

CHINESE NEW YEAR

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Activity 1 – Take a Position

Choose a position: strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree. Support your view with reasons and examples.

1. Traditional festivals are becoming too commercial.
2. Food is more important than gifts during family celebrations.
3. Young people should be expected to preserve their family's traditions.
4. Technology helps families stay connected, but it cannot replace being together.
5. Cultural celebrations should adapt to modern lifestyles.
6. Governments and communities should do more to protect traditional festivals.

Activity 2 – The Festival in a Changing World

Discuss the following questions:

1. Can a tradition remain authentic if it changes over time?
2. Should people feel pressure to travel home for major family celebrations?
3. How can families preserve food traditions when younger generations are less interested in cooking?
4. Does social media help people understand cultural celebrations, or does it encourage superficial impressions?
5. How can Chinese communities overseas maintain a connection with the Spring Festival?
6. What happens when a cultural celebration becomes a major tourist attraction?

Activity 3 – The Family Dinner Dilemma

A family is planning its annual New Year reunion. The older generation wants to follow familiar customs and prepare traditional dishes. Younger relatives want a simpler meal, less preparation and more time for other activities. One family member cannot attend in person.

In groups, discuss:

- Which traditions should be kept?
- Which customs could be adapted?
- How could everyone contribute?
- How could the absent relative be included?
- Should the family prioritise tradition, convenience or togetherness?

Present a compromise that respects different opinions.

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Activity 4 – Mini Debate

Topic: “The most important part of Chinese New Year is the family reunion, not the celebration itself.”

Divide into two groups:

- Group A: Support the statement.
- Group B: Challenge the statement.

Prepare three arguments, one example and one response to the opposing group.

Activity 5 – Personal Reflection

Has a family tradition changed during your lifetime? Explain what changed, why it changed and whether you think the change was positive.

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