



# Chinese New Year

14

## ✓ Lesson Objectives

### Core Content Objectives

Students will:

- ✓ Locate Asia and China on a map or globe
- ✓ Describe the Chinese New Year

### Language Arts Objectives

The following language arts objectives are addressed in this lesson. Objectives aligning with the Common Core State Standards are noted with the corresponding standard in parentheses. Refer to the Alignment Chart for additional standards addressed in all lessons in this domain.

Students will:

- ✓ Identify that the main topic of the read-aloud is about Chinese New Year (RI.2.2)
- ✓ Identify that the main purpose of the read-aloud is to tell about Chinese New Year (RI.2.6)
- ✓ Describe how Chinese New Year is celebrated using facts from the read-aloud “Chinese New Year” (RI.2.8)
- ✓ Compare and contrast, orally and in writing, information about Diwali and Chinese New Year onto a Venn diagram (RI.2.9)
- ✓ Compare and contrast information presented in the read-aloud “Chinese New Year” to information presented in a trade book about Chinese New Year (RI.2.9)
- ✓ With assistance, organize facts and information about Diwali and Chinese New Year onto a Venn diagram (W.2.8)
- ✓ Recount personal experiences about how their families prepare for and celebrate New Year’s (SL.2.4)
- ✓ Use known root words as a clue to the meaning of words ending in the suffix *-ous* (L.2.4c)

- ✓ Identify real-life connections between words—*Chinese New Year*, *celebration*, *fortune*, and *prosperous*—and their use (L.2.5a)

## Core Vocabulary

**adhering, v.** Following or holding onto

*Example:* The class kept adhering to the same classroom rules with the substitute teacher.

*Variation(s):* adhere, adheres, adhered

**banished, v.** Sent or drove away

*Example:* The king banished the swindlers from his palace.

*Variation(s):* banish, banishes, banishing

**grudges, n.** Bad feelings held against one or more persons

*Example:* Even though her brothers apologized, Andrea was still holding grudges instead of forgiving them.

*Variation(s):* grudge

**prosperous, adj.** Having good fortune or success

*Example:* Everyone in the neighborhood wished the new store owners a prosperous start.

*Variation(s):* none

Vocabulary Chart for Chinese New Year			
Core Vocabulary words are in <b>bold</b> . Multiple Meaning Word Activity word is <u>underlined&gt;</u> . Vocabulary Instructional Activity words have an asterisk (*). Suggested words to pre-teach are in <i>italics</i> .			
Type of Words	Tier 3 Domain-Specific Words	Tier 2 General Academic Words	Tier 1 Everyday-Speech Words
<b>Understanding</b>	Buddha dragon fireworks <i>fortune</i> lanterns <b>prosperous*</b>	<b>adhering</b> <b>banished</b> <i>celebration</i> <b>grudges</b>	animal birthday clothes family forgive haircut moon red
<b>Multiple Meaning</b>	parade		feast
<b>Phrases</b>	<i>Chinese New Year</i> evil spirits Lantern Festival lunar calendar new moon red envelope	a fresh new beginning adhering to tradition	
<b>Cognates</b>	Buda dragón <i>fortuna</i> linterna <b>próspero(a)*</b>	<b>adherirse</b> <i>celebración</i>	animal familia

## Image Sequence

This is the order in which Flip Book images will be shown for this read-aloud. It uses the same sequence as the *Tell It Again! Read-Aloud Anthology*.

1. 14A-1: Fireworks
2. 14A-2: Calendar and moon cycle
3. 14A-3: Fireworks, food, red decorations, and red envelopes
4. 14A-4: Chinese dragons dancing in the street
5. 14A-5: Birthday cake
6. 14A-6: Twelve animal signs of Chinese New Year
7. 14A-7: Street celebration with dragon

<i>At a Glance</i>	Exercise	Materials	Minutes
<b><i>Introducing the Read-Aloud</i></b>	What Have We Learned?	Image 6A-6; world map	15
	Introducing Chinese New Year	world map	
	Vocabulary Preview: Chinese New Year/Celebration, Fortune		
	Purpose for Listening		
<b><i>Presenting the Read-Aloud</i></b>	Chinese New Year		15
<b><i>Discussing the Read-Aloud</i></b>	Comprehension Questions		10
	Word Work: Prosperous		
 Complete Remainder of the Lesson Later in the Day			
<b><i>Extensions</i></b>	Celebrations Venn Diagram	Instructional Master 14B-1 (optional); chart paper, chalkboard, whiteboard	20
	Domain-Related Trade Book		

### Advance Preparation

For Celebrations Venn Diagram, draw a large Venn diagram on chart paper, a chalkboard, or a whiteboard for the class to fill in together as they compare Diwali and Chinese New Year. You may also wish to make copies of Instructional Master 14B-1 and have students fill it in.

Bring in a trade book about Chinese New Year to read aloud to the class.

### ***Note to Teacher***

This lesson talks about the lunar calendar as another way of telling time. Students who studied the Core Knowledge Language Arts program in Grade 1 learned about the phases of the moon in the *Astronomy* domain. It is important for students to understand that the moon goes through cycles and that Chinese New Year begins on a new moon.

You may wish to find out the Chinese New Year dates for the current year (it usually begins sometime at the end of January to middle of February).

Your class will hear about the twelve animal signs of the Chinese zodiac. You may wish to find out which animal year it is [e.g. The Year of the (animal)]. You may also wish to find out the animal year in which your students were born.

**Note:** Students born at the beginning of the year, January and February, were probably born in the year of the previous animal.



# Chinese New Year

14<sub>A</sub>

## Introducing the Read-Aloud

15 minutes



### What Have We Learned?

#### ◀ Show image 6A-6: Diwali celebration

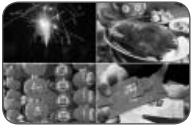
- You may wish to ask students the following questions to review what they have learned about Diwali:
  - What are these images related to?
  - Diwali
  - What is Diwali also known as, or what is another name for Diwali?
  - Festival of Lights
  - Where was Diwali first celebrated?
  - ancient India
  - [Invite a student to point to ancient India (present-day Pakistan and India) on a world map.]
  - Where is Diwali celebrated now?
  - Diwali is celebrated by Indians all over the world.
- Say to students, “Tell your partner one thing you remember about Diwali.” Allow thirty seconds for students to talk. Call on four volunteers to share. [Briefly review related images and read-aloud text from Lesson 6 to reinforce what students have shared.]

### Introduction to Chinese New Year

- Tell students that today they will hear about a popular Chinese holiday called Chinese New Year.
- Have students think about what special things they do for New Year’s Day. Call on several students to share.
- Prompt students by asking them about special New Year’s traditions they may have, whether they see relatives during that time, clean their homes, eat special foods, or go someplace special.

## Vocabulary Preview

### *Chinese New Year/Celebration*



#### ◀ Show image 14A-3: Fireworks, food, red decorations, and red envelopes

1. In today's read-aloud, you will hear about a special Chinese *celebration* called *Chinese New Year*.
2. Say the words *Chinese New Year* with me three times.  
Say the word *celebration* with me three times.
3. A celebration is a party or special event for a special occasion.  
Chinese New Year is a celebration that began in ancient China and is now celebrated by Chinese who live all over the world today.
4. Li Hua's mother has been preparing the food for their family's Chinese New Year celebration for two weeks.
5. By looking at these pictures, what do you think the Chinese do to celebrate Chinese New Year?

### *Fortune*

1. During Chinese New Year, the Chinese wish each other good *fortune* for the coming year.
2. Say the word *fortune* with me three times.
3. *Fortune* means luck.
4. Xue lost his favorite book at his friend's home; that is bad fortune.
5. Tell your partner about a time you had good fortune (or bad fortune).

## Purpose for Listening

Ask students what they think the purpose of this read-aloud might be. Ask them what they think they are going to learn from this read-aloud. Confirm that the main topic of this read-aloud is Chinese New Year. Tell students to listen carefully to find out how Chinese New Year is similar to or different from New Year's Day in the United States.

By the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

- ✓ Describe the Chinese New Year



**Chinese New Year**

◀ **Show image 14A-1: Fireworks**

Weeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee! Pop! Weeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!

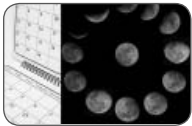
Pop!

Fireworks are another invention from ancient China.

Tell your partner whether you have seen fireworks before. When was it? Where were you? What did the fireworks look like?

[Allow fifteen seconds for students to talk. Call on two partner pairs to share.]

The Chinese set off fireworks to mark the beginning of their New Year.



◀ **Show image 14A-2: Calendar and moon cycle**

When is New Year's Day celebrated in the United States?

[Pause for students responses.]

We celebrate New Year's Day on the same day every year—the first day in January.

But in China, New Year's is celebrated sometime during the end of January to the middle of February. Chinese New Year is celebrated on different days every year because Chinese New Year begins with a new moon. A new moon is the start of a new moon cycle. During the new moon, the moon is barely visible in the night sky. You can hardly see the moon when it is a new moon.

[Trace the cycle of the moon. Mention that it takes less than one month, or less than thirty days, for a moon to complete one cycle. Invite a student to point to the new moon in the image.]

How many days is New Year's celebrated in America?

How many days do you think Chinese New Year is celebrated?

[Pause for student responses.]

Unlike New Year's Day in America, which is celebrated only on January first, Chinese New Year is celebrated for two weeks!



◀ **Show image 14A-3: Fireworks, food, red decorations, and red envelopes**

Chinese New Year is the longest and most important of all Chinese festivals.

**Adhering** to—or following—the tradition of the ancient Chinese, Chinese people prepare for their New Year by cleaning their homes from top to bottom. They believe that as they sweep away the dust from their homes, evil spirits are **banished**—and chased away.

They also set off fireworks to scare the evils spirits away.

They buy new clothes and even get a haircut to prepare themselves for a fresh new beginning.

**Adhering** to—or following—the tradition of their ancestors, they forgive one another of past **grudges**—or bad feelings they have toward each other—and try to turn their **grudges** into friendships.

Children receive red envelopes with money tucked inside. The red envelopes symbolize the giver's hopes that the child will receive good fortune—or luck—in the New Year.

And, of course, special foods are prepared in time for the scrumptious Chinese New Year feast—foods like fish, dumplings, sticky rice cakes, noodles, tangerines, and sweets. Family and friends gather together to eat these special foods and enjoy relaxing together.



◀ **Show image 14A-4: Chinese dragons dancing in the street**

Luck and good fortune are the main focus for the Chinese New Year as the Chinese prepare for a **prosperous**—and successful—year ahead. Can you guess what color is a sign of good fortune to the Chinese?

[Pause for student responses.]

The color red is the color of good fortune. The Chinese wear red clothes and decorate their homes with red paper cut into designs of Chinese characters for *good fortune*, *happiness*, and *long life*. Can you guess which animal is a symbol of good luck in Chinese culture?

[Pause for student responses.]



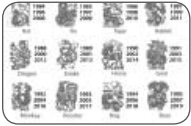
Dragons are symbols of good luck in Chinese culture. During New Year's celebrations, people dress up in red dragon costumes and parade in the streets.



◀ **Show image 14A-5: Birthday cake**

At the end of the first week, on the seventh day of celebrations, everyone has a birthday!

The Chinese celebrate everyone's birthday on the same day—the seventh day of Chinese New Year, not on the day they were actually born.



◀ **Show image 14A-6: Twelve animal signs of Chinese New Year**

[Point to each animal as you refer to it.]

Each new year is named for a particular animal—rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, and boar (or pig).

According to Chinese legend, when the Buddha was dying, he called all the animals in the kingdom to his side. Only twelve animals came. As a reward to these animals for coming, the Buddha named a year after each of these twelve animals.



◀ **Show image 14A-7: Street celebration with dragon**

On the fifteenth—and last—day of Chinese New Year, when the moon is full, the lucky dragon leads parades all across China wishing everyone a **prosperous** New Year.

The fifteenth day of the Chinese New Year is also the day of the Lantern Festival, when thousands of colorful lanterns, large and small, can be seen everywhere. Some people spend an entire year designing their lanterns for a lantern contest. Some lanterns have riddles written on them.

When the light of the lanterns mingles—or mixes in—with the light of the full moon on the fifteenth day of celebrations, there is joy and hope for good fortune and a **prosperous** year ahead.

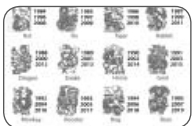
## Comprehension Questions

If students have difficulty responding to questions, reread pertinent lines of the read-aloud and/or refer to specific images. Ask students to answer in complete sentences by having them restate the question in their responses. Model answers using complete sentences as necessary.

1. *Literal* What is the main topic of today's read-aloud?
  - The main topic of today's read-aloud is about Chinese New Year and how the Chinese celebrate Chinese New Year.
2. *Literal* When is Chinese New Year celebrated?
  - Chinese New Year is celebrated sometime at the end of January to the middle of February. It begins on a day of the new moon.

How come Chinese New Year is not celebrated on the same days each year?

  - Chinese New Year is not celebrated on the same days each year because the Chinese use the lunar calendar, and their new year begins on a new moon.
3. *Literal* What do Chinese people do to prepare for Chinese New Year?
  - They clean their homes, set off fireworks, buy new clothes, get a haircut, forgive past grudges, give red envelopes, and prepare special foods.
4. *Literal* What are symbols of good fortune?
  - The color red and the dragon are symbols of good fortune.
5. *Evaluative* What differences are there between the Chinese New Year celebration and the New Year's celebration in the United States?
  - New Year's in the United States happens on the same day every year, January 1, and lasts for one day. The Chinese New Year begins with a new moon in either January or February and lasts two weeks. They are celebrated with different activities.
6. *Literal* When do the Chinese celebrate their birthdays?
  - The Chinese celebrate their birthdays on the seventh day of the Chinese New Year.



### ◀ Show image 14A-6: Twelve animal signs of Chinese New Year

7. *Inferential* Why is each year named after an animal?
 

[Invite students to say the names of each animal, starting with the rat.]

  - Each year is named after an animal because, according to a Buddhist

legend, these animals came to visit Buddha while he was dying.

[You may wish to tell your students the animal year in which they were born.]

[Please continue to model the *Think Pair Share* process for students, as necessary, and scaffold students in their use of the process.]

I am going to ask you a question. I will give you a minute to think about the question, and then I will ask you to turn to your partner and discuss the question. Finally, I will call on several of you to share what you discussed with your partner.

**Sentence Frames:**

Do you think celebrating Chinese New Year would be fun? (Yes/No)

The funnest part of celebrating Chinese New Year would be . . .

8. *Evaluative Think Pair Share:* What do you think would be the most fun part of celebrating Chinese New Year?
9. After hearing today's read-aloud and questions and answers, do you have any remaining questions? [If time permits, you may wish to allow for individual, group, or class research of the text and/or other resources to answer these questions.]

**Word Work: Prosperous**

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1. In the read-aloud you heard, "[T]he lucky dragon leads parades all across China wishing everyone a *prosperous* New Year."
2. Say the word *prosperous* with me three times.
3. *Prosperous* means having good fortune or success.
4. Chin's new restaurant had a prosperous first year with many returning customers.
5. Tell me whether what I say is an example of *prosperous* or not an example of *prosperous*.
  - Yuen made a lot of money selling fireworks.
  - prosperous
  - The school has money for a new gym.
  - prosperous
  - Mr. Wang had to close his shoe repair shop.
  - not prosperous
  - Virginia's father lost his job.
  - not prosperous
  - Very few people go to Shu-Mei's hair salon.
  - not prosperous

- There is a line that goes out the door for Nai-June's cupcakes
- prosperous

6. What's the word we've been talking about?

Use a *Word Parts* activity for follow-up. [Write the word *prosperous* on chart paper, a chalkboard, or a whiteboard. Tell students that the suffix *-ous* means "full of." For example, *famous* means full of fame; *courageous* means full of courage.]

Directions: I will say a word. Think about the word that you hear before the suffix *-ous* to help you define the word. Tell me what you think the word means.

1. joyous
  - full of joy
2. poisonous
  - full of poison
3. dangerous
  - full of danger
4. adventurous
  - full of adventure
5. envious
  - full of envy
6. mysterious
  - full of mystery
7. nutritious
  - full of nutrition



**Complete Remainder of the Lesson Later in the Day**



# Chinese New Year

14<sub>B</sub>

## Extensions

20 minutes

### Celebrations Venn Diagram (Instructional Master 14B-1, optional)

- Draw a Venn diagram on chart paper, a chalkboard, or a whiteboard. Label the left side “Diwali” and the right side “Chinese New Year.”
  - Remind students that they have just learned about the Chinese New Year and that earlier in the domain they learned about another festival, Diwali, the Festival of Lights, celebrated in India.
  - Tell students that they are going to compare and contrast how Diwali and the Chinese New Year are similar and different. You may want to use images from Lessons 6 and 14 as reminders.
  - Have partner pairs list ways Diwali and the Chinese New Year are the same. Ask students in which part of the diagram you should write their answers. Record student responses in the overlapping portion of the diagram.
    - celebrate new beginnings, good luck and fortune, hope for a prosperous year, eat special foods, clean and decorate homes, spend time with family and friends
  - Have partner pairs list ways Diwali and the Chinese New Year are different. Ask students in which parts of the diagram you should write their answers. Record student responses for Diwali on the left and responses for Chinese New Year on the right.
    - Diwali is in October or November, whereas Chinese New Year is in January or February; Diwali lasts five days, whereas Chinese New Year lasts two weeks; Diwali honors Vishnu and Lakshmi, whereas Chinese New Year does not honor any gods; Diwali lights lamps, whereas Chinese New Year lights lanterns
- Above and Beyond: Depending on your class, you may wish to have students do this activity individually as an assessment, using Instructional Master 14B-1.