



HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR

The Lunar New Year is honoured across the world, and falls on the first new moon of the calendar! It is a wonderful celebration of the New Year and the promising upcoming spring. For this reason, it is sometimes known as the Spring Festival.

The Chinese Lunar calendar falls on February 17th this year, starting the 15 day festival! This is a time for family reunions, connection, and hope for the New Year.

One special tradition from the celebrations is lighting firecrackers, arising from the legend of the monster Nian. Nian had sharp teeth and claws and lived deep in the sea. Every Lunar New Years Eve, he would come out to terrorize nearby villages! However, an old man learned that Nian was afraid of the colour red and loud noises. People all around hung red lanterns and set off firecrackers which worked to keep Nian away! This tradition represents victory over evil, and the ability to start fresh every year!



The Chinese zodiac, is a 12 year cycle. There are 12 animals that are cycled through, one per year each with different meanings. This year, we are the year of the Horse , which represents vitality and perseverance. How will you spend your year of the horse?



PAPER LANTERN CRAFT

Chinese lanterns - 灯笼 - dēnglóng

Chinese lanterns are a significant part of Lunar New Year. They symbolize the start of a new year, good fortune and letting go of the past. The bright glow of the lantern is associated with good luck and positive energy. The lantern's light is believed to ward off negative forces such as Nian! People often write wishes on lanterns and release them into the sky, sending hopes and dreams to the heavens.

What you will need:

- Colourful paper
- Scissors
- Tape or staples
- Decorations - stickers, coloured pens, decorative tape



How to make your own lantern:

Step 1: Cut out the thin strip on the left and the large rectangle

Step 2: fold the paper in half at the solid line

Step 3: Starting from the folded crease, cut along the lines

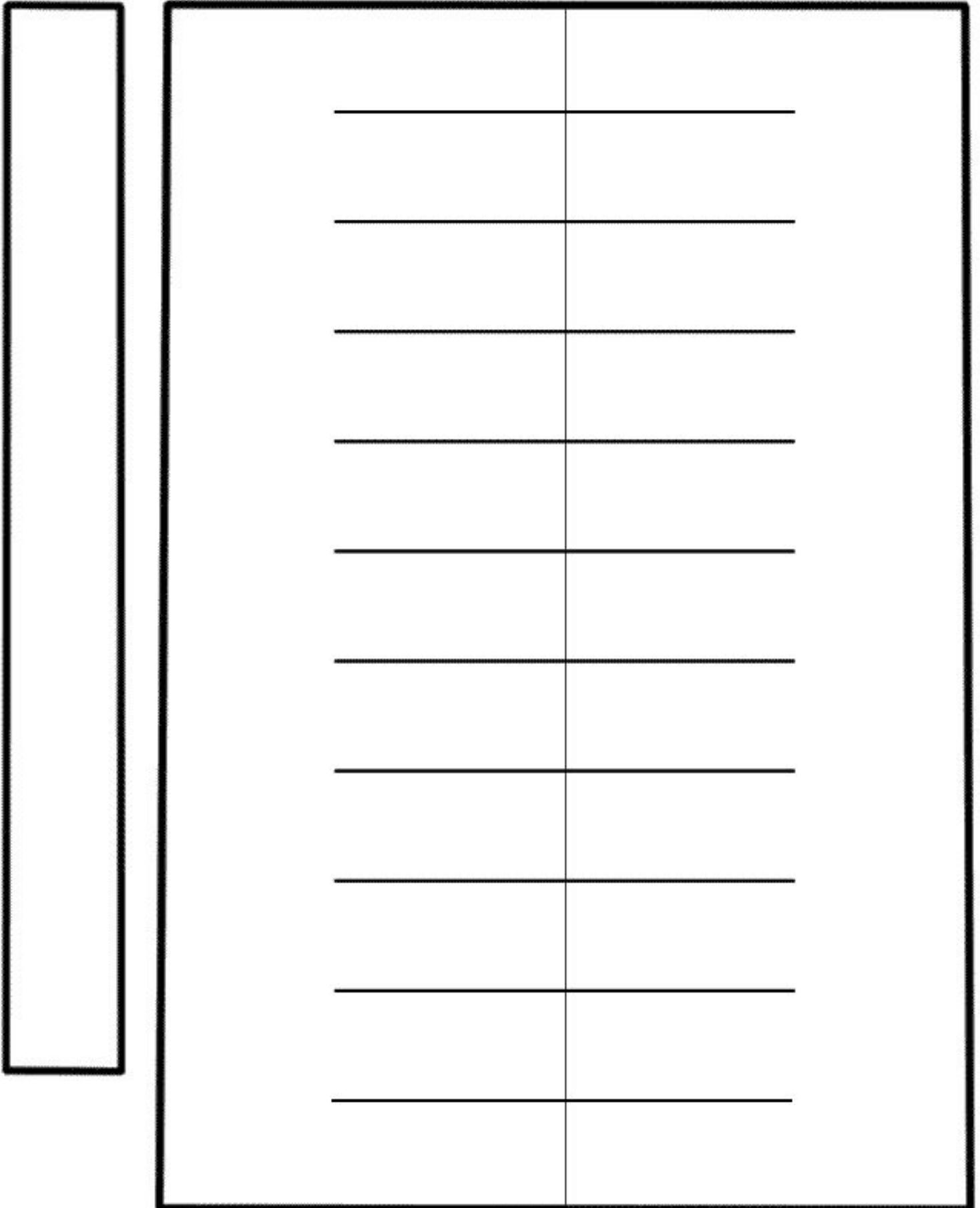
Stop before you hit the edge of the paper

Step 4: unfold the paper and loop both edges together. Seal with clear tape or staples

Step 5: Tape a paper strip on one end to make a handle.

Step 6: add your decorations!

PAPER LANTERN CRAFT - TEMPLATE



FIRECRACKER CRAFT

Chinese firecrackers - baozhu - 爆竹

Chinese firecrackers symbolize good luck, joy, and the excitement of the new year. They are set alight at midnight on New Year's Eve to drive away evil spirits and monsters like Nian! Firecrackers are also set off on New Year's Day to symbolize good luck for the New Year. The word for firecracker, baozhu (Cantonese), translates to 'exploding bamboo' and refers to the bamboo stalks used to make the first firecrackers crafted in 200 BCE.

What you will need:

- Red card x 2
- Scissors
- Hole puncher
- wide tape
- Decorations - coloured pens, decorative tape
- Red string
- Rice or small pebbles



FIRECRACKER CRAFT

What to write on your firecracker:

Good luck - Fu

福

Fortune - Zhao Cai Jin Bao

招財進寶

Happy Chinese New Year -

Xing Nian Kuai Le

新年快乐

May gold and jade fill your house -

Jing Yu Man Tang

金玉满堂

How to make your own Chinese firecracker:

Step 1: Fold red card into 4 equal pieces and cut

Step 2: loop long edges together and staple or tape, cover one end of each tube with tape

Step 3: cut 4 equal lengths of red string (10cm) and, using a small piece of tape, stick one end of the string to the inside of tube

Repeat with remaining tubes

Step 4: fill each tube halfway with rice or small pebbles. Tape the open end of your tube closed being careful to leave the remaining string loose

Step 5: using a small square of red card, punch a hole in one corner and tie your firecrackers to the square using the remaining string

Step 6: Create another hole on the opposite corner and tie a small loop of string to create a hanger

Step 7: decorate your firecrackers and write a positive message on the hanging square.

Step 8: shake your firecracker craft to scare off Nian!

YEAR OF THE HORSE CRAFT

Supplies

- Red construction paper
- Gold/Yellow construction paper
- Straw or Popsicle stick
- Glue
- Gold tissue paper, shredded
- Printed template
- Markers



How to make your Lunar New Year Horse:

- 1.** Use the template to cut out a horse from red card. Then, from gold metallic card, cut the inner ear, nose, and eyebrow.
- 2.** Fold a square of gold tissue paper into quarters, then fold again into a triangle. Place the template on top, draw the pattern, and cut it out. Unfold carefully to reveal a floral design.
- 3.** On the back of the horse's head, spread a thick line of tacky glue. Press layers of gold shredded tissue on top to make a mane.
- 4.** Glue the facial features in place, then glue on the flower decoration.
- 5.** Attach the straw to the bottom of the horse's head. Let everything dry, and your horse is ready for play!

YEAR OF THE HORSE CRAFT



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