



# Chinese New Year



Ideas Collected by  
**Jean Roberts**

With Thanks To  
**Primary Teachers Everywhere!**

### Chinese Hello Song

(to The Farmer in the Dell)  
Let's wave and say "Ni hao", (nee how)  
Let's wave and say "Ni hao",  
Let's say hello to all our friends,  
Let's wave and say "Ni hao".

### Lion Dance Song

(sung to *Mary Had a Little Lamb*)  
See the lion dance and prance,  
Dance and prance, dance and prance.  
See the lion dance and prance  
On Chinese New Year's Day.

Hear the firecrackers pop,  
Pop, pop, pop; pop, pop, pop,  
Hear the firecrackers pop,  
On Chinese New Year's Day.

See the children laugh and clap,  
Laugh and clap, laugh and clap,  
See the children laugh and clap,  
On Chinese New Year's Day.



### Chinese New Year

The dragon roars,  
He stamps his feet!  
He thunders up  
And down my street!  
But I won't worry  
Or shake with fear ...  
Because I know  
It's Chinese New Year!

So, instead -  
I'll shout with joy,  
"Happy New Year!  
Gung Hay Fat Choy!"

*Patti Rita*

### Here Come The New Years

(to *Old MacDonald Had a Farm*)  
The Chinese New Year's coming soon,  
Coming soon, coming soon,  
The Chinese New Year's coming soon,  
Sing 'Gung Hay Fat Choy'!

This year is the year of the Dragon,  
Year of the Dragon, year of the Dragon,  
This year is the year of the Dragon,  
Sing 'Gung Hay Fat Choy'!

With a roar, roar here,  
And a roar, roar there,  
Here a roar, there a roar,  
Everywhere a roar, roar  
The Chinese New Year's coming soon,  
Sing 'Gung Hay Fat Choy'!

Year of the...

Rat - squeak, squeak

Ox - moo, moo

Tiger - grr, grrr

Rabbit - sniff, sniff

Dragon - roar, roar

Snake - hiss, hiss

Horse - neigh, neigh

Sheep - baa, baa

Monkey - chee, chee

Rooster - cock-a-doodle

Dog - bow, wow

Pig - oink, oink

### Chinese Dragon

(to *Frere Jacques*)  
Chinese dragon, Chinese dragon,  
Breathing fire, breathing fire,  
Happy, happy new year,  
Happy, happy new year,  
Gung hay fat choy,  
Gung hay fat choy.

# About Chinese New Year

The Chinese New Year occurs in late January or early February each year. Chinese New Year is the second New Moon after the winter solstice. It begins on the new moon and ends on the full moon, so the celebrations last 15 days.

Before the New Year the house must be thoroughly cleaned and then all the cleaning materials put away. This sweeps away all the ill-fortune of the previous year. No sweeping or cleaning can be done on New Years, as the good luck for the coming year might be swept away.

At Chinese New Year people wear red clothes, decorate with poems on red paper, and give children 'lucky money' in red envelopes. Red symbolizes fire, which according to legend can drive away bad luck.

The New Year is a time of family reunion. Family members gather at each other's homes for visits and shared meals, most significantly a feast on New Year's Eve.

Chinese New Year ends with the lantern festival. Some of the lanterns may be works of art, painted with birds, animals, flowers, zodiac signs, and scenes from legend and history. People hang glowing lanterns in temples, and carry lanterns to an evening parade under the light of the full moon.

Chinese people welcome in the New Year and chase away the evil spirits by setting off firecrackers. Large crowds gather in the streets all around the world where Chinese people live. A huge cloth dragon sways back and forth around the street corners, chasing a red sunball or a white pearl-ball. Following the dragon are people playing drums and gongs, and lion dancers with paper lion heads on sticks. As they dance, store and business owners come outside to give them money.

The Chinese Lunar calendar is based on a twelve year cycle. It names each of the twelve years after an animal. The Chinese believe the animal ruling the year in which a person is born has an influence on personality. The years come in this order: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep (or Goat), Monkey, Chicken, Dog and Pig.

Decorations are an important feature of the celebrations for the Chinese New Year. One of the main forms of decoration are the 'Red Couplets', which are Chinese good luck sayings written on red paper, often with gold trimmings and usually made up of four Chinese characters which ask for luck in terms of long life, wealth, etc. Red is not only a lucky colour for the Chinese, but also frightens off the monster 'Nian' who arrives at this time of year and destroys crops and homes.

Some New Year couplets are intended to be pasted or pinned in special places such as the kitchen or doors, while some can be placed anywhere. The couplets are usually taken down after the New Year celebrations, though some people keep them up all year long in the hope of keeping good luck.



**In 2022, Chinese New Year begins on Tuesday, February 1st. It is the Year of the Tiger.  
Happy New Year in Chinese is Gung Hay Fat Choy!**

To find your students' signs in the Chinese Zodiac, go to:  
<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/chinesenewyear/>  
[http://www.dltk-holidays.com/china/chinese\\_zodiac.htm](http://www.dltk-holidays.com/china/chinese_zodiac.htm)

This is a good description of Chinese New Year:  
[http://www.ncacsl.org/materials/HaiHwa\\_work37.doc](http://www.ncacsl.org/materials/HaiHwa_work37.doc)

Google maps has a clear map you can use for teaching.



## Learning About China

Do a map study. Find China on a flat world map and on the globe. Learn facts about China - some Grade Twos and Threes will enjoy doing internet or library research about the country. Teach the students where China is located on maps and the globe and where the main cities are. Talk about the panda, the Great Wall and other interesting facts. Find China on a flat world map and on a globe. 'Fly' the shortest route to China from your city or town on both the flat map and the globe. What happens? Which is accurate?

### Learn the Chinese Numbers

|    |       |      |
|----|-------|------|
| 1  | one   | yee  |
| 2  | two   | uhr  |
| 3  | three | sahn |
| 4  | four  | suh  |
| 5  | five  | woo  |
| 6  | six   | lyo  |
| 7  | seven | chee |
| 8  | eight | bah  |
| 9  | nine  | jo   |
| 10 | ten   | shur |



This site gives a somewhat differ-  
ent pronunciation to the list above:

<http://www.wikihow.com/Count-to-10-in-Mandarin-Chinese>

Learn to print the numbers to 10 in Chinese:  
[http://chineseculture.about.com/library/extra/character/bls\\_numbers.htm](http://chineseculture.about.com/library/extra/character/bls_numbers.htm)

To show photos of China, google 'Images of China Landscape'.

# Classroom Ideas

## **Clean-up!**

Since the festivities begin with housecleaning - 'sweeping out the old and welcoming in the new' - this is a good time to clean up the room.

Before the New Year, Chinese people do a thorough house cleaning. Get your children to help to clean the classroom thoroughly! Can you say "Kill two birds with one stone?"

During the Chinese New Year celebration, people participate in many traditional activities. The Chinese believe that as they enter a new year, they should clean their houses, pay off debts, purchase new clothes, paint their doors and window panes, and even get new haircuts. These activities symbolize new life and new beginnings.

If you have a local store that sells the red and gold good luck symbols and banners for the New Year, get some to decorate the class. Good luck for the year!

We attached 3 foot crepe paper streamers to pencils and practiced Chinese ribbon dancing (big circles, little circles, figure 8's).

Children get 'lucky money' in red envelopes. Make envelopes with red paper and give the students chocolate money inside.

A local Chinese restaurant may be willing to donate pairs of wooden chopsticks for your Chinatown restaurant or they can be purchased cheaply in dollar stores. Cook an authentic Chinese meal and use the chopsticks to eat it.

Make the dragon's head, and some students can be the dragon weaving through Chinatown, while the other students follow with cymbals and drums."

Try to write the Chinese characters for Gung Hay Fat Choy or Chinese New Year.

"We will have guest speakers and martial arts demonstrations. We will have a parade with our lanterns and lion dancers and eat Chinese food.

The favourite colours during Chinese New Year are **RED** and **GOLD**. Red symbolizes happiness while Gold symbolizes wealth. As such, these two colours are predominant in most Chinese New Year decorations and greeting cards.

## Dragons

"We have a dragon unit before the Chinese New Year. Chinese dragons are quite different from European ones. Chinese dragons are good - they are considered lucky, powerful and wise, and they do not have wings and do not breathe fire. You can research the difference between Chinese and European dragons.

We make a dragon. The head is a decorated cardboard box. The body is simply a strip of butcher paper attached to the box - I run lengthwise strips of clear packing tape to pre-





vent it from tearing. Then streamers of crepe paper are attached. On New Year's Day the students do a parade up and down the halls, the leader holding the box over his head and others under the body, holding it over the heads, too. They practice walking together in a weaving pattern. Beat sticks together or make drums and play a rhythm for the dragon dance. The rest of the class follows - each holding a piece of bubble wrap with the large pockets. They pop the bubbles and it sounds like firecrackers! Other students can do a ribbon dance with the streamers on the end of the pencils."

## Study Dragons!

Did you know that Chinese dragons are different from European dragons? Europe had blood-thirsty, fire-breathing dragons with wings. Asian dragons are celebrated for their benevolence, intelligence and good will. Chinese dragons are also physically concise - they have 117 scales, of which 36 are imbued with Yin energy and 81 with Yang energy. They also have exactly 5 claws on each foot. According to Chinese legend, the farther a dragon travels away from China, the more claws it loses. This explains why dragons from other Asian countries have less than five claws. Asian dragons are usually depicted in the colours blue, black, white, red, or the ever-popular yellow.

After your class has learned about dragons from different parts of the world, do a Venn diagram to show the similarities and differences. Look at pictures and read books about dragons and discuss their characteristics.

"For Chinese New Year we make a New Years Dragon by taking a medium size cardboard box (as the head) and cover it with red paper, then take a small box and cover it (snout of the dragon) attach to the medium box and decorate with eyes (coloured paper plate), mouth( small bowl paper plate) with a short red streamer hanging down for the tongue, then add a long piece of red construction paper for the tail. Place it on the floor and let the children colour and decorate with glue and place glitter, feathers, yarn, streamers and etc. all over the tail. After it has dried hang it on wall or ceiling."

## The Lion Dance

"I once made a big dragon/lion to do the lion dance with the kids. We didn't put sides on it, we used ribbons so they could see where they were going. The head was a big box all papermached up - really gaudy! We took the thing into the downtown and visited the merchants along the main street. We yelled "Gung Hey Fat Choy!" and blew football stadium horns and twirled New Years noisemakers....It is suppose to bring prosperity so the merchants really enjoyed it. So did the kids."



## The Dragon/Lion for the Parade

"Take a cardboard box about the size of a liquor box. Have the children paint all sides of it using a lot of red paint, and some other bright colours like yellow and gold paint. After it has dried begin using foils, feathers, streamers, etc., to make the dragon's face. In most of the pictures you will notice that his eyes are huge and that he is almost smiling, so he doesn't frighten the children. I used big styrofoam balls for the eyes. Every child is going to need to be in this parade. If you have plenty of boxes then each child can decorate their own box or large pieces of poster board works just as well. I had the children decorate their poster boards with gay colours and we hung streamers around the sides. During the parade, one child holds the dragon's face over his head, while the other children hold their poster boards over their heads and act like the tail. I found that with young children, that everyone wanted to be the head, so we took turns being heads and tails. Announce to your other classes that there will be a parade and turn on some Chinese music or make your own and you have a celebration! We followed this parade by having a simple rice and chicken dish complete with chop sticks and fortune cookies for snack. The children adapted to the chop sticks faster than most adults.

### Make A Dragon Puppet

#### **Supplies:**

2 - 9" paper plates  
Dragon face, enlarged to appropriate size  
Construction paper - bright colours  
Craft stick  
Scissors  
Glue  
Stapler  
Markers  
Dragon face pattern



#### **Directions:**

1. Cut construction paper strips, one-inch wide and approximately 30 cm. long. Fan fold strips for added effect.
  2. Glue paper strips around the edges of the front of one plate.
  3. Glue the second paper plate to the first plate with the craft stick, handle in between. Staple for reinforcement.
  4. Cut out 'ruffly' part of head (to hide the plate) and glue to back of paper plates which are stuck together.
  5. Colour dragon face colouring sheet with bright coloured markers. Cut out and glue to center of back of paper plates, on top of 'ruffly' part.
  6. Add horns or bells or noise makers to the dragon puppet.
- In most cultures, dragons are considered to be evil or bad. In China, a dragon is considered to bring good luck.  
Celebrate Chinese New Year with a parade and fortune cookies.

## Chinese Lanterns

"We make these Chinese lanterns:

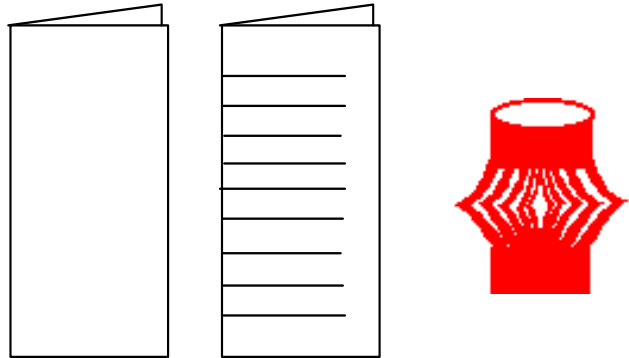
<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/chinesenewyear/lantern/>

One teacher made the lanterns with clear contact plastic. The rectangular shape was cut to size, and then the backing was taken off. The kids stuck small squares of red tissue paper on until the contact plastic was covered. Then it was folded and the slits cut and it was stapled into a cylinder. Red crepe paper streamers were attached to the bottom.

### Make a Chinese lantern

Fold a rectangular piece of paper in half, making a long, thin rectangle. Make a series of cuts (about a dozen or more) along the fold line. Don't cut all the way to the edge of the paper. Unfold the paper. Glue or staple the short edges of the paper together.

Cut a strip of paper 6 inches long and 1/2 inch wide. Glue or staple this strip of paper across one end of the lantern - this will be the handle of the lantern.



Make a Chinese lantern: The first day water-colour a picture on 18"x12" paper. The next day fold paper lengthways with the decorations out. Starting at the fold, make evenly spaced cuts about 1" apart, ending where you began. Draw ending line for children if needed. Open the paper and staple together the short edges. Stuff middle with crumpled yellow tissue paper. Staple a strip of 1" x 6" construction paper to make the handles. Add tissue paper or crepe paper streamers to bottom.

Make the Chinese lanterns out of red construction paper and lots of foil stars, to be hung around the classroom.

## Fireworks

Take black construction paper. Put a drop of liquid glue on the paper. Blow through a straw from directly above the drop, spreading it evenly from the centre. Sprinkle with glitter. Tip off extra glitter onto a newspaper so it can be collected and re-used. Do several fireworks on the paper. You can use different colours of glitter. Some glue drops can be spread upwards from the bottom of the sheet, too.





## Make a Chinese fan

Take a piece of photocopy paper. Draw a picture of a dragon - the Chinese dragon does not have wings or breathe smoke or fire. He has five toes on each foot. When the picture and the entire paper has been coloured (both sides preferably), show the children how to do the fan fold: fold over 1 - 2 cm., then back 1 - 2 cm., over 1 - 2 cm., back 1 - 2 cm. until you reach the other end. Secure the bottom of the fan with a rubber band or staple it.



## Good Luck Envelopes

The Chinese people have a tradition of giving good luck envelopes at the New Year. The envelopes are red, for this is the colour of good luck. Put red slips of paper with Chinese characters wishing good luck, and as money is usually put in these envelopes, you could add chocolate covered coins.

## Red Paper Good Luck Wishes

Many Chinese during the Lunar New Year hang red scrolls around their homes to wish their family members good luck. On the scrolls they write poems and wishes. It is written with black ink or gold ink on red paper (red for happiness and good fortune). Here is a way for you to wish each other a good year!

Supplies you will need: red paper (cut 4 x 11 inches); black ink pens or gold ink pens; scissors to cut; two drinking straws or two wooden chopsticks; red string or yarn; and clear adhesive tape.

Directions: You will be hanging the paper vertically. On the red paper write a wish to a family member or classmate. Place a straw (or wooden chopstick) on the ends of the paper and roll the paper over to keep it in place. Tape it closed. Tie the red string or yarn onto the ends of the top straw or chopstick. Now you can hang it in your home or classroom.

"Have your students make red envelopes and give a penny to someone for good luck. I use a pattern of an envelope with indentations on the corners where the folds go. I have the kids trace, cut out and fold their envelopes. I have them write a note on the center outside the envelope. I supply pennies and have each child put a penny in their envelope. Sometimes I have them take the envelopes home but sometimes they give them to a classmate. I also buy Chinese red envelopes and put chocolate coins in them for each child.

## Another Lantern

These lanterns are made from six red squares. The lucky symbols on the squares were photocopied and coloured in yellow.

Three squares are attached together by the top corners, and the other three attached by their lower corners. They are put together by attaching a right corner of the top section to a left corner of a bottom section - this gives them the lantern shape. Barb has hung them from one corner by thread. It looks as if she has tree branches - a very useful room decoration!



## Chinese Foods

"We learn to eat with chopsticks! We begin with practicing using popcorn. This is quite easy because it is lumpy. Then we try cooked rice..... very tricky!"

Since the Chinese believe that red (especially) and orange are colours of joy and that apples mean good luck, you could have a treat of apples and oranges.

On the Chinese New Year, people give oranges and tangerines. They are symbols of happiness for the coming year. This makes a good snack for that afternoon.

We just made egg flower soup (very easy). Use 2 cups of chicken broth to one egg ratio. In a saucepan, bring chicken broth to a boil. Add pepper and salt. Cook for about another minute. Very slowly pour in lightly beaten eggs in a steady stream.

- To make shreds, stir the egg **rapidly** in a clockwise direction for one minute.
- To make thin streams or ribbons, **gently** stir the eggs in a clockwise direction until they form.

Garnish with minced green onion.

To have a simple Chinese dinner, buy chicken chow mein and make white rice with slivers of cooked chicken breast on top. Other ideas - make cabbage soup, or chop suey. The dried Chinese noodles are tasty, too.

After the students can use chopsticks, try a bowl of noodles!



## Fortune Cookies

3 egg whites  
3/4 cup sugar  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
1/2 cup butter -- melted  
1/4 teaspoon vanilla  
1 cup flour  
1 tablespoon instant tea powder  
2 tablespoons water



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Write fortunes on slips of paper.

Combine ingredients in order, mixing well after each addition. Chill 20 minutes.

Make cookies 2 at a time. On greased cookie sheet, drop a spoonful of dough for each cookie. It is very important to spread dough very thin with back of spoon to about 3 inch diameter. Bake about 5 minutes or until edges are lightly brown. Working quickly, place a fortune paper in the center of each cookie. Fold cookie in half enclosing fortune, to form a semi-circle. Grasp rounded edges of semi-circle between thumb and forefinger on one hand. Place forefinger of other hand at center of folded edge, and push in, making certain solid sides of cookie puff out. Place each cookie in small size muffin tin, open edges up, until cookie is set. Store in airtight container.

## Language Arts

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/books/holiday/chinesenewyear/>

If you belong to the Enchanted Learning site - there are lots of little books and other interesting ideas.

Read 'Ping' or other Chinese stories.

Read 'Village of a Hundred Smiles' - I mention this one because it was written by Barrie Baker, a local author and elementary teacher who just happens to be a friend and my son-in-law's step-father.

Read 'Sam and the Lucky Money' by Karen Chin. Sam is off to Chinatown to celebrate the New Year and spend his lucky money. But everything he wants costs too much money. The young boy's disappointment gives way to compassion when he encounters a street person in need of socks and shoes. Now Sam has a new perspective on what it is to be lucky.

Lion Dancer: Ernie Wan's Chinese New Year - Kate Waters

The Five Chinese Brothers - Bishop

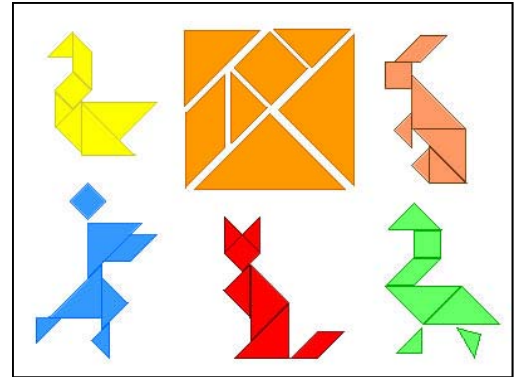
Lon PoPo - Ed Young (good for comparing this version of Little Red Riding Hood to the traditional one)

Tikki Tikki Tembo - Arlene Mosel

Two of Everything - Lily Toy Hong

## Make tangrams for Chinese New Year

Tangram is an ancient Chinese puzzle. This activity is sometimes called "seven pieces of cleverness." The object of the puzzle is to rearrange the pieces of a square (the puzzle pieces) to form figures (like a picture of a cat) using the tangram pieces. Go to this website for instructions.



<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/chinesenewyear/tangram/>  
<http://tangrams.ca/>

## Teachers Talk about Their Chinese New Year

"Last year we made the most wonderful dragon head out of paper mache. Then we had the body of the dragon. Our musical instruments were decorated. We had a parade through the school in the afternoon and then returned to the room for a Chinese lunch. We had fried rice, chow mein noodles and fortune cookies. The kids each got a red envelope containing play money for luck. They cleaned their desks to day to start the new year fresh. They learned to count to ten and to make the symbols. They did addition and subtraction facts using the symbols. We did a venn diagram comparing Little Red Riding Hood and the Chinese version of a similar story. They made masks and head pieces. They have written about what they wish for and they wrote facts about China."

"I had a timeline with the year numbers and which animal they were. The kids loved seeing which animal year they were born in. We learned what each animal meant.

Since the festivities begin with housecleaning - 'sweeping out the old and welcoming in the new' - this was a good time to clean up the room.

Since the Chinese believe that red (especially) and orange are colours of joy and that apples mean good luck, you could have a treat of apples and oranges.

We attached 3 foot crepe paper streamers to pencils and practiced Chinese ribbon dancing (big circles, little circles, figure 8's).

We made Chinese lanterns: The Lantern Festival is the finale of the 15-day celebration. Take a 9 x 12" piece of red construction paper. Fold it in half, the hotdog way. Cut slits through the folded edge, stopping one inch from the top. Unfold paper and glue edges so that slits hang vertically. Attach a paper handle. We took our lanterns and streamers outside and paraded. For 30 seconds they were allowed to make as much noise as possible - chasing away the bad spirits."

"We do the regular New Year when we go back, and then Chinese New Year is much later in the month...and we compare the customs! I like to talk about customs of other countries in between, too.

"We practice writing Chinese letters/words. We listen to Chinese music. We discuss the custom where the children receive money in a red envelope for good luck....we use paper to practice count-



ing money with this. We plan to eat at a Chinese restaurant as a field trip. Before going, we practice using chopsticks. We ask the restaurant to prepare items that the kids like for their buffet that day. The workers parade through the restaurant in a dragon costume....the manager signs their napkins in Chinese....the kids get chopsticks. They give small samplings of each food for the kids to try. They usually love the shrimp and chicken sweet & sour because it is fried and then dipped in the pink sweet sauce. They also like the desserts and the fortune cookies! If you can't get to a Chinese restaurant, you can always make a few Chinese dishes to sample at school. Parents may even have a few great recipes they'd like to cook up for your class. You could even make your own fortune cookies....have the kids write their own fortunes of what they'd like for the year.



"Afterwards, we go to the town park with dragon kites we have made. The kids parade through the park with paper kites on a short yarn string. Then they play games."

"We learn about the Chinese New Year in my class. I have enough Chinese bowls and spoons that I purchased many years ago so that each child has one. We make a placemat, have fortune cookies and either ice tea or red juice (for luck). The kids love this. We do many projects during our study including a scroll or banner, a dragon mask, a folding paper dragon, a Chinese lantern, a tangram picture, math pages, etc. On the last day of the new year celebration we will have a big Chinese New Year celebration. We will make fried rice, egg rolls (using the fried rice), fortune cookies, tea or juice and do a lion dance. This is all part of our multi-cultural units for Social Studies. Do a search on the internet under Chinese New Year and you will find a lot of information and activities to do. Gung Hay Fat Choy!"

"I do quite a big theme. Years ago I went to Chinatown in Vancouver and picked up some posters and paraphernalia to decorate the class. I have the students make lanterns, fish, scrolls with Chinese characters on red tissue paper and we talk about what is good luck and the zodiac.

"We end our theme with a Chinese lunch. I have about 4 or 5 moms cook something and we eat with chopsticks! If you bind the top of the sticks together with an elastic and put a little paper towel in between, it is easier for them to use. As well, we have oranges (good luck), fortune cookies, tea, and lucky money (I put 25¢ in each envelope). We also do the dragon and lion dance throughout the primary wing with loud musicians to chase out the Old Year. I also teach my class the Ribbon Dance. My students have always enjoyed learning about this celebration and at the end of the year always say it was their favourite time (next to the leprechaun that comes to our class for St. Patrick's)!"

"I use a lot of books about Chinese legends and spend a day or two talking about eastern and western dragons (they love this too!). *Chin Chiang and the Dragons Dance* is a favourite of mine, illustrations by Ian Wallace.

"For Chinese New Year you can:

- make Chinese paper cuts
- make paper lanterns
- cook Chinese food
- draw lunar animals
- do a lesson on the Chinese Zodiac" .





# Chinese Games

## CATCH THE DRAGON'S TAIL

For this game you will need at least 10 people. Have everyone stand in a straight line and face forward. Each person then takes both of their hands and places it on the person's shoulder standing in front of them. The person in the front is the dragon's HEAD. The last person in line is the dragon's TAIL. The object of the game is for the HEAD to catch the TAIL. When it is time to start, the TAIL shouts 'GO!' The HEAD then turns around and begins to run to catch the TAIL. The HEAD cannot run too fast or twist or turn in such a way that the body might break apart. If the dragon's body breaks up it dies.

Once the HEAD tags the TAIL the game stops. The HEAD now becomes the TAIL and the person who was behind the HEAD becomes the new dragon's head. The game is over when everyone has had a chance to play or when you are too tired to play anymore.

## STONE, SCISSORS, PAPER

This game is known as CHING, CHANG, POK in China or JAN, KEN, PO (Japanese) - or Rock, Paper, Scissors, of course. You can play this game with only two people or by teams. The object is to win over your opponent.

The opponents face each other and close their right hand into a fist. Both opponents then say the words together in rhythm with their fists going down with each word three times. On the third time on the last beat the opponents would open their hands into one of three signs:



paper - hold out all five fingers

scissors - hold out the second and third fingers, close the thumb over the last two fingers (like the victory sign).

stone - you hold your hand in a fist. You do not open it.

It would sound like this when chanting in English. . ."paper, scissors, stone, - paper, scissors, stone - paper, scissors, stone (on stone you do one of the three signs)

Or sound like: ching, chang, polk, - ching, chang, polk, ching, chang, polk.

Or in Japanese: jan, ken, po - jan, ken, po - jan, ken, po -

The winner is determined by the signs. PAPER wins over STONE because it can wrap around stone. STONE wins over SCISSORS because it can break scissors. And SCISSORS wins over PAPER because it can cut paper. If both players make the same sign, then do it over.

Here is a list of lots more Chinese Games:

[http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/traditional\\_chinese\\_games.htm](http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/traditional_chinese_games.htm)

## More Websites:

I think this is my favourite - it has so much! Go to the 'Chinese New Year Stories for Kids' and all the other links!

<http://www.apples4theteacher.com/holidays/chinese-new-year/>

Chinese Lanterns

[http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/chinese\\_lanterns.htm](http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/chinese_lanterns.htm)

[http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/chinese\\_new\\_year.htm](http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/chinese_new_year.htm)

And there are lots of other ideas on this page. The blossom branches is a good craft, too.

## Red Envelopes

On New Year's Day, children are given Red Lai-See Envelopes, good luck money wrapped in little red envelopes. You can have your students make envelopes from red paper, and print a good luck symbol on each. Add a gold wrapped chocolate coin for more good luck! The top ten good luck symbols are here:

[http://chineseculture.about.com/library/picks/aatp\\_luckysymbols.htm](http://chineseculture.about.com/library/picks/aatp_luckysymbols.htm)

<http://www.bry-backmanor.org/holidayfun/cnycraft.html>

A Chinese dragon pattern.

