukkah, the Moon Festival and Ramadan).

Civics & Citizenship – Year 3

Why people participate within communities and how students can actively participate and contribute.

Civics & Citizenship – Year 4

The different cultural, religious and/or social groups to which they and others in the community belong.

Activity: Lunar New Year Customs and Traditions

What customs and traditions are part of Lunar New Year celebrations? Different cultures have their own unique traditions for the celebrations. Here is some more information about the different ways communities celebrate - [Chinese New Year](#), [Seollal](#) (Korean) and [Tết](#) (Vietnamese).

Below are some examples of Lunar New Year traditions that students can explore in more detail. Students respond to the following questions as they learn more about the custom/tradition.

- What are the origins of the tradition/custom?
- What does the tradition/custom symbolise?
- What is the cultural significance of the tradition/custom?

Lion and Dragon Dances

Watch the ABC Education [What is Lion Dancing? video](#) which explains the significance of the lion dance during Chinese New Year celebrations. What is the difference between lion and dragon dancing?



Lantern Festival

Lunar New Year celebrations end with the Lantern Festival. During the festival, people visit the temples at night carrying paper lanterns. They symbolise letting go of the past and looking forward to the future. During the lantern festival, people eat small round dumplings made of rice. Students can make their own Lunar New Year lantern.

Red envelopes

Red envelopes are small red and gold packets containing money given to children, family members and friends as a symbol of good luck, success and good fortune. The colour red is also used to keep away evil spirits. Students can make their own lucky envelopes by following the instructions [here](#).



Fireworks

Fireworks are a common Lunar New Year celebration. At midnight on New Year's Eve, fireworks are launched to celebrate the coming of the New Year. Chinese people believe that fireworks keep away evil spirits and that the person who launches the first firework of the New Year will have good luck. Students design their own fireworks display and explain what they mean.

Lunar New Year Food

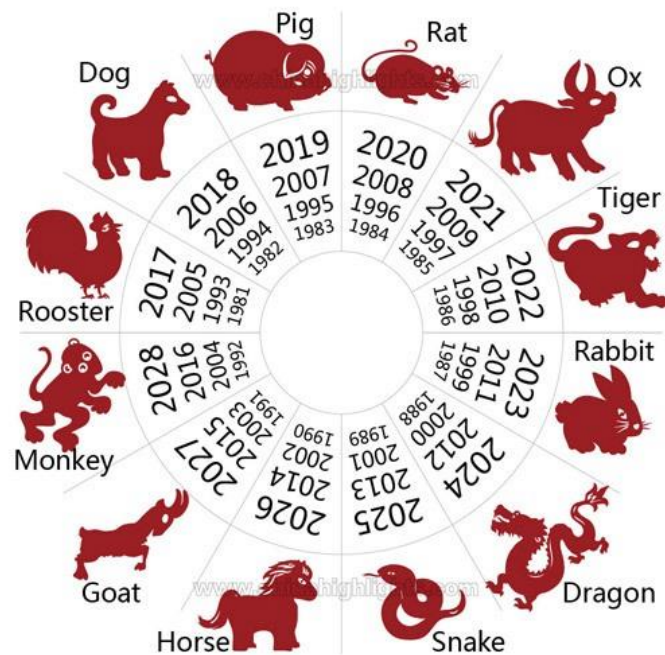
Food is an important part of Lunar New Year celebrations. Different traditional dishes like dumplings, long noodles, whole fish and spring rolls all have special significance. Students can explore different foods served during Lunar New Year and what each food symbolises/represents. Hold a class celebration that includes one or more Lunar New Year dishes or create a recipe book showcasing special Lunar New Year food.



Activity: Zodiac Animals

The Chinese Zodiac is based on a twelve-year cycle, with each year being named after an animal. Chinese people believe that people born in a particular year take on the characteristics associated with that animal. Students can investigate the following questions about Zodiac animals:

- What zodiac animal are you? Find out [here](#)
- Create a profile of that animal. What personality traits are associated with that animal?
- Do you think any of these features accurately describe you?
- What traits relate to the other zodiac animals?
- How were the 12 animals chosen and why are they in a particular order? You can learn more about the Chinese Zodiac stories [here](#).



Source: [China Highlights](#)

Activity: Lunar New Year Quiz

Hold a class discussion asking students to share one interesting fact they learned about Lunar New Year. Record students' responses to create a list.

Students will use the information they have discovered to create a quiz and then test their classmates. Students will include a range of quiz styles, for example:

- Multiple choice
- True or false
- Fill in the blank
- Use photos or pictures
- When an answer is revealed, provide extra information to explain the answer.



Students can make their quizzes in [Kahoot](#) or [Quizizz](#).

Useful Websites

- [Lunar New Year](#) - BTN
- [Lunar New Year](#) – BTN
- [Lunar New Year: Get ready for the Year of the Snake](#) - Newsround
- [When is Lunar New Year 2025 and how is it celebrated? Find out which animal you are and where to celebrate](#) – ABC News