

Context Clues • Chinese New Year • 1

To understand the meaning of unfamiliar words as you read, remember:

- An **unfamiliar word** is a word that you don't know the meaning of.
- **Context** is the words and sentences around the unfamiliar word.
- **Context clues** are specific clues in the sentences that can reveal the meaning of the unfamiliar word.

Read "Celebrate the New Year." Use context clues to figure out the meaning of an unfamiliar word and mark the text.

Celebrate the New Year

People celebrate the Chinese New Year all around the world. What do they do? Families give each other red and gold envelopes. The envelopes contain gifts of money. The color red is a **symbol** for happiness. The color gold stands for wealth. Before the New Year, families sweep their houses. They sweep out all the bad luck. Best of all, everyone goes to a Chinese New Year's parade.

Context Clues Text Marks

-  Circle the **unfamiliar word**.
-  Underline **context clues**.
-  Write the **meaning** of the unfamiliar word.

Mark the Text

Use context clues to figure out the meaning of the word *symbol*.

-  Circle the word *symbol*.
-  Underline context clues.
-  What is the meaning of *symbol* in this passage? Write it on the lines.

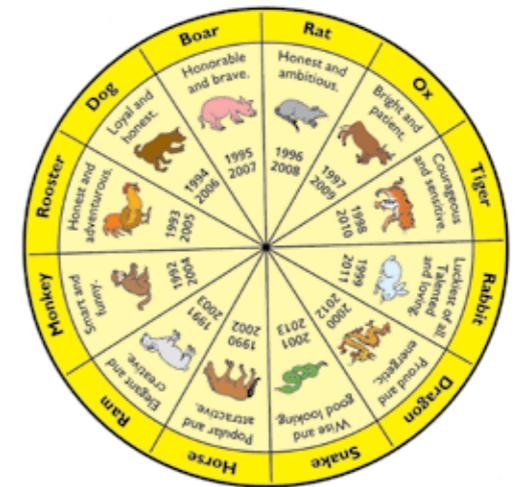
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Read “The Chinese Calendar.” Use context clues to figure out the meaning of an unfamiliar word and mark the text.

The Chinese Calendar

When is the Chinese New Year? It is not on January 1. In fact, it changes each year. The Chinese New Year begins on the first full moon of a new year. The Chinese calendar is a **lunar** calendar. It is based on how the moon circles the Earth.

There are 12 different years in the Chinese calendar. They are all named after animals. The first year is the Year of the Rat. Other years are named after the ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig. The animal years always go in the same order. When one cycle of years is done, another starts. Do you know which year were you born in?



Mark the Text

Use context clues to figure out the meaning of the word *lunar*.

- Circle the word *lunar*.
- Underline context clues.
-  What is the meaning of *lunar* in this passage? Write it on the lines.

Read “A Dragon Parade.” Use context clues to figure out the meaning of an unfamiliar word and mark the text.

A Dragon Parade

Many U.S. cities celebrate the Chinese New Year. They have colorful parades through the streets. San Francisco has the biggest parade. It is over two and a half miles long. What does the parade look like? School children dress up to march in the parade. They wear **vivid** costumes of bright colors like red and yellow. There are bands, floats, and firecrackers. There are lion dancers and big puppets.

The Golden Dragon is a crowd favorite. People break out in cheers when they see it. The Dragon is over 250 feet long! One hundred men and women carry it. They are members of a martial arts school. They need to be strong to carry the huge dragon.



Mark the Text

Use context clues to figure out the meaning of the word *vivid*.

Circle the word *vivid*.

Underline context clues.

What is the meaning of *vivid* in this passage? Write it on the lines.