

Teaching News Is Elementary January 27, 2017

Each week, this lesson will share some classroom activity ideas that use the newspaper or other NIE resources. You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some classrooms may be able to use this as a worksheet and others might need to ask and answer the questions in a class discussion.

Materials you will need for this lesson: The Seattle Times e-Edition, pencil and paper.

Article: “Journey with Newspapers In Education and Wing Luke Museum to learn how different Asian and Pacific Islander Americans celebrate the New Year” (Chinese New Year)

Pages: Main, A8

Date: Friday, January 20, 2017

Pre- Reading Discussion Questions:

Look at the photos accompanying the article. Look of those photo of the lion dancer. Do you wear any special clothes when you celebrate holidays or other special events? If so what do you wear and why? What other special things do you do to celebrate holidays?

Vocabulary:

Read the following quotes and determine the meaning of the word based on how it’s used in the sentence:

“The Chinese New Year is based on the **lunar** calendar, which follows the phases of the moon. Chinese New Year falls on the second new moon after the winter **solstice** and typically occurs between mid-January to mid-February.”

Lunar: of, determined by, relating to, or resembling the moon

Solstice: either of the two times in the year, the *summer solstice* and the *winter solstice*, when the sun reaches its highest or lowest point in the sky at noon, marked by the longest and shortest days

“The Chinese believe the lion is an **auspicious** creature and brings good luck....”

Auspicious: conducive to success; favorable

“Today, you will see the traditional three colors of lions dancing along with lions of different **vibrant** colors—you may even see a lion aglow with LED lights. For Royal, the Lion Dance ties him to his Chinese American heritage and culture.”

Vibrant: full of energy and enthusiasm

Journal Writing Prompts:

“Royal Tan explains, “For Chinese New year, the Lion Dance is to bring good luck and to ward off evil spirits. The Chinese believe the lion is an auspicious creature and brings

good luck... These stories have been passed down from generation to generation and the Lion Dance has been around for thousands of years.”

Do you have anything that you believe brings you good luck? What is it? Why do you believe that it is lucky?

Discussion Questions:

Review the excerpt and discuss the following questions:

“Traditionally there are only three colors of the lion, as depicted in ‘Romance of the Three Kingdoms,’ a Chinese novel,” Royal tells us. “They are Lui Bei, Guan Yu and Zhang Fei,” respectively. These heroic generals and their legends are remembered through the lion costumes..”

What does it mean to remember something? What types of events or situations in your life do you remember? Why is it important to remember what has happened in the past? Are there any stories associated with holidays you celebrate that focus on remembering something?

Small group discussion and activity:

“The Chinese lunar calendar is divided into 12-year cycles, with an animal representing each year in a cycle. Find the year you were born and the animal that matches that year.”

Find the year that you were born and make an illustration to show the animal of your year. See if you can include the different characteristics of the animal. Do you feel like you embody these characteristics? How so? Think of examples from your daily life.

Find more activities for this series in our curriculum guide at: http://nie.seattletimes.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2017/01/WingLuke2017_1-20-17_TeacherGuide.pdf

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