



Craft Activity

Theme: Chinese New Year

Intro: Chinese New Year celebrations last for 15 days. Each year starts a new animal's zodiac year in a 12 year animal cycle. This year is 'Year of The Dog'.

Craft activity: Chinese Lantern

Children will need: Lantern template, coloured pencils/ crayons, strips of red and gold (or yellow) paper, ribbon or string, scissors, sticky tape.

Instructions:

Colour in the lantern template and cut out.

Tape on some strips of paper to the base of the lantern and tape on a loop of ribbon/string to the top.

Extension ideas:

You may like to add more detail to your sun e.g. eyes, mouth or provide children with shiny bits and pieces and/or glitter along with glue for them to further decorate their sun.

Fact: The colour red symbolises happiness, wealth, prosperity.



Learning Outcome 2: Children are connected with & contribute to their world.



Coordinator extension ideas and group time guide

Sensory activity: Chopstick Fun

You will need: Rice tray with chopsticks

(If you prefer not to use rice, you could use shredded red paper)

Instructions:

Small tray with dried rice (you may like to colour the rice red beforehand – just add some drops of red food colouring to rice, mix and allow to dry) chopsticks, bowls, any items to hide in the tray e.g. small plastic animals like the animals in the zodiac or pom-poms. Practise using chopsticks (or use tweezers) to find and pick up items and transfer them to bowls.

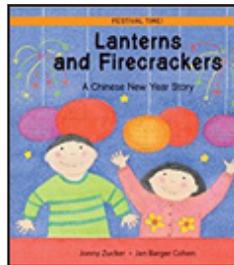
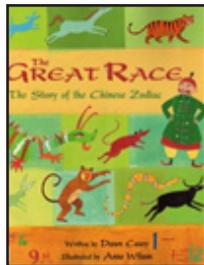
Outside activity:

Red Treasure Hunt

Hide red objects outside in the environment for children to find such as red balls, large red pom-poms, red feathers, red pop sticks, painted red rocks. Provide a large red bucket for the found items to be put into.

Book Suggestions:

The Great Race by Dawn Casey,
Lanterns and Firecrackers by Jonny Zucker & Jan Barger Cohen.



Or use an iPad or laptop to watch The Great Race –Chinese Zodiac –YouTube. It is an ancient Chinese story about how the Jade Emperor had The Great Race across the river and awarded the first 12 animals to cross with their very own year.

Group time ideas:

- Ask children if they found out what animal their Chinese Zodiac sign is and have them tell the group.
- Practise saying hello in Chinese: Hello- Ni hao (if you have Chinese families attending your Playgroup, ask them to help with how to pronounce it or use YouTube).
- Count to ten in English then try counting to ten in Chinese.

Chinese Numbers

English Translation

1 = 一	one = yee
2 = 二	two = uhr
3 = 三	three = sahn
4 = 四	four = suh
5 = 五	five = woo
6 = 六	six = lyo
7 = 七	seven = chee
8 = 八	eight = bah
9 = 九	nine = jyo
10 = 十	ten = shi



The Great Animal Race

Tune: Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush

The animals all swam in the race, (swim arms)

The animals all swam in the race, (swim arms)

The animals all swam in the race, (swim arms)

Are you ready steady go?

The ox was strong and he swam very fast, (strong arms, then swim arms)

The ox was strong and he swam very fast, (strong arms, then swim arms)

The ox was strong and he swam very fast, (strong arms, then swim arms)

And he thought he'd won the race.

The clever little rat jumped onto his tail, (jump)

The clever little rat jumped onto his back, (jump)

The clever little rat jumped over his head, (jump)

And the rat won the race instead. (put one finger up)

The rat came first and the pig came last, (one finger up for first, hands out palms up for last)

The rat came first and the pig came last, (one finger up for first, hands out palms up for last)

The rat came first and the pig came last, (one finger up for first, hands out palms up for last)

And that was the end of the race. *(clap hands)*

Dragon Grooving Song

(<https://fawesome.tv/kids-edutainment/10108480-chinese-new-year-song-for-kids-with-lyrics-dragon-dance-music-dragon-dance>)

Dragon moving, dragon grooving

Dragon dragon dance

Swishing left

Dip it right

Dragon dragon dance

Dragon don't set fire to my underpants

How to say goodbye in Chinese:

Goodbye- Zàijiàn



