

LUNAR NEW YEAR LIBRARY LESSON

Editable text

Ready to teach TODAY!

Free annual updates

Grades 2-5

HÓNG BĀO 红包

Paper money put inside hóng bāo should be new and crisp.

You should never put old, dirty,
or worn-out money in a hóng bāo .

Employers also give their employees
hóng bāo for Lunar New Year.



RECOMMENDED READS

"Lunar New Year"

- PICTURE BOOKS**
- Take Me to Laolao (Zhang)
 - Tomorrow is New Year's Day: Seattle, Lunar New Year (Kim)
 - Lao Lao's Dumplings (Lu)
 - Dragon Noodle Party (Compestine)
 - Friends Are Friends, Forever (Liu)
 - The Cat From Hunger Mountain (Yu)
 - The Chinese Emperor's New Cbit
 - The Chinese Race (Cassidy)
 - The Great Po (Young)
 - Lon Po Po (Young)
 - Nian, the Chinese New Year Dr
 - Yeh-Shen: A Cinderella Story fr
 - Hot Pot Night (Chen)
 - Eyes That Kiss in the Corners
 - Dumplings for Li (Walt)
 - The Rice in the Pot Goes Ro!

SCAVENGER

Can you find these pictures in th



Chinese house fireworks

SCAVENGER HUNT



How many of these pictures and facts can you find in the Lunar New Year

Name _____ Class _____

2025 is the Year of the: _____	Color this envelope the Chinese color 'hong' _____
Can the Great Wall of China be seen from Space? _____	This or That: Rice or Noodles? _____

LET'S TALK ABOUT...LUNAR NEW YEAR!

Today in the library, we learned about Lunar New Year! Here are some things I learned...

LUNAR NEW YEAR QUIZ

1. What continent is China on?
2. 2025 is the Year of what animal?
3. How many days is Lunar New Year celebrated?
4. Match _____

RECOMMENDED LUNAR NEW YEAR BOOKS

- Dragon Noodle Party (Compestine)
- Tomorrow is New Year's Day (Kim)
- The Cat From Hunger Mountain (Yu)
- (Young)

LET'S DRAW A CUDDLY PANDA!

1

2



THIS LIBRARY LESSON INCLUDES:



FOOD

... during Lunar New Year include:

- fish
- dumplings

TRUE OR FALSE?

Lunar New Year starts on January 1st
and ends on December 31st.



2-part presentation (whole-group lesson + scrolling slideshow)



2 scavenger hunt activities + answer key



Printable Recommended Reads list



2-page Take Home Extension Activities



Standards-aligned lesson plan (AASL, CCSS, and TEKS)

FREE ANNUAL UPDATES

The Chinese zodiac changes animals every year. This resource is updated each year in December to reflect the upcoming year's animal and dates of the holiday.

Once you purchase this resource, all updates are free.

Simply redownload the file from your account.



YEAR OF THE HORSE

2026 is the Year of the Horse.
The Horse brings success and good fortune.

People born in the Year of the Horse are said to be energetic, hard-working, agreeable, confident, and independent.

People born in the Year of the Horse are also said to be impatient and don't like being told what to do.

ALL TEXT IS EDITABLE

Images
are not
editable



WORD OF THE WEEK

dumplings

(noun)

Dumplings are a popular food in Asian countries.

They are little pillows of dough filled with meat, vegetables, and spices.

Have you ever eaten dumplings?

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Editable
headers and
body text

Edit in PowerPoint or Google Slides. Images have been locked to protect copyright.

GREAT FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY!



These are hands down the best library shows on TPT. I've never found any that compare. Thank you!

~The Whimsical Teacher
(used with 5th Grade)



These slides were a great way to introduce the Lunar New Year. My students loved finding out all this new information on a large holiday most didn't know much about. This is a great resource!

~Amanda R. (used with Grades 1-4)

PART I - WHOLE-GROUP LESSON

Part I is a whole-group lesson.
It is a librarian-led, guided discussion
to introduce Lunar New Year.

This presentation mainly focuses on
Lunar New Year celebrations in China
(I lived and taught in China for six years).



WHAT IS LUNAR NEW YEAR?

Lunar New Year happens every year.

It is a celebration of a new year,
but it does not start on January 1.

...ar New Year

WHAT DO FAMILIES DO



During Lunar New Year, families
attend parades

PART II - SCROLLING SLIDES

LET'S COUNT!

Counting to five in Chinese is so easy!



THIS OR THAT?



noodles

OR



The slides in Part II need to be set on a timer (instructions with visuals included).

The scrolling slides include fun facts about China, Chinese foods, Chinese New Year traditions, Would-You-Rathers, This-or-That's, how to write numbers 1-5 in Chinese, and vocabulary words.

Students watch the slideshow to find the images and information included in the differentiated Scavenger Hunt activities.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Are these lessons
ready to use TODAY?**

Mostly, yes! There are three slides that are customizable to your library.

If you need a lesson in a pinch, you can just skip over or delete those slides in the lesson.

Is this lesson editable?

Yes – all text in all parts of the lesson presentation and printables are editable in PPT and Google Slides.

Upload to Canva or Adobe Acrobat Pro to edit the PDF versions.

The PDF version is **optional** and added for additional convenience.

How often is this resource updated for the new year?

The Zodiac animal changes every year, so I update this resource annually in December.

Once purchased, all future updates to this resource are FREE! Simply login and redownload the lesson when you are ready to use it.

DIFFERENTIATED SCAVENGER HUNTS

Name _____ Class _____

SCAVENGER HUNT

Can you find these pictures in the presentation?

EASIER

Chinese house

paper lantern

bowl of rice

Great Wall of China

三本书
sān běn shū
(three books)

red envelope

Name _____ Class _____

SCAVENGER HUNT

How many of these pictures and facts can you find in the Lunar New Year slides?

HARDER

2025 is the Year of the: _____

Write the numbers 1-5 in Chinese characters: _____

Can the Great Wall of China be seen from Space? _____

This or That: Rice or Noodles? _____

What continent is China on? _____

When is Lunar New Year in 2025? _____

True or false? Pandas are an endangered species. _____

A city in China called Harbin is made of _____

These two colors are lucky in China _____

Name _____ Class _____

SCAVENGER HUNT

How many of these pictures and facts can you find in the Lunar New Year slides?

ANSWER KEY

2026 is the Year of the: **Horse**

Write the numbers 1-5 in Chinese characters: **一 二 三 四 五**

red

Feb. 17

red and gold
These two colors are lucky in China

True

A city in China called Harbin is made of colorful **ice**

pollution
Why are fireworks banned in some Chinese cities?

How old is the Great Wall of China?
2300 years

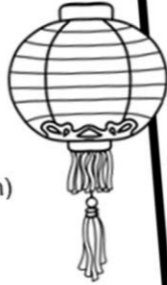
CHINA

Keep students engaged during checkout! All images and answers to the questions appear in Part II of the presentation. Two differentiated versions! All text is editable.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDED READS

“Lunar New Year”



PICTURE BOOKS

Take Me to Laolao (Zhang)
Tomorrow is New Year's Day: Seollal, a Korean Celebration of the Lunar New Year (Kim)
Lao Lao's Dumplings (Liu)
Dragon Noodle Party (Compestine)
Friends Are Friends, Forever (Liu)
The Cat From Hunger Mountain (Young)
The Chinese Emperor's New Clothes (Compestine)
The Great Race (Casey)
Lon Po Po (Young)
Nian, the Chinese New Year Dragon (Loh-Hogan)
Yeh-Shen: A Cinderella Story from China (Ai-Ling Louie)
Hot Pot Night (Chen)
Eyes That Kiss in the Corners (Ho)
Dumplings for Lili (Iwai)
The Rice in the Pot Goes Round and Round (Wan-Long Shang)



FICTION

The Nine Moons of Han Yu and Luli (Glaser)
Pahua and the Soul Stealer (Lee)
The Last Fallen Star (Kim)
View from Pagoda Hill (MacColl)
Bronze and Sunflower (Wenxuan)
Dumpling Days (Lin)
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon (Lin)

NONFICTION & BIOGRAPHY

Up, Under a Red Flag: A Memoir of Surviving the Chinese Cultural Revolution (Compestine)
... (Lin Wang and Johnston)

Includes a printable list of 31 picture books, fiction, graphic novels, and informational books that feature Lunar New Year.

This list is great for student reference, for teachers, or to send home to parents.

All text is editable.

TAKE-HOME EXTENSION ACTIVITIES


Students love to show off what they've learned!

Send these two activity pages home with students after the Lunar New Year Library Lesson.


All text is editable.

LET'S TALK ABOUT...LUNAR NEW YEAR!

Today in the library, we learned about Lunar New Year! Here are some things I learned...



LUNAR NEW YEAR QUIZ



1. What continent is China on?
2. 2026 is the Year of what animal?
3. How many days is Lunar New Year celebrated?
4. Myth or fact? The Great Wall of China can be seen from space without a telescope.
5. Hóng bāo are envelopes filled with money. What color are the envelopes?

(answers on other side)

RECOMMENDED LUNAR NEW YEAR BOOKS


- *Dragon Noodle Party* (Compestine)
- *Tomorrow is New Year's Day* (Kim)
- *The Cat From Hunger Mountain* (Young)
- *The Great Race* (Casey)
- *Nian, the Chinese New Year Dragon* (Loh-Hogan)
- *Eyes That Kiss in the Corners* (Ho)

WRITE NUMBERS IN CHINESE!

1	yī	一	
2	èr	二	
3	sān	三	
4	sì	四	
5	wǔ	五	
6	liù	六	
7	qī	七	
8	bā	八	


SIGN LANGUAGE: "CHINA"

1. Point to your upper chest. Your finger does not have to touch your chest, but it can if you want.
2. Draw a large 7. It's okay if the 7 is backward.




LUNAR NEW YEAR WORDS

- lunar
- moon phases
- dumplings
- prosperity
- Asia



CUDDLY PANDA!




LUNAR NEW YEAR LONG NOODLES

During Lunar New Year, families eat long noodles. If you can slurp the noodles without breaking them, it means you will live a long and prosperous life!

YOU WILL NEED:

- 16 oz. package of long noodles (such as spaghetti or linguine), unbroken
- 1 stick of butter (8 tbsp)
- 1 cup grated parmesan cheese
- Large cooking pot
- Large colander
- Water



EDITABLE LESSON PLAN

NOTES ON THIS LESSON:

Use this space for any notes you might want for next year.
Is there anything you want to add or change next year?

PREPARING YOUR LESSON

Prep is very important for this lesson! Before your lesson, you will need to:

- **Check your lesson area.** Your lesson area should have the ability to play the PowerPoint where students can see it. Audio not needed for this lesson.
- If you have a **slide remote "clicker"** (recommended), put it in your lesson area or where you can access it easily.
- **Edit your slides.** You will definitely need to edit your slides before your lesson.
- **Learn the sign language sign.** I linked it in the notes so you already know it before storytime.
- **Practice your pronunciations.** Several slides have Chinese language. Pronunciations are in the notes. You will have to be in edit mode, not presentation mode, to edit them. Ask a staff member or student who speaks Chinese for help with pronunciations.
- **Select your read-aloud(s).** I have included a list of books you can choose any book you like.
- **Organize your slides.** Do you want to have any of them up into the discussion or presentation?
- **Set your timings** if you plan to do a read-aloud (included).
- If you are using this theme for all of your storytime, do you want to display of readalikes in the library?
- Do you want to use any **props** in your storytime area.

LESSON PLAN

THE STUDENTS WILL...

- Express curiosity about a potential topic of interest (Lunar New Year)
- Extend interest and learning by reading and/or checking out library books about Asian countries or celebrations
- Discuss Lunar New Year traditions
- Identify 2026 as the Year of the Horse

SIGN LANGUAGE

- "China"

LIBRARY SKILL

- Dewey Decimal section for books about China (900—History and Geography)

READ-ALOUD(S)

TYPE READ-ALOUD TITLES HERE

TERMS & CONCEPTS

- Traditions
- Great Wall of China
- High-speed trains
- Lunar = moon
- How families celebrate Lunar New Year
- Lunar New Year foods
- Gifts (red envelopes)
- Multiple Chinese words and characters
- Why fireworks are banned in some Chinese cities
- Chinese Zodiac and the animals
- Year of the Horse
- Counting 1-5 in Chinese
- Cities in China—Harbin, Shanghai, Chengdu

POST-READING ACTIVITY

Scavenger hunt activity for finding and coloring Lunar New Year items featured in the lesson
For teachers and parents—List of Recommended Reads for Lunar New Year
2-page Take Home Extension Activities

LESSON PLAN—K

DATE: TYPE LESSON DATE HERE
GRADES: TYPE GRADE LEVELS HERE

SUPPLIES AND RESOURCES NEEDED
• Computer, projector or TV screen, slide "clicker"
• Books for read-aloud
• Copies of scavenger hunt (one per student, differentiated)
• Crayons, pencils, colored pencils, dot markers

AASL STANDARDS FRAMEWORK
AASL V.C.1
Expressing curiosity about a topic of personal interest or curiosity

AASL L.3
Engaging new understanding through real-world connections

COMMON CORE STANDARDS
CCSS ELA/ITERACY.CC.20.10
Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently

TEKS
1118.1.1.1 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND READING, GRADE 1, ADOPTED 2017
(1) Developing and sustaining literal, inferential, and critical thinking and language skills through listening, reading, and discussion. The student is expected to:
(A) listen actively to interpret verbal and non-verbal messages, ask relevant questions, and make pertinent comments

LESSON PLAN—1

DATE: TYPE LESSON DATE HERE
GRADES: TYPE GRADE LEVELS HERE

SUPPLIES AND RESOURCES NEEDED
• Computer, projector or TV screen, slide "clicker"
• Books for read-aloud
• Copies of scavenger hunt (one per student, differentiated)
• Crayons, pencils, colored pencils, dot markers

AASL STANDARDS FRAMEWORK
AASL V.C.1
Expressing curiosity about a topic of personal interest or curiosity

AASL L.3
Engaging new understanding through real-world connections

COMMON CORE STANDARDS
CCSS ELA/ITERACY.CC.20.10
Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently

TEKS
1118.1.1.1 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND READING, GRADE 1, ADOPTED 2017
(1) Developing and sustaining literal, inferential, and critical thinking and language skills through listening, reading, and discussion. The student is expected to:
(A) listen actively to interpret verbal and non-verbal messages, ask relevant questions, and make pertinent comments

LESSON PLAN—2

DATE: TYPE LESSON DATE HERE
GRADES: TYPE GRADE LEVELS HERE

SUPPLIES AND RESOURCES NEEDED
• Computer, projector or TV screen, slide "clicker"
• Books for read-aloud
• Copies of scavenger hunt (one per student, differentiated)
• Crayons, pencils, colored pencils, dot markers

AASL STANDARDS FRAMEWORK
AASL V.C.1
Expressing curiosity about a topic of personal interest or curiosity

AASL L.3
Engaging new understanding through real-world connections

COMMON CORE STANDARDS
CCSS ELA/ITERACY.CC.20.10
Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently

TEKS
1118.1.1.1 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND READING, GRADE 1, ADOPTED 2017
(1) Developing and sustaining literal, inferential, and critical thinking and language skills through listening, reading, and discussion. The student is expected to:
(A) listen actively to interpret verbal and non-verbal messages, ask relevant questions, and make pertinent comments

LESSON PLAN—3

DATE: TYPE LESSON DATE HERE
GRADES: TYPE GRADE LEVELS HERE

SUPPLIES AND RESOURCES NEEDED
• Computer, projector or TV screen, slide "clicker"
• Books for read-aloud
• Copies of scavenger hunt (one per student, differentiated)
• Crayons, pencils, colored pencils, dot markers

AASL STANDARDS FRAMEWORK
AASL V.C.1
Expressing curiosity about a topic of personal interest or curiosity

AASL L.3
Engaging new understanding through real-world connections

COMMON CORE STANDARDS
CCSS ELA/ITERACY.CC.20.10
Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently

TEKS
1118.1.1.1 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND READING, GRADE 1, ADOPTED 2017
(1) Developing and sustaining literal, inferential, and critical thinking and language skills through listening, reading, and discussion. The student is expected to:
(A) listen actively to interpret verbal and non-verbal messages, ask relevant questions, and make pertinent comments

LESSON PLAN—4

DATE: TYPE LESSON DATE HERE
GRADES: TYPE GRADE LEVELS HERE

SUPPLIES AND RESOURCES NEEDED
• Computer, projector or TV screen, slide "clicker"
• Books for read-aloud
• Copies of scavenger hunt (one per student, differentiated)
• Crayons, pencils, colored pencils, dot markers

AASL STANDARDS FRAMEWORK
AASL V.C.1
Expressing curiosity about a topic of personal interest or curiosity

AASL L.3
Engaging new understanding through real-world connections

COMMON CORE STANDARDS
CCSS ELA/ITERACY.CC.20.10
Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently

TEKS
1118.1.1.1 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND READING, GRADE 1, ADOPTED 2017
(1) Developing and sustaining literal, inferential, and critical thinking and language skills through listening, reading, and discussion. The student is expected to:
(A) listen actively to interpret verbal and non-verbal messages, ask relevant questions, and make pertinent comments

LESSON PLAN—5

DATE: TYPE LESSON DATE HERE
GRADES: TYPE GRADE LEVELS HERE

SUPPLIES AND RESOURCES NEEDED
• Computer, projector or TV screen, slide "clicker"
• Books for read-aloud
• Copies of scavenger hunt (one per student, differentiated)
• Crayons, pencils, colored pencils, dot markers

AASL STANDARDS FRAMEWORK
AASL V.C.1
Expressing curiosity about a topic of personal interest or curiosity

AASL L.3
Engaging new understanding through real-world connections

COMMON CORE STANDARDS
CCSS ELA/ITERACY.CC.20.10
Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently

TEKS
1118.1.1.1 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND READING, GRADE 1, ADOPTED 2017
(1) Developing and sustaining literal, inferential, and critical thinking and language skills through listening, reading, and discussion. The student is expected to:
(A) listen actively to interpret verbal and non-verbal messages, ask relevant questions, and make pertinent comments

Includes pre-filled lesson plan with AASL, CCSS, and TEKS standards for Grades 2-5.

100% editable to make it as easy and useful as possible!

MORE ELEMENTARY LIBRARY LESSONS

Love this Library Lesson? I have a lot more! All follow the same format as this Lunar New Year Library Lesson. The lessons below are all designed for 50-minute classes or two 25-minute classes.

INCLUDES GOOGLE™ SLIDES

ELEMENTARY LIBRARY LESSON

TRIVIA QUESTION

In what winter sport might you see a hat trick?

- A. skiing
- B. snowboarding
- C. ice hockey
- D. bobsledding

(answer on next slide)

GRADES K-5

The Reader Pants

INCLUDES GOOGLE™ SLIDES

HEARTS LIBRARY LESSON

TRUE OR FALSE?

The heart of a human baby is the same size as the heart of a human adult.

(answer on next slide)

GRADES K-5

Perfect for Valentine's Day!

The Reader Pants

INCLUDES GOOGLE SLIDES

BOOK AWARDS LIBRARY LESSON

WHAT IS AN ILLUSTRATOR?

Illustrators create the pictures for a book. The illustrations can be drawings, paintings, or even digital designs.

Some books also have photographs. These pictures are taken by photographers.

Some books have both photos and illustrations on the pages!

GRADES K-5

Updated for 2025!

The Reader Pants