

## Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our web site at [www.LibraryVideo.com](http://www.LibraryVideo.com)

- [www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/chinesenewyear/](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/chinesenewyear/)  
This web site presents lots of fun ideas for Chinese New Year activities and crafts, including printable books and interactive maps of China. Students can also learn the Chinese numbers from one to ten.
- [www.educ.uvic.ca/faculty/mroth/438/CHINA/chinese\\_new\\_year.html](http://www.educ.uvic.ca/faculty/mroth/438/CHINA/chinese_new_year.html)  
This informative site tells how Chinese New Year is typically celebrated, especially in terms of the foods, decorations and superstitions of the holiday.

## Suggested Print Resources

- Demi. *Happy, Happy Chinese New Year!* Random House Children's Books, New York, NY; 2003
- Flanagan, Alice K. *Chinese New Year.* Compass Point Books, Minneapolis, MN; 2004.
- Marx, David F. *Chinese New Year.* Children's Press, New York, NY; 2002.
- Walsh, Kieran. *Chinese New Year.* Rourke Pub. LLC, Vero Beach, FL; 2003.

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### The Holidays for Children Video Series

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|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| • ARBOR DAY                     | • HALLOWEEN                      | • PRESIDENTS DAY                            |
| • CHINESE NEW YEAR              | • HANUKKAH/PASSOVER              | • RAMADAN                                   |
| • CHRISTMAS                     | • INDEPENDENCE DAY               | • REMEMBERING<br>SEPTEMBER 11 <sup>th</sup> |
| • CHRISTMAS AROUND<br>THE WORLD | • KWANZAA                        | • ROSH HASHANAH/<br>YOM KIPUR               |
| • CINCO DE MAYO                 | • MARTIN LUTHER KING,<br>JR. DAY | • ST. PATRICK'S DAY                         |
| • EASTER                        | • MEMORIAL DAY/<br>VETERANS DAY  | • THANKSGIVING                              |
| • ELECTION DAY                  | • POW WOV                        | • VALENTINE'S DAY                           |
| • GROUNDHOG DAY                 |                                  |   |

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## Chinese New Year

### Grades K-4

This guide is a supplement designed for teachers to use when presenting programs in the video series *Holidays for Children*.

**Before Viewing:** Give students an introduction to the program by relaying aspects of the introduction to them. Select vocabulary and discussion questions to provide a focus for students when they view the program. Engage your class in a brainstorming activity to determine the prior knowledge that students have about the holiday.

**After Viewing:** Review the program and the information students brainstormed about the holiday. Help students to determine the accuracy of these ideas based on information they gained from watching the program and to add new ideas to their brainstorming list. Review the vocabulary and use the discussion questions and activities to inspire continued discussion. Encourage students to research the topic further with the Internet and print resources provided.

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## Introduction

Do you hear firecrackers and see dragons dancing? Then it must be Chinese New Year! This holiday is often celebrated with colorful festivals and the rhythmic music of drums. Chinese New Year is also a time for families to get together and to wish each other good luck and good fortune. *Gung hay fat choy!*

## Vocabulary

**Chinese New Year** — A holiday, celebrated in January or February by many people of Chinese descent, which celebrates the passing of the old year and the start of the new.

**chopsticks** — Sticks used for eating in many Asian countries.

**Chinese Zodiac** — Twelve animal signs that are used to represent years in a special Chinese calendar.

**Tai chi** — A form of exercise from China with slow and flowing movements.

## Discussion Questions

- Chinese New Year is a time to say good-bye to the old and welcome the new. Many people celebrating this holiday clean their houses, buy new clothes or get haircuts to get ready for a new year. Encourage students to brainstorm other ways in which they could prepare to clean out the old and to start over with the new.
- One way people celebrate Chinese New Year is to give lucky red envelopes with money in them called *Lai See*. If students could give lucky money to someone, who would it be? Why?
- On Chinese New Year, you often see parades with dragon dances and firecrackers. What other holidays can students think of that are celebrated with parades? How are these parades similar to and different from Chinese New Year parades?

## Follow-up Activities

- Encourage students to explore a map of China. What can they tell about the country from the map? How is China similar to and different from the United States, in terms of size, location and geography? See the following web site for an online map: [www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/china.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/china.html)
- Conduct a class research project about China. In small groups, students can learn more about the country's history, geography and culture, and share what they've learned with classmates. To help with the research, see helpful resources like *China* by Kay Melchisedech Olson (Capstone Press, 2003) or *China* by Susan Sinnott (Compass Point Books, 2000). The following web site will also be helpful for students' research: [www.timeforkids.com/TFK/specials/goplaces/0%2C12405%2C405621%2C00.html](http://www.timeforkids.com/TFK/specials/goplaces/0%2C12405%2C405621%2C00.html)

(Continued)

- Share some Chinese legends with students, like *Yeh-Shen: A Cinderella Story from China* by Ai-Ling Louie (Philomel Books, 1982) or *Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China* by Ed Young (Philomel Books, 1989). Students can make Venn diagrams comparing these stories with their more familiar American counterparts.
- As a class, learn how to eat with chopsticks! Encourage students to compare eating with chopsticks to eating with a fork. What do they find easier or more difficult? You can also share *Ying Chang Compestine's Story of Chopsticks* (Holiday House, 2001) to give students some insight into these unique eating utensils.
- Students can find out more about the Chinese Zodiac, including which symbols represent them based on the years they were born. Do students feel that the characteristics for their zodiac signs suit them? Why or why not? See the following web site for Chinese Zodiac signs and characteristics: [www.afk.com/resources/kidscorner](http://www.afk.com/resources/kidscorner)
- Learn more about Tai Chi and increase your class' concentration and health by performing the movements. See *Tai Chi for Kids: Move with the Animals* by Stuart Alve Olson (Bear Cub Books, 2001) for guidance. After completing the movements, ask students to discuss how this type of exercise made them feel. How is it similar to and different from other types of exercise that they do?
- Gift-giving is an important part of celebrating Chinese New Year, especially giving lucky money or *Lai See*. Share *Sam and the Lucky Money* by Karen Chinn (Lee & Low Books, 1995) with your students. After reading, discuss Sam's decision about how he spends his lucky money. What would students have done?
- Moon cakes are a popular treat for Chinese New Year. Make some with your students to celebrate! See the following web site for a yummy recipe: [www.afk.com/resources/mooncakerecipe.tpl?cart=1070283692343254](http://www.afk.com/resources/mooncakerecipe.tpl?cart=1070283692343254)
- The end of the Chinese New Year celebration is marked by a Lantern Festival, when streets are decorated with lanterns and lanterns are carried in parades. Encourage students to make their own lanterns. See the following web site for instructions: [www.kidsdomain.com/craft/lantern1.html](http://www.kidsdomain.com/craft/lantern1.html)