

# Inclusive Calendar Resources

## 2023-2024



### Holiday or Event Date(s)

Lunar New Year

February 10th, 2024 with celebrations culminating on February 24th, 2024

### Description and Information

Lunar New Year is a celebration of the arrival of spring and the beginning of a new year on the lunisolar calendar. It is the most important holiday in China, and it is also widely celebrated in South Korea, Vietnam, and countries with a significant overseas Chinese population. While the official dates encompassing the holiday vary by culture, those celebrating consider it the time of the year to reunite with immediate and extended family.

Commonly known as the Spring Festival in China, Lunar New Year is a fifteen-day celebration marked by many traditions. At home, families decorate windows with red paper cuttings and adorn doors with couplets expressing auspicious wishes for the new year. Shopping for holiday sundries in open-air markets and cleaning the house are also beloved traditions. The Lunar New Year's Eve reunion dinner is the highlight that kicks off the holiday, a feast with a spread of symbolic dishes, such as a whole fish representing abundance, that bring good luck and fortune. The fifteenth and final day of the holiday is the Lantern Festival, during which people have *tangyuan*, or sweet glutinous rice balls, and children carry lanterns around the neighborhood at night to mark the end of the celebration.

In the Chinese zodiac, 2024 is the year of the dragon. Different regions across Asia celebrate Lunar New Year in many ways and may follow a different zodiac. We also acknowledge that many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders do not observe the Chinese/lunar zodiac.

[Smithsonian | National Museum of Asian Art](#)

### History and Social Science Framework

#### Guiding Principle 2

An effective history and social science education incorporates diverse perspectives and acknowledges that perceptions of events are affected by race, ethnicity, culture, religion, education, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, and personal experience.

#### Guiding Principle 4

An effective history and social science education teaches students to think historically.

#### Guiding Principle 8

An effective history and social science education incorporates the study of current events and news/media literacy.

#### Practice 1

Demonstrate civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions.

View [MA History & Social Science Framework](#) for specific standards that cover holidays, traditions, and diversity.

### How to use these resources?

These resources are not meant to be prescriptive and should be adapted as you see fit. Feel free to choose one or more than one. Some resources have big ideas and may take several days to complete or prepare for follow-up discussions, while others may be shorter. You can choose to complete one part or all of the resources; it is up to you! Please reach out to us if you would like some guidance.

### Resources/Links

#### Grades K–3

[BrainPop Jr.: Lunar New Year](#)

[Epic Collection Chinese/Lunar New Year](#)

[Lee and Low Books - Lunar New Year](#) books and classroom resources

[Pebble Go - Lunar New Year](#) (click [here](#) for building-based passwords)

#### Grades 4–6

[BrainPop: Lunar New Year](#)

[The Chinese Zodiac by Sarah Novak](#)

A CommonLit Lesson (vocabulary support, read aloud, font size adaptable, annotation tools, guiding and discussion questions available). Create a free account by clicking [here](#), then access the following resource.

### Wealth, Good Luck, and Long Life

How do people around the world ring in the New Year? Have your students do some research to find out. They can follow these steps:

1. Choose at least five countries and research their New Year's Eve traditions.
2. [Take notes](#) on how people in each country celebrate New Year's Eve. Do they eat a particular food? (People in Spain eat 12 grapes at midnight to ensure 12 lucky months ahead). Do they follow a ritual or take certain actions? ( In the Philippines, some bang pots and pans to scare away evil spirits).
3. Explain the meaning behind the foods they eat or the actions they take. Are they hoping for wealth, good luck, a long life, or a fresh start?

Invite students to report their findings to the class. Keep track of the countries students learned about by placing a push pin on each one on a world map. You can do this on a digital map, too. Finally, have students write a paragraph [comparing and contrasting](#) New Year's traditions in two countries. Or, have them compare their family's traditions with those of kids in another country.

### Discussion questions:

What are some ways the Lunar New Year is like other traditions you know about? What are some ways it is special? What is your favorite thing about learning about different traditions from around the world?

### Building Educator's Background

The purpose of this section is to provide some background information for educators. We recognize that this partial list of resources does not fully define the holiday and how it is celebrated. If you are interested in

learning more, don't hesitate to contact your CRTs, Director for DEI and/or Curriculum Coordinators to support your learning.

[Britannica - Lunar New Year](#)

[History Channel](#)

[Read-Write-Think Lunar New Year](#)

[The 24 Solar Terms by Kelly Pang\\*](#)

[Foods to bring you luck in 2024\\*](#)

**Community Events:**

Korean Lunar New Year Celebration

February 10th

[2:00—3:00 PM](#)

(Virtual) Asian Art Series: The Lunar New Year

February 11th

[2:30—3:30 PM](#)

Chinese New Year Celebration hosted by Acton Chinese Language School (ACLS) on Sunday February 4th at Regional High School. On that day, there will be three major activities:

2pm-5pm: Free Chinese New Year games and activities in the cafeteria.

5pm-6:30pm: dinner in the ABHS cafeteria (require ticket).

6:30pm-8:30pm: Free gala shows in the auditorium (program details will come soon).

\*We realize that some of these resources under building background may be commercialized, they are for educators to use not to share with students. They are intended to learn more about the holidays.