



Wisdom and Growth in the Year of the Wood Snake

Teacher Guide

This lesson plan has been designed as a cultural exploration for groups of adult and student learners. The lesson combines language elements with reflection on traditions and contemporary challenges, such as sustainability. It integrates reading comprehension, conversation, and critical thinking skills.

Level: B2

Time: 90 minutes

Preparation

- Ensure access to the presentation slides and functioning equipment (computer, projector), as well as a stable internet connection.
 - Prepare student handouts.
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Lesson Plan

1. Lead-in (Slide 2)

Explain to students that the topic of the lesson will be the celebration of the Chinese New Year and its traditions. Ask students to pair up. Students scan the QR code displayed on the slide with their phones and choose questions to discuss in pairs. This activity can last for a set amount of time (e.g., 5 minutes) or until they've discussed a specific number of questions (e.g., 4).

Link: <https://wordwall.net/pl/resource/84913287>

2. Chinese Zodiac Signs (Slides 3-9)

Display the slide with the Chinese zodiac signs. Ask students to identify their zodiac sign based on their year of birth. Then, look at the descriptions associated with the zodiac signs

together (likely focusing on 2-3 signs relevant to the group). Ask: *“Do the given descriptions match reality?”*

3. Pre-reading Quiz (Slides 9-15)

Ask students to look at Task 1 on their handouts. Explain that this is a quiz designed to test their knowledge about the Chinese New Year. Students are not expected to know all the answers—they can guess or try to predict the correct ones. Students complete the task individually first, then share their observations and answers with the class.

4. Reading (Slide 16)

Read the text together. Verify whether students managed to answer all the quiz questions correctly.

5. True, False, Not Given (Slide 17)

Students are tasked with deciding whether statements about the text are true, false, or if the information is not given in the text.

Answer Key:

- F (The Chinese New Year is based on the lunar calendar, so it falls on a different date each year.)
- NG (The article mentions wisdom and transformation but does not include deception.)
- F (The article describes people born in the Year of the Snake as wise, observant, and cautious, not outgoing or impulsive.)
- T (The Wood element is associated with growth, renewal, and adaptability, which can relate to environmental awareness and harmony.)
- T (This is explicitly stated in the article.)
- T (The article connects dumplings and spring rolls to wealth and prosperity.)
- T (The Year of the Wood Snake focuses on thoughtful decisions and adaptability.)
- NG (The article does not explicitly mention the purpose of fireworks.)
- F (The zodiac influences personality and is meaningful year-round in Chinese culture.)
- F (The article emphasizes balancing traditions with sustainability, not avoiding traditions entirely.)

6. Vocabulary Matching (Slide 18)

Students match collocations used in the article with their definitions.

Answer Key:

- mark the beginning – i) Celebrate or highlight the start of an event or period.
- steeped in traditions – c) Rich in cultural or historical practices.
- bring good luck – f) Help ensure good fortune or success.
- symbolize transformation – b) Represent a significant change or shift.
- sweep away – g) Remove unwanted things, like bad luck, to start fresh.

- make room for – a) Clear space or prepare for something new and positive.
- festive meals – d) Special dishes prepared and eaten during a celebration.
- focus on sustainability – h) Concentrate on environmentally friendly practices.
- embrace change – j) Accept and adapt to new situations or opportunities.
- reevaluate priorities – e) Think about what is most important in your life and make changes.

7. Vocabulary | Fill in the Gaps (Slide 19)

Students use the collocations from the previous exercise to fill in the blanks in sentences. Tasks 6 and 7 can be completed individually or together as a group.

Answer Key:

- mark the beginning
- steeped in traditions
- sweep away
- bring good luck
- reevaluate priorities
- festive meals
- focus on sustainability
- embrace change
- make room for
- symbolize transformation

8. Discussion (Slide 20)

Encourage students to discuss the questions shown on Slide 20. They can work in pairs or small groups, then share their insights with the whole class.

9. Agree/Disagree (Slides 21-22)

Display the statements on slides 21 and 22. Ask students to choose one and respond to it. Encourage them to use appropriate phrases to express agreement or disagreement (e.g., *“I agree because...”*, *“I don’t think that’s true because...”*).

10. 3-2-1 Summary (Slide 23)

As a wrap-up, invite students to take part in the 3-2-1 activity. Display the slide and let students work independently on their handouts for a few minutes. Then, discuss their work together as a group to summarize the topic.