

Chinese New Year Teaching notes

Aims

- To present and practise Chinese New Year vocabulary, animal vocabulary and adjectives. To recycle the present simple and passive.
- To encourage students to discuss Chinese New Year, to produce a poster, to discuss their work.

What do you need?

An A4 sheet of paper for each student; pencils, crayons or felt tips; scissors; glue; old magazines.

Vocabulary and reading

Exercise 1

- Ask the students to look at the photos. Ask them to name the items and write them on the board.
- Pre-teach the remaining words and write them on the board. Ask students to repeat the words and check their pronunciation. Then remove the words from the board.
- Ask the students to complete exercise 1.
- Alternatively, ask students to complete the activity in groups using a dictionary.

Answers

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| 1 envelope | 4 dragon |
| 2 fireworks | 5 lanterns |
| 3 banquet | |

Exercise 2

- Tell the students they are going to read a text about celebrations at Chinese New Year. Read the question and ask the students to read the text quickly. Discuss what they know about Chinese New Year, whether they have celebrated it, etc.

Answer

Most people eat fish on New Year's Eve.

Exercise 3

- Ask the students to read the text again and answer the questions.

Answers

- 1 Chinese New Year is fifteen days long.
- 2 People decorate their homes with red decorations and blossom.
- 3 People clean their homes to get rid of bad luck.
- 4 On New Year's Eve, many families have a banquet together.

- 5 On New Year's Day, children are given red envelopes containing money.
- 6 The festival ends with fireworks and a lantern festival.

Project: Make a poster

Exercise 1

- Ask the students to look at the calendar and guess what it means. Practise pronunciation.
- The students then do exercise 1 and use the calendar to work out which animal they are.

Answers

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| 2 ox | 8 sheep |
| 3 tiger | 9 monkey |
| 4 rabbit | 10 rooster |
| 5 dragon | 11 dog |
| 6 snake | 12 pig |
| 7 horse | |

Exercise 2

- Ask the students what they think of horoscopes. Explain that some people think that people share the characteristics of the animal of the year in which they were born.
- Ask students to read about each animal and to underline the negative characteristics. They may not know all of the words but they can use elimination to work out the most likely answers.

Answers

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ox: demanding | sheep: pessimistic |
| tiger: unpredictable | monkey: materialistic |
| rabbit: easily upset | rooster: arrogant |
| dragon: bossy | dog: says bad things about people |
| snake: mean with money | pig: bad-tempered |
| horse: selfish | |

Exercise 3

- Ask the students to make a poster of a famous person. They need to know the year they were born. They should add as much information about the person's personality as they can.
- The students then show their posters to the class. They ask them to guess which animal they are.
- This is a good opportunity to discuss their opinions of the Chinese calendar.

Chinese New Year

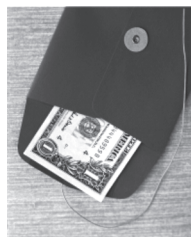
Vocabulary and reading

1 Look at the pictures. Then put the letters in the correct order and match the words with the pictures.

peenvleo ssllbøøñ qbnaute irefwrsok neltanr rdgaon



blossom



1



2



3



4



5

2 Read the text. What do most people eat on New Year's Eve?

Chinese New Year takes place in January or February and lasts for fifteen days. During the festival people visit their family, remember dead relatives and wish for good luck.

Before New Year's Eve, people decorate their homes with red decorations and blossom, and buy new clothes. They also clean their houses to get rid of bad luck. On New Year's Eve, many families have a banquet together and the most popular dish is fish. On New Year's Day, children are given red envelopes containing money.

The festival ends with fireworks and a lantern festival. People come to see the brightly-coloured lanterns, lion dances and dragon dances.

3 Read the text again and answer the questions.

1 How long is the Chinese New Year festival?

2 What do people decorate their homes with?

3 Why do they clean their homes?

4 What do people do on New Year's Eve?

5 What happens on New Year's Day?

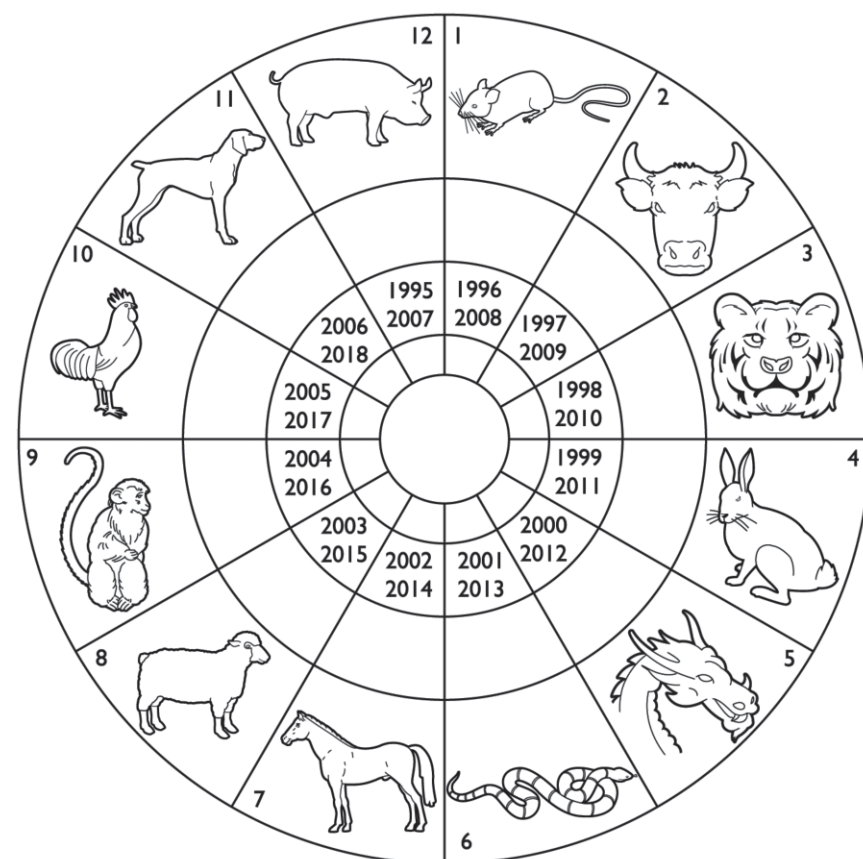
6 How does the festival end?

Chinese New Year

Project: Make a poster

1 Look at the Chinese calendar. Match the animals with the words in the box. Which animal are you?

dragon dog horse monkey ox pig rabbit rat rooster sheep snake tiger



- | | |
|---------|----------|
| 1 rat | 7 _____ |
| 2 _____ | 8 _____ |
| 3 _____ | 9 _____ |
| 4 _____ | 10 _____ |
| 5 _____ | 11 _____ |
| 6 _____ | 12 _____ |

2 Look at the characteristics for each animal. Underline the one negative characteristic for each animal.

Rat	generous, <u>gets angry easily</u> , ambitious	Horse	selfish, hardworking, intelligent
Ox	demanding, cheerful, good with hands	Sheep	artistic, pessimistic, stylish
Tiger	brave, sensitive, unpredictable	Monkey	intelligent, successful, materialistic
Rabbit	easily upset, talented, friendly	Rooster	arrogant, honest, good decision maker
Dragon	popular, lots of fun, bossy	Dog	loyal, dedicated, says bad things about people
Snake	romantic, sensible, mean with money	Pig	bad-tempered, funny, happy

3 Make a poster.

- 1 Think of a famous person or someone you know well. Find out when they were born.
- 2 Make a poster about the person. You can use photos, magazines and drawings.
- 3 Describe the person, but don't say which animal they are.
- 4 Write the name of the animal on the back of your poster.

4 Show your poster to the class. Ask them to guess which animal the person is. Are they correct?