

Topic

Lunar New Year

Aims

- To learn about Chinese culture and the Lunar new year
- To practise language for speculating
- To learn how to take turns, reach an agreement with a partner and respect the rules of a game
- To develop intercultural awareness
- To have fun playing a game with friends

Age group

Older Primary / Younger Secondary

Level

A2 +

Time

60 minutes

Materials*Dragons & Scrolls board* (1 per group)*Dragons & Scrolls question cards* (1 per group)*Dragons & Scrolls answers* (1 per group)*Dragons & Scrolls rules* (1 per group)*Dice* (1 per group) *and counters* (1 per pair of players)

Note: If necessary, you can print dice and counters here:

<http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/crafts/snakes-and-ladders>**Introduction**

The Lunar new year, celebrated in China and many other Asian countries like Vietnam, Thailand, South Korea, North Korea, Singapore and Cambodia, takes place on a different date each year. In this lesson children learn about Lunar New Year customs. They are introduced to some expressions for speculating at the beginning of the lesson that will be practised in context when they play a board game in small groups. The game will encourage players to read and speculate about customs in a fun way. At the end of the lesson children find out which Chinese zodiac animal they are.

Procedure

Before the lesson	<p>Download and make copies of the board game, question cards, rules and answer sheets you need for the lesson.</p> <p>Cut the questions cards into 50 separate cards.</p>
1. Warmer (5 minutes)	<p>Introduce the topic by writing <i>Happy New Year</i> on the board. Ask learners when they hear this greeting and elicit an answer.</p> <p>Explain that in many Asian countries, including China, and many other parts of the world, the new year doesn't start on 1st January. It starts on a different date each year.</p>
2. Game to present language for speculating (5 – 10 minutes)	<p>Play a guessing game to present language for speculating. On the board write <i>Lunar New Year is on XXth (month)</i> Ask learners to work in pairs to guess the date of Lunar New Year for the current year. Write these expressions on the board:</p> <p><i>I think Lunar New Year is on ... I disagree. I think ...</i></p> <p><i>Maybe Lunar New Year is on ... I think you're right/wrong.</i></p> <p><i>Could Lunar New Year be on ...? Yes, it could be!</i></p> <p>Go around the class, asking for each pair's idea. Explain that they should use some of the expressions on the board while they are choosing a date with their partner. Play the game until one pair guesses correctly.</p>
3. (20 - 30 minutes)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Put learners into groups (5 or 7) and appoint a captain. Put the remaining players in each group into pairs to play the game. This will encourage the use of speculating language as they discuss the ideas. Give each group a <i>Dragons & Scrolls</i> game board, counters and a die, the <i>Dragons & Scrolls</i> question cards (upside-down) and the <i>Dragons & Scrolls</i> rules. Give each captain a copy of the <i>Dragons & Scrolls</i> answers. <p>2. Give learners five minutes to read the rules and make sure they all understand how to play.</p> <p>Tip: Ask a few questions to check:</p> <p><i>Where do you put your counters?</i></p> <p><i>What do you do if your answer is correct?</i></p> <p><i>What do you do if you land at the top of a dragon?</i></p>

	3. Monitor while learners play the game, helping where necessary and encouraging learners to use English as much as possible. Remind them to use some of the expressions on the board.
4. Finishing off the lesson or Homework (5 minutes)	<p>Explain that the Chinese calendar has its own zodiac and that each year is represented by a different animal. Learners find out which Chinese zodiac animal they are at:</p> <p>http://www.primarygames.com/holidays/chinese/games/my_sign/</p>
5. Optional extra for younger learners (2 - 5 minutes)	<p>Younger learners watch a video and listen to a story about Lunar New Year.</p> <p>http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/short-stories/my-favourite-day-chinese-new-year</p>
5. Optional extra for teenage learners (15 - 25 minutes)	<p>Teenage learners can read a text about Lunar New Year and then do some exercises to check their understanding.</p> <p>http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/uk-now/read-uk/chinese-new-year</p>

Contributed by

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