

# Lunar New Year

# **Focus Questions**

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

- 1. Before you watch the BTN Lunar New Year story, record what you know about the celebration.
- 2. Complete the following sentence. Chinese New Year follows the \_\_\_\_\_ calendar.
- 3. Lunar New Year falls on a different date every year. True or false?
- 4. About how many people around the world celebrate Lunar New Year?
- 5. Apart from China, which other countries celebrate Lunar New Year?
- 6. Briefly explain the story about a monster called Nian.
- 7. Give examples of some traditions that take place over Chinese New Year.
- 8. How many animals are there in the Chinese zodiac?
- 9. This Lunar New Year is year of the...
  - a. Ox
  - b. Dragon
  - c. Tiger

10. Name three facts you learnt watching the Lunar New Year story.

# Activity: Class Discussion

After watching the BTN Lunar New Year story, hold a class discussion, using the following discussion starters. Brainstorm ideas in small groups and then students will report their group's responses to the class.

- What is Lunar New Year? Summarise using your own words.
- Lunar New Year is also known as...
- When is Lunar New Year? Why does it change each year?
- Who celebrates Lunar New Year?
- How is Lunar New Year celebrated? What traditions and symbols might you see?
- Lunar New Year 2021 is Year of the...
- How is Lunar New Year celebrated in your community?
- Have you ever taken part in Lunar New Year celebrations? Explain in more detail.

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#### **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.

#### Geography – Year 4

Australia's connections with other countries and how these change people and places.

#### Geography – Year 6

The world's cultural diversity, including that of its indigenous peoples.









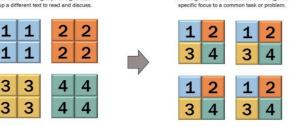
# Activity: Traditions and customs

Ask students what traditions and customs one might see at a Lunar New Year celebration. What do these traditions and symbols mean? Below are some examples of Lunar New Year traditions that students can explore in more detail. Students will choose one to explore in more detail and present their findings to the class.

- Lion and dragon dancing
- Fireworks
- Red envelopes
- Spring cleaning
- Lanterns
- Markets
- Special food
- Music
- Clothing
- Chinese zodiac

# Activity: Jigsaw learning

In this activity students will work cooperatively to learn more about Lunar New Year traditions and customs. Each group will become experts and then share what they have learnt with other students. Round 1 – Focus Groups Divide students into groups and give each group a different text to read and discuss.



Round 2 - Task Groups

#### 1. Form Groups

Divide the class into 6 x Focus Groups. Each Focus Group will be assigned a different tradition or custom associated with Lunar New Year (for example red envelopes, lion dancing, fireworks, special food, Chinese zodiac, and lanterns). Each group will need to decide how they will collect and communicate the information they find during their research.

#### 2. Research

Each Focus Group will respond to the following questions about the custom/tradition they are researching to become experts:

- What are the origins of the tradition/custom?
- What does the tradition/custom symbolise?
- What is the cultural significance of the tradition/custom?
- Illustrate an aspect of the tradition/custom.

#### 3. Share

Mix the Focus Groups to form Task Groups (Tasks Groups include one student from each of the Focus Groups) to share the information they have collected. Students will share the information they have collected and learn from one another.

#### 4. Reflect

Students will reflect on the activity by responding to one or more of the following questions:

- What did you enjoy about this investigation?
- What did you find surprising?

# Activity: Information Report

Students will create an information report about Lunar New Year. The following may help guide students' research:

- Description of Lunar New Year.
- Who celebrates Lunar New Year?
- What are the customs and traditions for those that celebrate Lunar New Year?
- What are some of the myths associated with Lunar New Year?
- Interesting facts about Lunar New Year.

#### Structure and features of an information report

Information reports are factual texts written to inform and provide detailed facts about a topic. Discuss with students what they already know about the purpose, structure and features of an information report. Use the following as a guide to use with students.

- **Purpose** An information report provides information to the reader by stating facts.
- **Structure** see table below.
- Language features write in the present tense, use technical or scientific words and write in the third person.

Students can then use the following plan to help write their report. They can present their reports using publishing software or as a brochure.

Information report – structure	
Title	States a topic
Introduction	The opening statement explains the subject of the report and includes a definition or short description.
Body	Facts grouped into paragraphs. Starts with a topic sentence. Include subject specific language. Text features such as sub-headings, labelled diagrams, charts and captioned photographs may be included.
Conclusion	A summary of what the topic is about and end with an interesting fact.

### Activity: Choose a project

#### Brochure Make a brochure about Lunar New Year that is informative and eye-catching. Include a list of celebrations that will be happening in your community.

#### Lantern making

As a class discuss the cultural significance of Chinese New Year lanterns. Design and make a paper lantern which reflects your family symbols.

Chinese Zodiac What is your Chinese zodiac animal sign? Find out <u>here</u>. Research the zodiac for the year you were born. Create a profile of that animal. What personality traits are associated with that animal?

#### **Fireworks design**

Fireworks are a common Lunar New Year celebration. The Chinese believe that fireworks keep away evil spirits. Design your own Chinese New Year fireworks display and explain what they mean.

# **Useful Websites**

- Lunar New Year BTN
- <u>What is lion dancing?</u> ABC Education
- <u>Chinese Migration</u> BTN
- <u>Chinese New Year: What you need to know</u> CBBC Newsround
- Lunar New Year: What is it and how do people celebrate? ABC News