

Chinese New Year Lion Dancers

The lion dance is performed during Chinese New Year. It is said to bring good luck.

The Performers

Two people dress up as the lion. The costume is very colourful.

Lion dancers need to be very fit. They jump in the air and perform acrobatics to music.

Traditions

People hang lettuces from doorways for the dragon to find. Sometimes, red envelopes with money inside are hidden in the lettuces. The lions pretend to eat the lettuces and then throw them into the crowd for good fortune.



The End of the Dance

The lion dance ends with a scroll coming out from the lion's mouth. This has a message of good luck written on it.

Firecrackers are then set off to scare away any evil beings.



Questions

1. When is the lion dance performed?

- ☐ at Christmas
- ☐ Chinese New Year
- ☐ on birthdays

2. What is the lion dance said to bring? Tick one.

- ☐ fun
- ☐ friendship
- ☐ good luck

3. How many people dance in the lion costume? Tick one.

- ☐ one
- ☐ two
- ☐ three

4. What do people hang from doorways? Tick one.

- ☐ lettuces
- ☐ meat
- ☐ bread

5. What are the colour of the envelopes? Tick one.

- ☐ green
- ☐ red
- ☐ gold

Answers

1. When is the lion dance performed?

- ☐ at Christmas
- ☒ **Chinese New Year**
- ☐ on birthdays

2. What is the lion dance said to bring? Tick one.

- ☐ fun
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- ☒ **good luck**

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- ☐ meat
- ☐ bread

5. What are the colour of the envelopes? Tick one.

- ☐ green
- ☒ **red**
- ☐ gold

Chinese New Year Lion Dancers

The lion dance is a traditional dance performed during Chinese New Year. It is believed it will bring good luck.

The Performers

Two dancers dress up as the lion. One dancer holds the large head of the brightly coloured costume, the other dancer is the body.

The dancers have to be very fit as they perform lots of acrobatic moves. They dance to music played by cymbals, gongs and drums.

A performer dressed as a laughing Buddha sometimes joins the lion dance. They wear a long robe and tease the lion with a fan to make it perform tricks.



Traditions

People will often hang the head of a lettuce from ceilings or doorways. The lion will go in search of these. Red envelopes with money inside are sometimes hidden in the lettuce. The lion pretends to eat the lettuces and money. The leaves are then thrown into the crowd for good fortune.

The End of the Dance

The lion dance ends with a message of good luck written on a scroll, unfolding from the lion's mouth. Firecrackers are set off to scare away any evil beings.

Questions

1. What is the Chinese lion dance believed to bring? Tick one.

- ☐ fun
- ☐ health
- ☐ good luck

2. What does the laughing Buddha tease the lion with? Tick one.

- ☐ a fan
- ☐ a gong
- ☐ a stick

3. Write three instruments that the lions dance to.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4. Can you match up the boxes to complete the sentences?

Two dancers dress up	eat the lettuce.
The lion pretends to	as a lion.
The lion dance is a	traditional dance.

5. Complete this sentence.

Firecrackers are set off to scare away any _____.

evil beings

lion dancers

crowds

Answers

1. What is the Chinese lion dance believed to bring? Tick one.

- ☐ fun
- ☐ health
- ☒ **good luck**

2. What does the laughing Buddha tease the lion with? Tick one.

- ☒ **a fan**
- ☐ a gong
- ☐ a stick

3. Write three instruments that the lions dance to.

The lions dance to cymbals, gongs and drums.

4. Can you match up the boxes to complete the sentences?

Two dancers dress up	eat the lettuce.
The lion pretends to	as a lion.
The lion dance is a	traditional dance.

Connections: Two dancers dress up → as a lion.
The lion pretends to → eat the lettuce.
The lion dance is a → traditional dance.

5. Complete this sentence.

Firecrackers are set off to scare away any **evil beings**.

evil beings

lion dancers

crowds

Chinese New Year Lion Dancers

The lion dance is a traditional dance performed during important Chinese festivals, such as Chinese New Year.

The lion dance is performed for good luck and is believed to scare away evil spirits.



The Performers

Two dancers dress up as the lion. One dancer holds the large, ornate head of the lion costume, the other dancer is the lion's body.

The lion costume is brightly coloured and each colour means something different. Red represents bravery, green represents friendship and gold represents a lively and dynamic spirit.

Lion dancers need to be very fit as they perform lots of acrobatic moves. They often carry out stunts, such as balancing on balls and leaping in the air.

The lion dance is performed on the street or a stage during Chinese New Year. The performers dance to music played by cymbals, gongs and drums.

A person dressed as a laughing Buddha sometimes joins the lion troupe. The laughing Buddha wears a long robe and teases the lion with a fan to make it perform tricks.

Traditions

The lion moves in zigzags as evil spirits are believed to walk in straight lines.

Businesses will often hang the head of a lettuce from ceilings or doorways. The lion will go in search of these. Red envelopes with money inside are sometimes hidden in the lettuce. The lion pretends to eat the lettuce leaves and money. The leaves are then thrown into the crowd to represent good fortune.



The Finale

The lion dance ends with a scroll unfolding from the lion's mouth. A message of good luck is written on the scroll. Finally, firecrackers are set off to scare away any evil beings.



Questions

1. How is the lion dance described in the opening sentence? Tick one.

- ☐ ancient
- ☐ traditional
- ☐ modern

2. Why is the lion dance performed?

3. Can you match up the boxes to show what each colour of the lion represents?

red	a lively and dynamic spirit
gold	friendship
green	bravery

4. Find the word in the text that means the same as **jumping**?

5. Describe three things that happen when lettuces are hung from the door or ceiling.

1.

2.

3.

6. Why do you think money is put in the red envelopes?

Questions

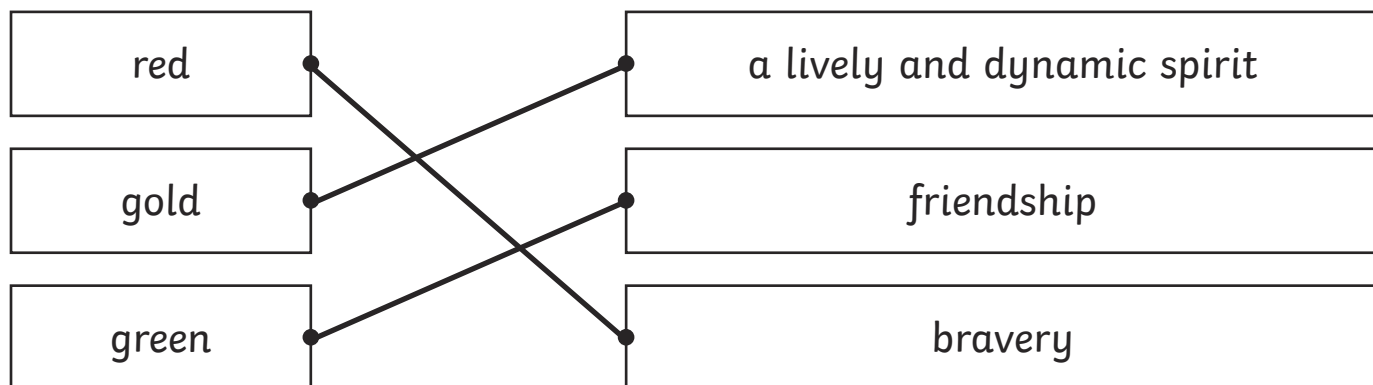
1. How is the lion dance described in the opening sentence? Tick one.

- ☐ ancient
- ☒ **traditional**
- ☐ modern

2. Why is the lion dance performed?

The lion dance is performed for good luck and is believed to scare away evil spirits.

3. Can you match up the boxes to show what each colour of the lion represents?



4. Find the word in the text that means the same as **jumping**?

The word is leaping.

Describe three things that happen when lettuces are hung from the door or ceiling.

Answers may include: Lions will search for the lettuces; there are red envelopes with money inside; the lion pretends to eat the leaves and money; the lettuces are then thrown into the crowd to represent good fortune.

5. Why do you think money is put in the red envelopes?

Various answers, possibly relating to the money being a reward to the lion troupe for performing.