



## Chinese New Year — Year of the Horse (February 17, 2026)

# TEACHING GUIDE

**i What?** Chinese New Year, a major traditional festival that marks the beginning of a new year according to the lunar calendar. 2026 is the Year of the Horse.

**Who?** Chinese families and communities around the world, as well as people born under the sign of the Horse.

**Where?** Primarily in China, but also in several Asian countries and major cities around the world such as Montreal, Paris, London, and New York.

**When?** The New Year will be celebrated on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

**Why is it important?** Because this festival symbolizes a new beginning and is an opportunity to wish good fortune, health, and prosperity for the coming year. Each animal of the zodiac, like the Horse, also represents certain qualities and influences for the year.

**For this activity, your goal will be to learn a little more about the Chinese New Year and the Year of the Horse!**

### OBJECTIVES

- Understand what the Lunar New Year is.
- Discover how the Chinese zodiac works.
- Identify the animals of the 12-year cycle.
- Match a year with its animal.
- Reflect on the personality traits associated with a sign.

### COMPETENCIES

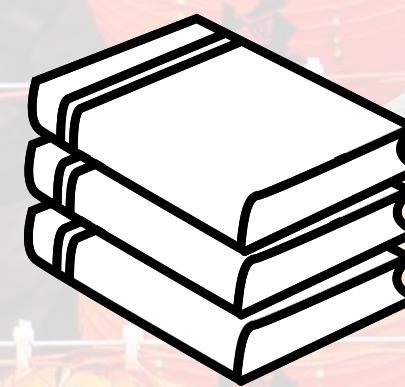
- Search for and select relevant information.
- Read and interpret a visual (zodiac wheel).
- Understand a cyclical system.
- Justify an answer.
- Establish links between culture and personal identity.

### DURATION

- About 60 minutes

### GETTING STARTED

- Show a picture of red lanterns or a Chinese New Year parade.
- Ask the students:
  - "Why doesn't the Chinese New Year begin on January 1st?"
  - "Do you know your Chinese zodiac animal?"
- Locate China on a world map.
- Briefly explain the concept of the lunar calendar.



### SUBJECTS

- Social Studies / Geography**
  - Location of China on the globe.
  - Concepts of culture and traditions.
  - Differences between calendars.
- Mathematics**
  - Understanding a cycle (12-year period).
  - Identifying years within a sequence.
- English**
  - Reading instructions.
  - Understanding informational texts.
  - Writing short answers.
  - Expressing an opinion.
- General Knowledge**
  - Traditions of the Lunar New Year.
  - Symbolism of colors.
  - Annual human migration in China.



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#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**STEP 1 — Discovering the Chinese New Year.** Watching of a short video about the Chinese New Year and answers to three comprehension questions.

**Q1 — Between January 21 and February 20.**

**Q2 — To ward off evil spirits / avoid bad luck.**

**Q3 — Gathering with family, sharing a meal, giving red envelopes, attending parades.**

**STEP 2 — The Chinese Horoscope.** Consultation of a website about the Chinese New Year and answers to four comprehension questions.

**Q4 — The Monkey.**

**Q5 — The Ox.**

**Q6 — The Dragon.**

**Q7 — The Tiger.**

**STEP 3 — Your Chinese Zodiac Sign.** Answers to three questions about the characteristics of the Chinese zodiac animals using a website.

**Q8 — Energetic, free-spirited, determined (possible answers).**

**Q9 — Variable answer.**

**Q10 — Personal answer.**

#### WRAPPING UP

- Review:
  - the difference between the solar and lunar calendars;
  - the 12-year cycle;
  - the cultural significance of the Chinese New Year.
- Ask the student to name:
  - a surprising fact they learned;
  - their zodiac animal.
- Remind them that understanding other cultures helps us better understand the world.



#### FURTHER EXPLORATION

 Vivian Jun Kirklin. *What Is Lunar New Year?* Penguin Workshop

