

NEWS BREAK

Wednesday's News Break selects an article from Friday, January 29 of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions. **Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.**

Journey with Newspapers In Education and Wing Luke Museum to learn how different Asian Americans celebrate the New Year. (NW Friday, page B4).

Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

1. Read the title of this article. How do you celebrate the New Year? When do you typically celebrate it and who do you celebrate with? Look at the photo at the top of the article. What do you think the people in the photo are doing to celebrate the New Year?
2. **Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions below.**
 - A. Buddhist
 - B. customs
 - C. glutinous
 - D. mallet
 - E. observed
 - F. offering
 - G. ritual
 - H. zodiac

1. a formal ceremony or series of acts that is always performed in the same way
2. a hammer with a large usually wooden head
3. an action or way of behaving that is usual and traditional among the people in a particular group or place
4. something offered in worship or devotion; anything offered as a gift
5. sticky
6. an imaginary area in the sky that the sun, moon, and planets appear to travel through and is divided into 12 parts (called star signs) which have special names and symbols and are believed by some people to have influence over people and event
7. a religion, originated in India by Buddha (Gautama) and later spreading to China, Burma, Japan, Tibet, and parts of southeast Asia
8. to celebrate (a holiday) or honor (a person or event)

Comprehension

1. Traditionally Oshogatsu, the Japanese New Year, was observed in Japan for weeks beginning on New Year's Eve. How many days long is the holiday in Japan now?

2. On what day do Japanese Americans celebrate the holiday in the United States?
3. One of the customs from Japan that has continued in the United States is the ringing of the Buddhist temple bell. When is the bell rung and how many times is it rung?
4. Name one thing families celebrating the Japanese New Year do in order to start the year off fresh.
5. The ritual of the Lion Dance spread to Japan from what country?
6. The Lion Dance, also called the Shi Shi Mai, is performed for special events and believed to bring good luck if you do what?
7. One popular traditional New Year food is mochi. What is mochi made from?
8. A fishcake called kamaboko is served because of its colors which are considered lucky - **true or false?**
9. Long noodles made from buckwheat called soba are eaten on New Year's Eve to ensure _____. **(Multiple Choice)**
 - a) **good health**
 - b) **good luck**
 - c) **a long life**
10. According to the legendary animal zodiac what animal year is 2016?

Additional Activities

1. Students can learn more about the Shi Shi Mai (the Lion Dance) at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbRJrICZcDQ> and watch the Japanese Lion Dance at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQGvwLg0oDU>
2. Make dessert mochi in your classroom or share the recipe for dessert mochi, located on page 3 of the Year of the Monkey teacher's guide, with your students.
<https://ad.seattletimes.com/FlippingBook/NIE/2016/WingLukeYearoftheMonkey/#3/z>.

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Answer Key to Vocabulary

- A. 7
- B. 3
- C. 5
- D. 2
- E. 8
- F. 4
- G. 1
- H. 6

Answer Key to Comprehension Questions

1. The holiday is now only three days long.
2. They celebrate on January 1.
3. The bell is rung on New Year's Eve. The bell is rung 108 times.
4. They clean their homes. They wear new or clean clothes. (Answers may vary – only one example necessary)
5. China
6. It is believed to bring good luck if you feed the lion an offering of money.
7. Mochi is made from sweet rice.
8. True
9. c) a long life
10. 2016 is the year of the monkey.