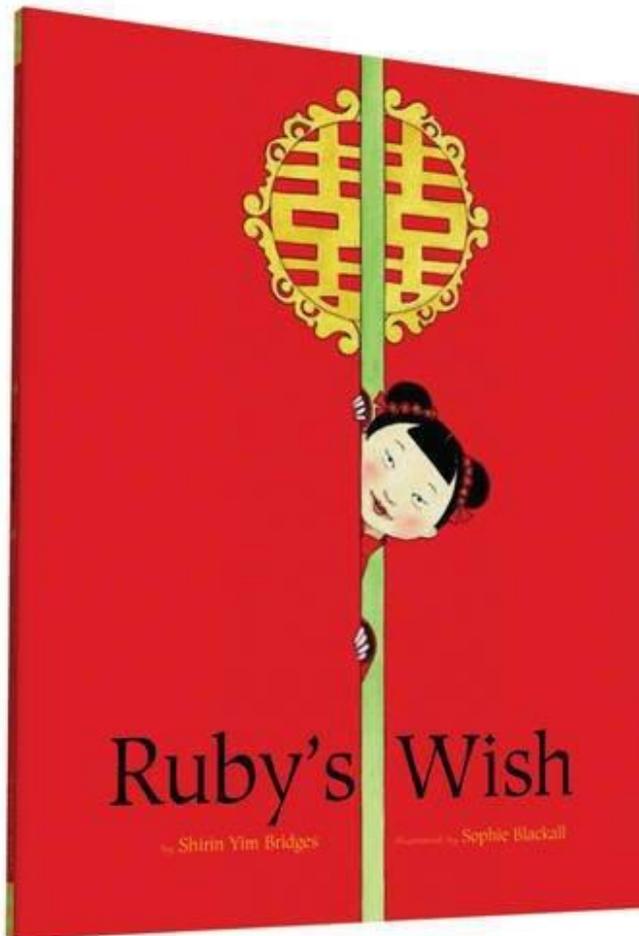




Ruby's Wish

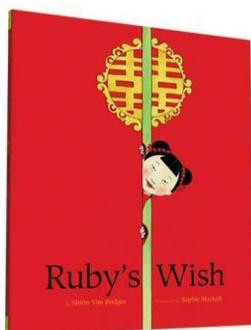
By Shirin Yim Bridges

Illustrated by Sophie Blackall



Global Literacy Invitation prepared by
Wendy Tamborrino
Monroe Country Community School Corporation
Bloomington, Indiana





Ruby's Wish

by Shirin Yim Bridges
Illustrated by Sopic Blackall



Scan to
listen to
*Ruby's
Wish*



Book Summary:

Ruby's Wish is based on a true story of the author's grandmother, a little girl growing up in old China living in a big traditional house headed by her wealthy, forward thinking grandfather and filled with his many wives, children and grandchildren. But there is something special here... unlike most Chinese households during this time period, the girls are allowed to study with the boys. Of course, they must keep up with all their other training, too, like housekeeping and embroidery after their academic lessons while the boys get to run off and play. But, Ruby loves learning so much she keeps at it even when all the other girls drop out. Unlike the Chinese expectations of Chinese women, Ruby wishes to have the same rights as all the males in her family, including going to the university. What she wants most of all is to go to university rather than be married off. She receives the greatest surprise on the Chinese New Year when she opens up her red envelope and receives an acceptance letter from a university saying that Ruby would be one of the first women ever to attend the school.

Ruby's Wish is an inspiring book that teaches children to persevere, stand up for what they believe in, and expresses the importance of a good education for everyone.

Learning Invitations:

Where in the World is China?

Chinese New Year: Scrolls of Knowledge

Chinese Lantern Festival

Let's Learn Chinese Calligraphy

Making a Change: A Wish for the World

Up Close and Personal Commercial with "Famous Firsts- Women in History"

Social Studies THEMES	English/Language Arts Standards
Global Connections Culture Geography	5.RN.3.1 Apply knowledge of text features in multiple print and digital sources to locate information, gain meaning from a text, or solve a problem. 5.RN.4.2 Combine information from several texts or digital sources on the same topic in order to demonstrate knowledge about the subject. 5.W.5 Conduct short research assignments and tasks on a topic. 5.W.4 Generate a draft by developing, selecting and organizing ideas relevant to topic, purpose, and genre; revise to improve writing, using appropriate reference materials (e.g., quality of ideas, organization, sentence fluency, word choice); and edit writing for format and standard English conventions. 5.SL.4.2 Create engaging presentations that include multimedia components and visual displays when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or themes.

Where in the World is China?



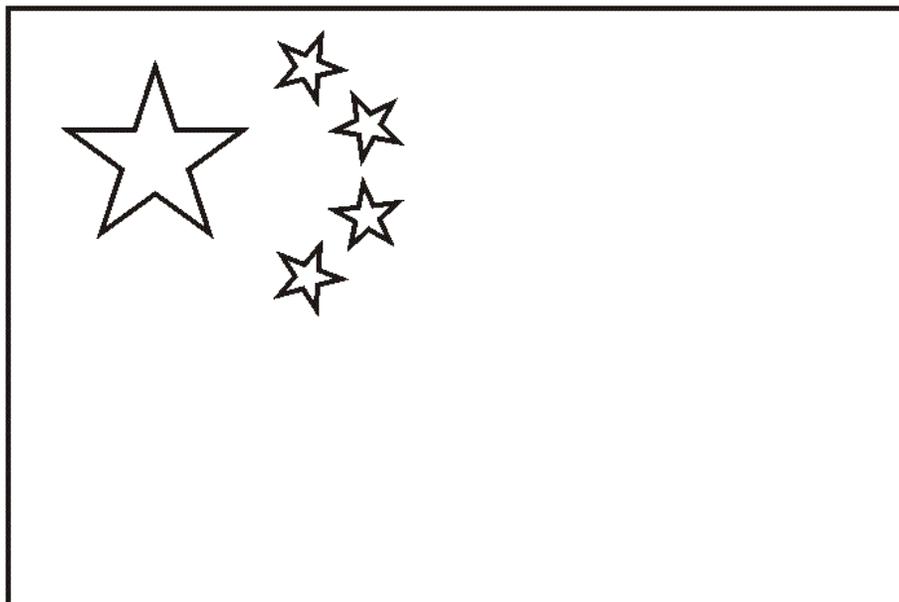
1. Find China on a globe/world map and then find the United States.
2. Color and label China and the United States of America on the blank world map.
3. Both countries have very distinctive shapes. Make a drawing of each one.
4. Using a map mileage legend, estimate how far away China is from the United States.
5. Identify the oceans and continents that lie between your school and Ruby's home.
6. China is located in the _____ and _____ hemispheres.
7. The United States is located in the _____ and _____ hemispheres.
8. If Ruby works on her embroidery at night around 9:00 pm, what time is it where you live?
9. Color the flag of China.

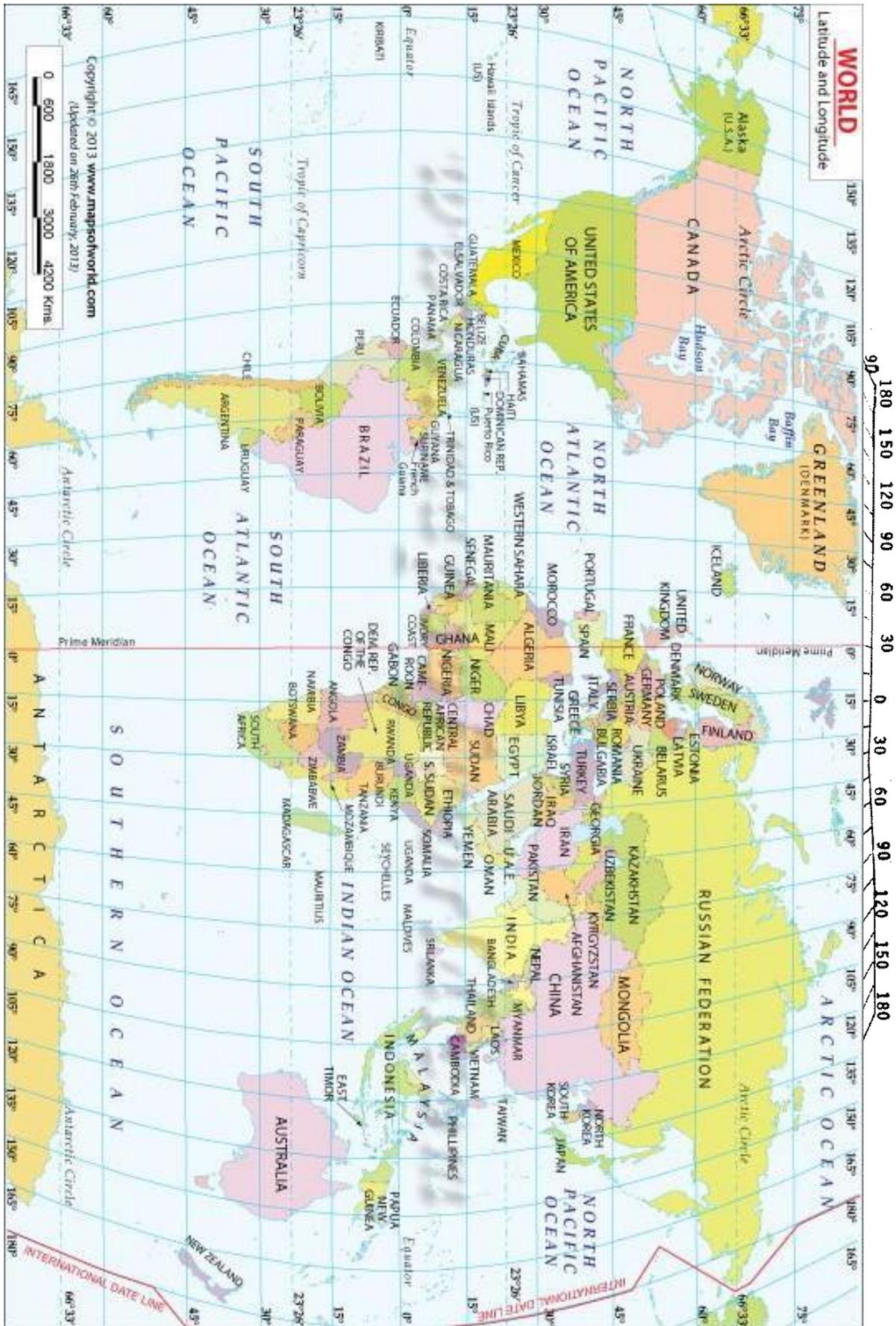
United States

--

China

--





Chinese New Year Scrolls of Knowledge



The Chinese New Year is one of the most important traditions in my Chinese culture. I would like to share with you the traditions and legends that make Chinese New Year the most exciting time of the year. Start your learning adventure by choosing at least 2 of the videos below. Watch the videos then record 4-5 interesting facts you learned on the Scrolls of Knowledge. Make sure you write your fact on the scroll that matches the video title. Write your name after each written fact.



The Story of Chinese New Year

<https://safeshare.tv/x/ss5871bbce60a84>



Bet You Didn't Know: Chinese New Year History Channel

<https://safeshare.tv/x/ss5871be21c3bae>



The Story of Nian - A Chinese New Year Story

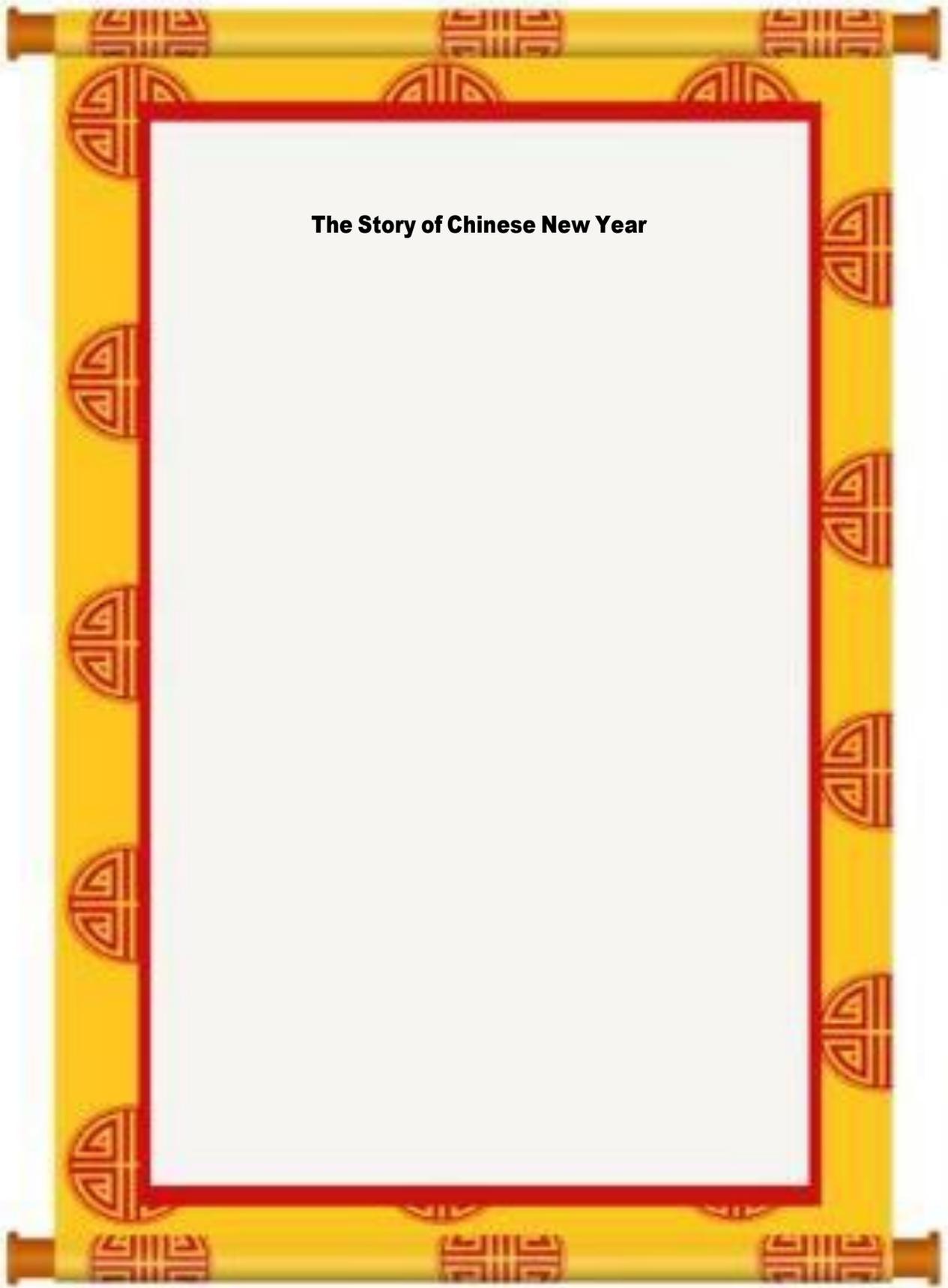
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Exploring Chinese Culture: Lantern Festival

<https://safeshare.tv/x/ss5871c2836e3f9>





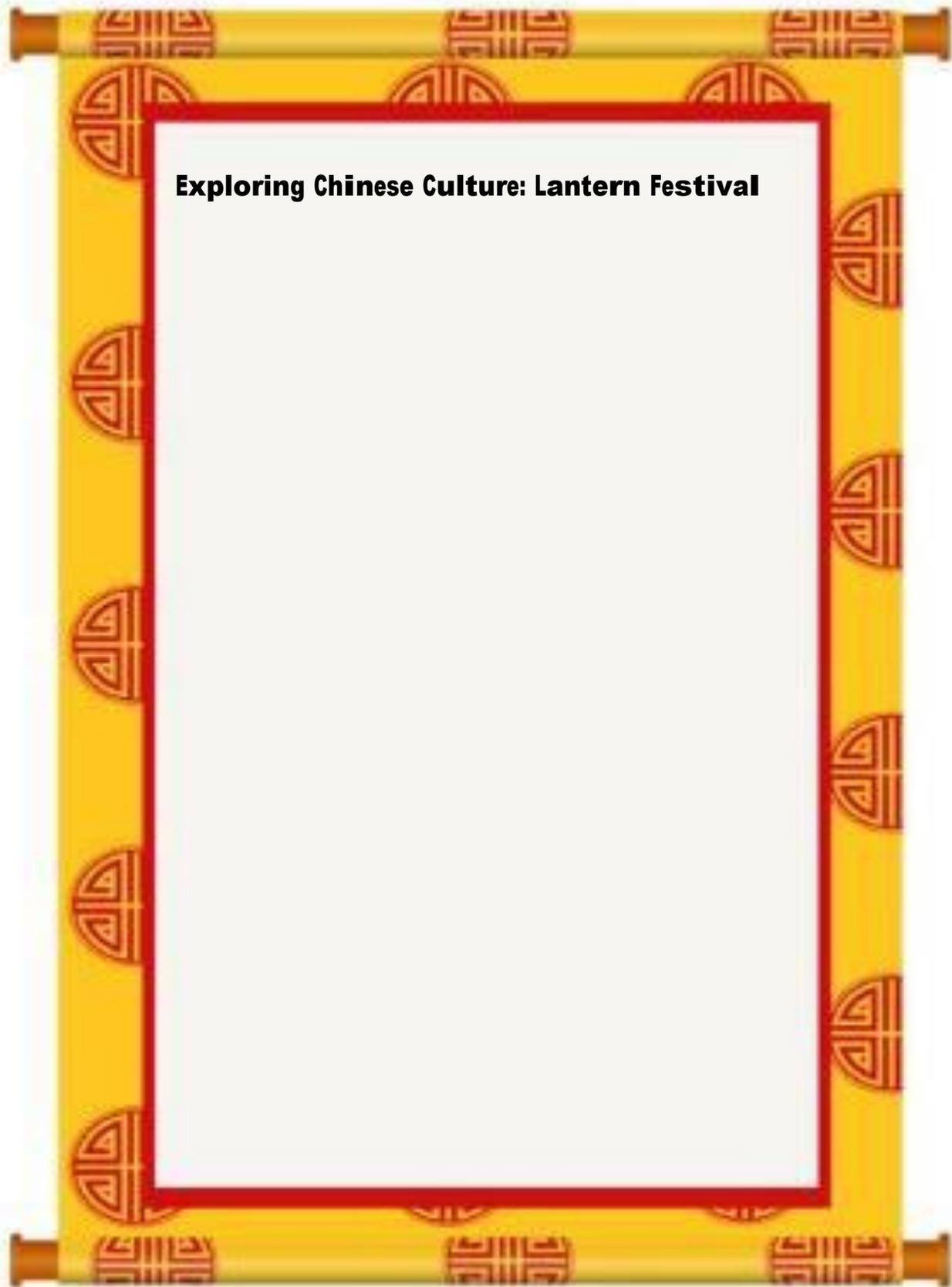
The Story of Chinese New Year



Bet You Didn't Know: Chinese New Year History Channel



The Story of Nian- a Chinese New Year Story



Exploring Chinese Culture: Lantern Festival

Chinese Lantern Festival

The Chinese Lantern Festival is an exciting celebration that happens on the 15th day of the 1st lunar month. It marks the end of the Chinese New Year festivities with the first full moon of the year. This night is brightly lit with thousands of lanterns that line the streets and are hung from our homes and storefronts. We enjoy seeing a parade with floats, watching the Chinese Lion and Dragon Dances, listening to music and drums, and admiring the beautiful firecrackers.



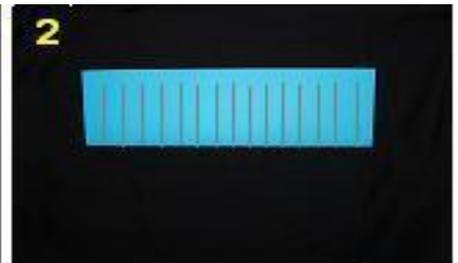
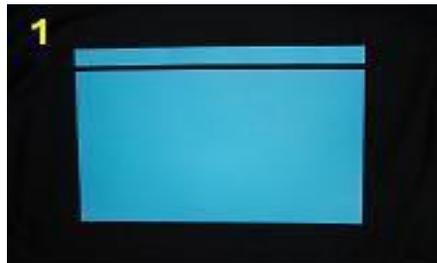
Here is a picture of me and my friends carrying our lanterns around the village. Afterwards, our families come together to eat sweet rice balls for good fortune and family unity.

Our traditional lanterns are made from silk, paper and even glass. The shapes include boxes, lotus flowers, dragons, butterflies, and all sorts of animals.

The color of the lanterns communicates different things. For example, the most common lanterns are red which symbolize joy and vitality. A white lantern should never be used unless there has been a death in the family.

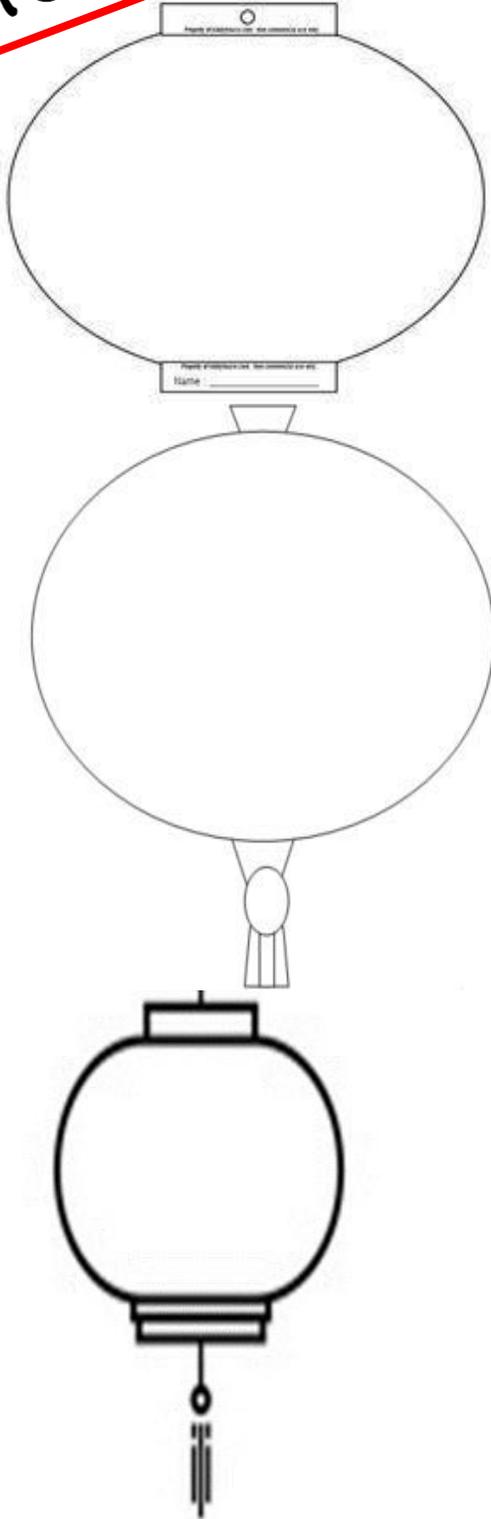
Make your own paper lantern by following these instructions.

1. Start with rectangular sheet of paper. Cut a strip of paper from the long edge of the paper (about 1" width). This will be used as the handle of the lantern.
2. Fold the paper in half lengthwise. Cut strips crosswise: cut from the folded edge towards the raw edge. Be careful to keep the strips connected and do not cut each strip off.
3. Unfold the paper.
4. Loop the paper around to form a tube. Join the short ends of the paper together with tape or staples.
- 5.





Lantern Festival



The Lantern Festival is celebrated the fifteenth day of the first month in the Chinese lunar calendar. This would be during the months of February or March. The Lantern Festival marks the end of the Lunar New Year celebrations.

Many people burn incense in temples and their homes to pray for blessings on their families. In ancient times, the Chinese believed the spirits could be seen on the night of the festival with the aid of torches. Later lanterns were substituted for the torches. Lantern shows attract large crowds at some Buddhist and Taoist temples.

According to ancient beliefs, people born in different years possess certain characteristics.

1. Find out what animal represents the year you were born.
2. Look at the characteristics that will be listed for that year. Do you fit any of those characteristics?
3. Design a lantern to represent your zodiac sign
4. Design the other two lanterns the way you think they would look in the Lantern Festival.



CHINESE ZODIAC

What is your animal?

Find the year you were born to see which animal you are. For example, if you were born in 2006, you were born in the year of the dog. Then read your animal description below!

DRAGON

If you were born a dragon, you have lots of energy. You will live a long life with lots of luck. Dragons get along best with monkeys and rats.

SNAKE

The snake is quiet but friendly. You enjoy reading and music. You get along best with dragons, oxen and roosters.

HORSE

If your sign is the horse, you like to have fun! You're also very kind. You get along best with tigers, dogs and sheep.

SHEEP

The sheep cares for others, especially animals. You love being outdoors. You get along best with rabbits, monkeys, pigs and horses.

MONKEY

If you are a monkey, you have a great memory and love solving puzzles. You get along best with dragons, rats, rabbits, sheep and dogs.

ROOSTER

The rooster is a good worker. You are also good at telling stories and fun to be around. You get along best with pigs, snakes and dragons.

DOG
If this is your sign, you know how to keep a secret. Like a real dog, you are always playful. You get along best with tigers, rabbits and monkeys.

PIG
The pig is known to be kind. You love school and your pals! You get along best with sheep and rabbits.

RAT
If your sign is the rat, you are a hard worker. You are also honest and good at saving money. You get along best with dragons, monkeys and oxen.

OX
The ox is patient and a good listener. You always keep your promises. You get along best with roosters, rats and snakes.

TIGER
If you are a tiger, you are brave and strong! You also have a wild personality. You get along best with dragons, horses and dogs.

RABBIT
This is a very lucky sign! You are polite, yet a little shy. You are also smart. You get along best with sheep, pigs, dogs and monkeys.

China Fact:

Chinese people name each year after 1 of 12 animals. Each animal is known to have certain characteristics. It's believed that people share the same qualities as the animal they are born under!



Illustrations: Jean-François Vichon; Steven Charles Menale (Art)



Let's Learn Chinese Calligraphy



I'm a very lucky girl. Where I grew up, not all girls had the chance to learn to read and write, but my grandfather provided us with the opportunity to learn. This was not a very common practice. I always enjoyed practicing my handwriting or calligraphy. I liked writing neatly and doing my best because I love and respect learning. You may be wondering what calligraphy is. Calligraphy is an art form. In ancient China, calligraphy is a means of communication, a way to write things down. It is also a way to express yourself. All noble and royal children had to learn calligraphy. Even emperors practiced until they were good at writing calligraphy. Of course emperors could appoint someone to write for them, but the ability to write in calligraphy showed control and inner peace. It was a sign of status. The emperor had the highest status of all.

Would you like to learn how to write calligraphy? Here is a helpful tutorial for beginners.

Chinese Calligraphy Tutorial



<https://safeshare.tv/x/ss587be7723273d>

The Chinese Alphabet

ALL 26 LETTERS OF THE ALPHABET

In the Chinese alphabet, small letters are written like capital letters, and vice versa.

Can you write the Chinese alphabet? Try it out. Get a blank piece of paper and a pen or brush and ink. I wonder what your name looks like written in Chinese characters? Use the Chinese alphabet chart to help you write your name.

A	诶	ēi
B	比	bǐ
C	西	xī
D	迪	dí
E	伊	yī
F	艾弗	ài fú
G	吉	jí
H	艾尺	ài chǐ
I	艾	ài
J	杰	jié
K	开	kāi
L	艾勒	ài lè
M	艾马	ài mǎ
N	艾娜	ài nà
O	哦	ó
P	屁	pì
Q	吉吾	jí wú
R	艾儿	ài ér
S	艾丝	ài sī
T	提	tí
U	伊吾	yī wú
V	维	wéi
W	豆贝尔 维	dòu bèi ěr wéi
X	艾克斯	yī kè sī
Y	吾艾	wú ài
Z	贼德	zéi dé



Making a Change- A Wish for the World

“Alas, bad luck to be born a girl; worse luck to be born into this house where only boys are cared for.”

This is a poem that I wrote for my teacher. Little did I know that when I wrote this poem, it would result in the beginning of a large and important change in my family and in my own life. I achieved my wish largely because I wrote the poem. Using our words is the best starting place for making change happen.

We all have wishes for ourselves. What are your wishes? I challenge you to stand up for what you believe in and write a poem about something in your life or in the world that YOU would like to change. I promise you that you'll feel so good about writing your thoughts down on paper. That's how I felt and look how my words helped me! Your words matter and so do YOU!

I'm sure you have written and read many poems before so choose a poetic form that you like. If you can't decide, why not try writing a haiku poem? It's simple to do. Here are the basic rules:

Haiku is an unrhymed three-lined verse form with 5 syllables in the first line, 7 in the second, and 5 in the third. Begin your haiku with the title, “A Wish for the World”. Go ahead, give it a try.

A Wish for the World

by _____

5 syllables

7 syllables

5 syllables



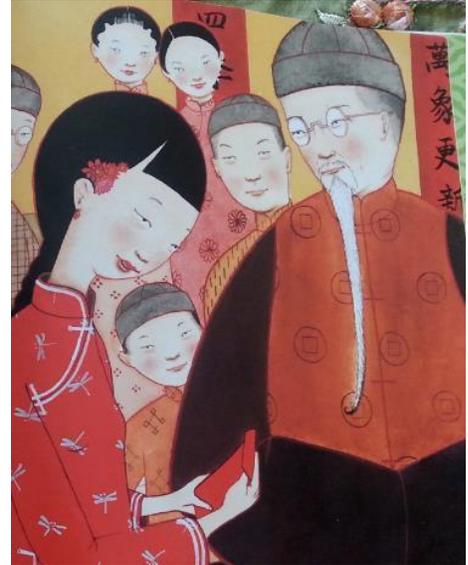


Up Close and Personal Commercial with “Famous Firsts- Women in History”

“But the girls had to learn about cooking and keeping house. In fact, as far as their mothers were concerned, these were the *only* things girls had to learn.”

The author, Shirin Yi Bridges, shares with the reader how the roles of boys and girls in old China were clearly defined. Girls were prepared for marriage and tending to the home while boys attended to their studies. However, Ruby challenged these traditional gender roles by respectfully communicating to her grandfather her desire to go to the university rather than getting married. **She was one of the very first females to attend the university.**

It takes perseverance and courage to speak up for what you believe in especially when society’s expectations are the opposite of what you believe.



1. Work with a partner to discuss how our society’s expectations of girls have changed (*or not changed*) over time in our country. What rights do women have in our country today that they didn’t have in the past?
2. What “famous firsts” have women achieved in US history or in the world?
3. Imagine you have been hired by The History Channel to create a one minute commercial promoting a famous woman in history who had the courage to be the first woman “pioneer” to fight for their rights, to work hard so they could be treated equally, and made great strides in fields like science, politics, sports, literature and art.
4. Using the information you’ve researched, create a one minute commercial called, “**Up Close and Personal with (insert name of famous first)**”.
5. Before beginning your research, be sure you have a quality research question (one that doesn’t have a *yes* or *no* answer or a one word answer). Questions that begin with “why” or “how” invite deep research and thinking. For example,

Why should we honor and recognize _____ as a “famous first female pioneer”?

6. A good starting point for your research might be <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/women/notable.htm>. This site will provide an A-Z overview of up to 30 names and brief bios of notable women in history. Use what you know about researching online to find other biographies about famous women who were first to pioneer change. Once you select a famous woman in history, complete the *Honoring and Recognizing a “Famous First” Female Pioneer* graphic organizer.
7. Use your iPad and non-electronic resources to gather your information.
8. Write your commercial script making sure your information is thorough and answers the *who, what, where, when, why, and how* about your famous woman.
9. Record your commercial using iMovie, green screen technology, PowerPoint, or any form of digital recording.

Honoring and recognizing a "famous first" female pioneer

Your Name: _____

Date: _____

Early Life:
(Family life, childhood)

Early Career:
(Early jobs/successes)

Who?

Born: _____

Died: _____

Education:

Fun Facts:

Main Contributions to Society (What is she famous for? Why should she be honored and celebrated?)
