

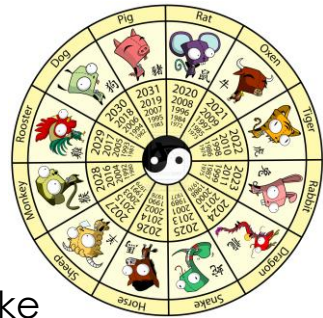


# Celebrating Chinese New Year

FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021

# To celebrate Chinese New Year we have a variety of activities that you could choose from...

- Read the story of Chinese New Year here and take the quiz - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zrd7639/articles/zff7qp3>
- Chinese Paper Cutting – here is a link to a template you could use or copy. What shapes could you use in your windows? <https://bam.files.bbci.co.uk/bam/live/content/zrtmf4j/pdf>
- Use this link to find out which animal you were born in the year of and create some artwork using this animal. Make a family tree showing the correct animal for each member of your family. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/38668427#99119>
- Complete the Year of the Ox, Chinese New Year Reading Comprehension which you will find in this powerpoint.
- Make some Chinese dumplings – here is a link to a recipe using flour, water and vegetables. The recipe is also in this powerpoint. <https://bam.files.bbci.co.uk/bam/live/content/z4ysy9q/pdf>
- Make a Chinese Paper lantern – instructions and template are in this powerpoint.
- Do some research about the Chinese Lion Dance and Chinese Dragon Dance. What is the difference? What moves are needed? What costumes are needed? – Draw a picture of each dance. Have a go yourself.
- Make a Chinese Hand Dragon – here is the link to instructions. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/makes/chinese-hand-dragon?collection=chinese-lunar-new-year>



► Chinese Dumplings Recipe

# MAKE YOUR OWN...

## Chinese dumplings



### What are

### Chinese dumplings?

Chinese dumplings (饺子 jiǎo zi) are a traditional dish in China. A thin layer of dough (面 miàn) is filled with vegetables and/or meat. In northern China on Chinese New Year's Eve (除夕 Chū Xī), people often make dumplings together, although they are also made day-to-day.



#### Important Note:

This recipe uses boiling water so make sure you ask an adult to help you.

### Method:

**1** Stir (搅拌 jiǎo bān) the water into the flour until mixed – add more water if the mixture seems dry.



Knead this with your hands (手 shǒu) dusting with a little flour if sticky.

**5** Place (放 fàng) some filling in the centre of each 'pancake', moisten the edges with water.



**2** Put the dough in a bowl (碗 wǎn), covered with a clean, damp towel, and let it rest.



**6** Fold the dough in half.



**3** After about twenty (二十 èr shí) minutes, tear the dough into sixteen (十六 shí liù) equal-sized pieces and flatten each into round flat 'pancakes'.



**7** Pinching it together with your fingers (手指 shǒu zhǐ)



### Ingredients:

For the dough:

- 140g plain flour (面粉 miàn fěn)
- 125ml water (水 shuǐ)



For the filling:

- finely chopped vegetables (蔬菜 shù cài) of choice - this could include:



- spinach (菠菜 bō cài)
- spring onion (洋葱 yáng cōng)
- mushroom (蘑菇 mó gu)
- cabbage (白菜 bái cài)
- carrot (胡萝卜 hú luó bo)

- ½ tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp cold water



- salt (盐 yán) and pepper (胡椒 hú jiāo) for seasoning

**4** Mix all of the filling ingredients in a large bowl.

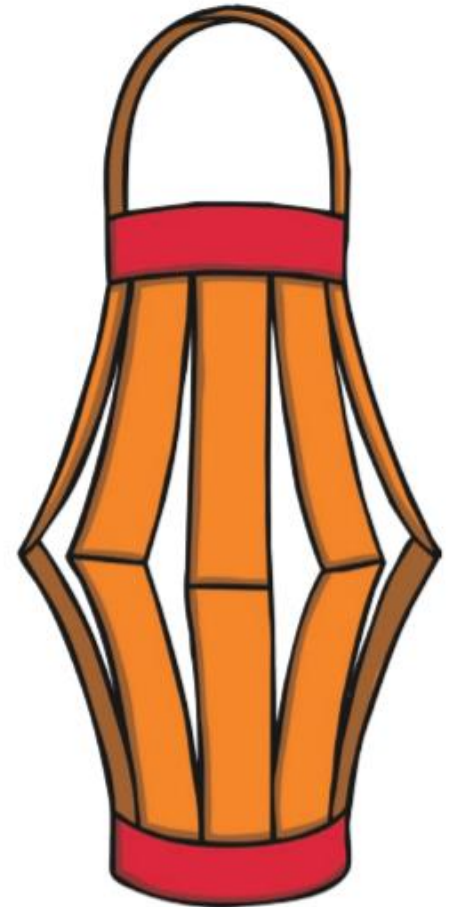


**8** Get an adult to bring a pan of water to the boil (煮 zhǔ), add the dumplings, put on the lid and cook for three (三 sān) to four (四 sì) minutes.

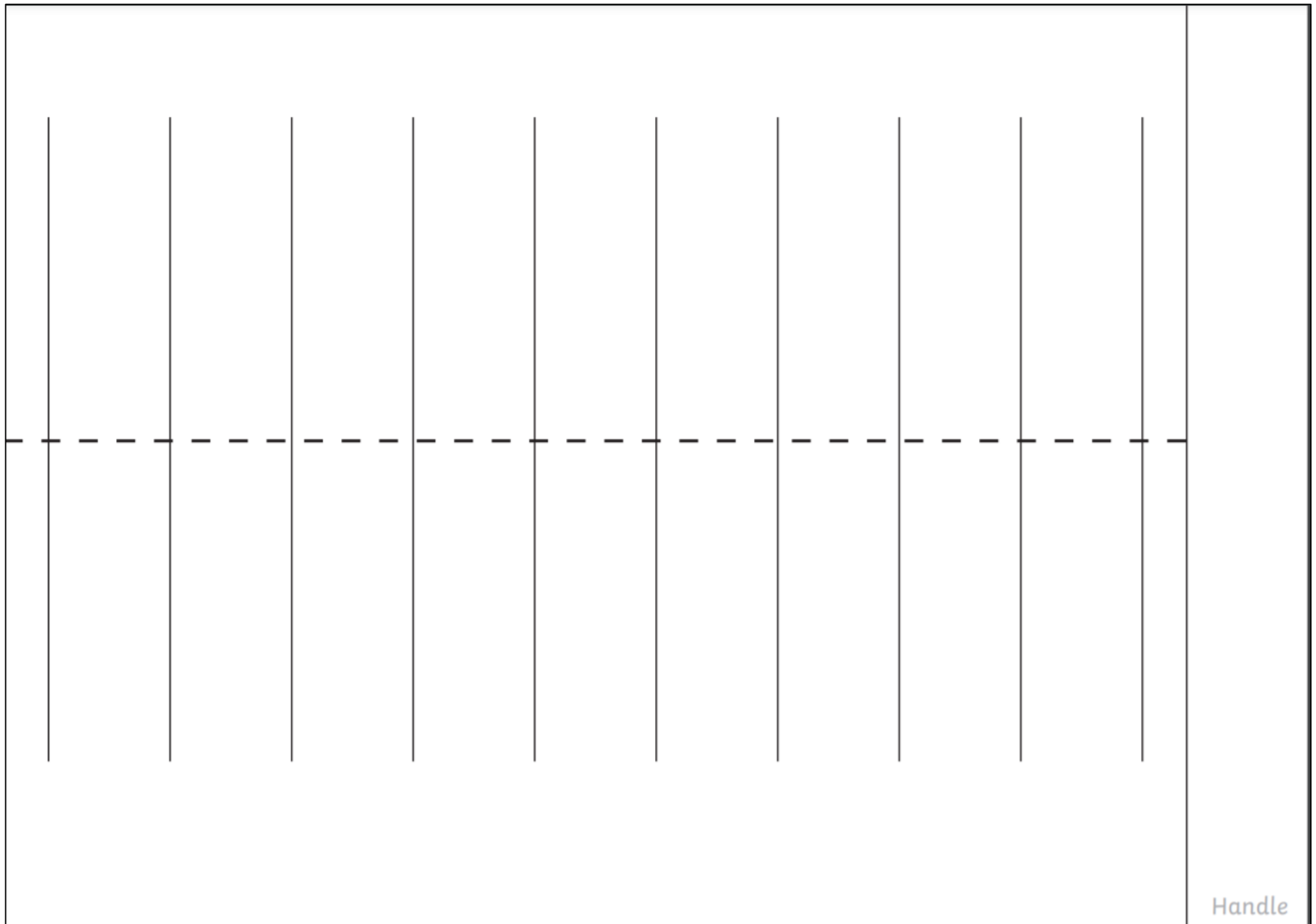


# How to make a paper lantern for Chinese New Year.

1. Cut off one end of the paper. Set aside to use as the handle.
2. Decorate the sheet using coloured pens, paint or glitter.
3. Fold your paper in half lengthwise along the dashed line.
4. Cut the marked lines along the sheet. (Do not cut to the edge of the paper).
5. Unfold the paper.
6. Match the long edges together on the lantern and use tape to hold it in place.
7. Staple the handle to the top of the lantern.



▶ Paper  
Lantern  
Template



Handle

# Chinese New Year

## Reading Comprehension

### The Year of the Ox

#### The Chinese Horoscope

In Chinese culture, each new year is shown by one of 12 animals. This tradition dates back thousands of years and started with a story. Because it is an old tale, there are many different versions of the story. Some versions have the Jade Emperor as the main character and others have Buddha. However, all of the stories are very similar and contain the same 12 animals. One version of the story tells that Buddha asked all of the animals on Earth to come and see him but only 12 animals answered his call. Buddha repaid them by giving each one of these animals their own year in the Chinese **zodiac cycle**.

The Year of the Ox begins on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021. It is the 4719<sup>th</sup> year of the Chinese calendar. Once the Year of the Ox is over, the next will not begin again until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2033.

You were born in the Year of the Ox if you were born in:

1961 1973 1985 1997 2009

#### Traits of the Ox

People born in the different years of the Chinese zodiac cycle are believed to have particular **traits** and qualities. These traits are said to link to the animal that the year is named after. The ox is said to be the second of the zodiac animals and is seen as honest.

Oxen are believed to be hard-working and loyal. Just like the real-life creature, people born in this year are also said to be reliable. Many people believe that individuals born in the Year of the Ox are determined people who believe in the importance of hard work.

People born in the Year of the Ox are said to get on well with those who were born in the Year of the Rat, the Year of the Snake and the Year of the Rooster.



### The Year of the Ox

#### Tireless Workers

It is said that people born in the Year of the Ox do well in jobs that require a clear routine. They are said to prefer working alone and in jobs that require a specialist skill. It is believed that other people enjoy working with people who were born in the Year of the Ox because they can be relied upon to finish jobs thoroughly.

Popular careers for people born in the Year of the Ox are said to include:

- lawyers;
- carpenters;
- bankers;
- army officers.

#### Did You Know...?

Barack Obama, Malala Yousafzai and Diana, Princess of Wales were all born in the Year of the Ox.

#### Glossary

**trait:** A quality that makes a person or a group of people different from others.

**zodiac cycle:** A repeating cycle of 12 years with each year being represented by an animal or sign.

# Questions

1. How did the tradition of the Chinese horoscope begin? Tick one.

- with a song
- with a letter
- with a story
- with a poem

2. **The ox is said to be the second of the zodiac animals and is seen as honest.**

Which word means the same as 'honest'? Tick one.

- brave
- polite
- kind
- truthful

3. Draw **three** lines and complete each sentence.

Buddha...

Barack Obama...

Oxen...

was born in the Year of the Ox.

asked all of the animals on Earth to come and see him.

are believed to be hard-working and loyal.

4. Which of the following are said to be popular careers for people born in the Year of the Ox? Tick **two**.

- lawyers
- actors
- army officers
- artists

5. Fill in the missing words.

Buddha repaid the animals by giving each one their own \_\_\_\_\_ in the Chinese \_\_\_\_\_ cycle.

6. On what date does the Year of the Ox begin in 2021?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Explain why people born in the Year of the Ox might make good army officers.

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8. Would you like to be friends with someone born in the Year of the Ox? Explain your answer.

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