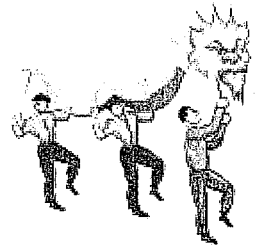


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Chinese New Year Traditions



1 The Chinese New Year is the most important holiday for Chinese people. Like Thanksgiving celebrated in the United States, the Chinese New Year is a time for family. Regardless how far away they live from their parents, Chinese people will do their best to go back home and have a big feast with their families on the eve of the Chinese New Year. For fifteen days, Chinese people are very careful not to do anything disrespectful to their ancestors or mythical gods. By behaving properly, Chinese people believe that their ancestors and gods will grant them fortune and luck in the coming year.



2 So, what are the appropriate codes of conduct? Well, here is a checklist of DOs and DON'Ts during the Chinese New Year:

3 DOs

4

- Do wear red clothes. Red symbolizes fortune and luck.
- Do set aside grudges against enemies and call off unpaid debt. Let bygones be bygones - if personal differences or financial obligations cannot be settled before the Chinese New Year, they shall be forgotten.
- Do clean your house thoroughly before the Chinese New Year, so misfortune will be cleaned away to make room for good fortune.
- Do have a dish of a whole fish for the feast on the Chinese New Year's eve. Make sure that you leave some to be eaten on the following day. As "fish" and "extra" have the same pronunciation in Chinese, having a fish left over from a previous year corresponds to a popular Chinese proverb meaning "having extra every year."
- Do give red envelopes (stuffed with money) to your parents, your children, or the children of your friends and relatives. You will only need to do so if you are married. When giving out red envelopes, you are wishing that the recipient would not grow old.

5 DON'Ts

6

- Don't wear white or black clothing. Traditionally, Chinese people regard black and white colors as symbols of death.
- Don't curse. Speaking foul language is disrespectful.
- Don't utter the word "four" as it is pronounced the same as "death" in Chinese.
- Don't clean your house or throw away garbage on the first day of the Chinese New Year. Chinese people believe that fortune will be swept away.
- Don't use sharp objects (such as knives and scissors) on the first day of the Chinese New Year. Using sharp objects symbolizes cutting off wealth and having to suffer from injury.
- Don't break anything. Shattering things into pieces is considered bad luck.

7 Although some of the taboos and customs observed during the Chinese New Year may seem superstitious, it is fun to experience and learn about a different culture!

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Chinese New Year Traditions

<p>1. What is the most important holiday for Chinese people?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Mid-Autumn Moon Festival</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Dragon Boat Festival</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Thanksgiving</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Chinese New Year</p>	<p>2. Chinese people have a big feast on the first day of their New Year.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A False</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B True</p>
<p>3. Which of the following about the Chinese New Year is true?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Using knives on the eve of the Chinese New Year is taboo.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B All house cleaning shall be done on the first day of the Chinese New Year.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C It lasts 25 days.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Wearing white clothing is not recommended.</p>	<p>4. Which of the following behaviors is acceptable during the Chinese New Year?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Settling debts from the previous year.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Using the word "four."</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Wearing red outfits.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Breaking glasses.</p>
<p>5. Which of the following behaviors is <b>not</b> acceptable during the Chinese New Year?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Having some fish left over from the feast on the eve of the Chinese New Year.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Giving red envelopes to your parents and children.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Wearing black dresses.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Setting aside personal grudges.</p>	<p>6. Why can't Chinese people use knives and scissors on the first day of their New Year?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A To avoid sweeping away fortune.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B To show respect for their ancestors and mythical gods.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C To make sure that they have extra in the coming year.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D To avoid cutting off fortune.</p>

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Chinese New Year Traditions

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|---|--|
| <p>7. Which of the following symbolizes death in Chinese?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="radio"/> A Four</li><li><input type="radio"/> B White clothes</li><li><input type="radio"/> C Black clothes</li><li><input type="radio"/> D All of the above</li></ul> | <p>8. What is the preferred color for the Chinese New Year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="radio"/> A Red</li><li><input type="radio"/> B Green</li><li><input type="radio"/> C Yellow</li><li><input type="radio"/> D White</li></ul> |
|---|--|