

About the Freebie

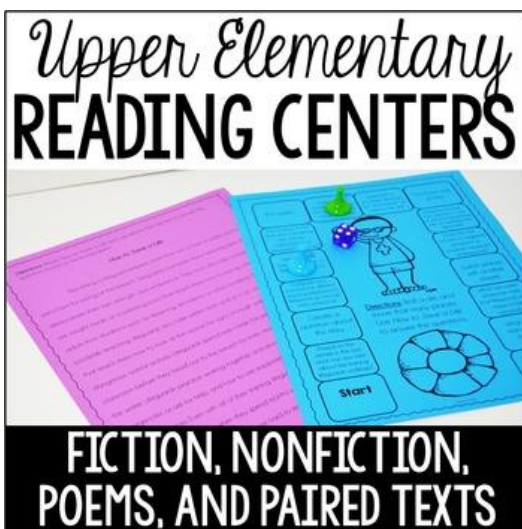
This freebie is one reading center on the topic of the Chinese New Year. The center includes an informational text at a 4th/5th grade reading level and a game board. Text-dependent questions are written on the game board.

The questions in this reading center resource are comprehension questions and not skill/standard-based questions. The questions can be answered using the information provided in the text with no specific skill instruction needed.

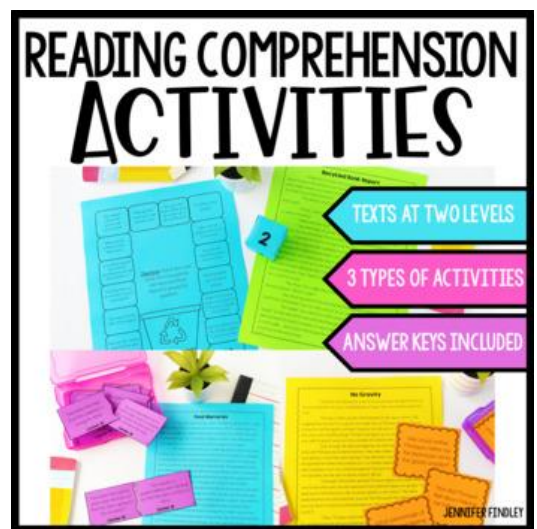
Answer keys and recording sheets are included.

Want More Reading Games?

- Mix of fiction, nonfiction, poems, and paired passages.
- Includes comprehension and standards-based questions



- Fiction passages only
- Includes general reading comprehension questions only



Options for Use in Reading Centers

Option 1: Copy the passage, and give the copies to the students at the beginning of the week. Have the students read the passage prior to going to the center. You could even read the passage in a small group. Then when the students go to the center, they are ready to play the “game” or answer the questions. The passage could also be read as a whole group or sent home for homework.

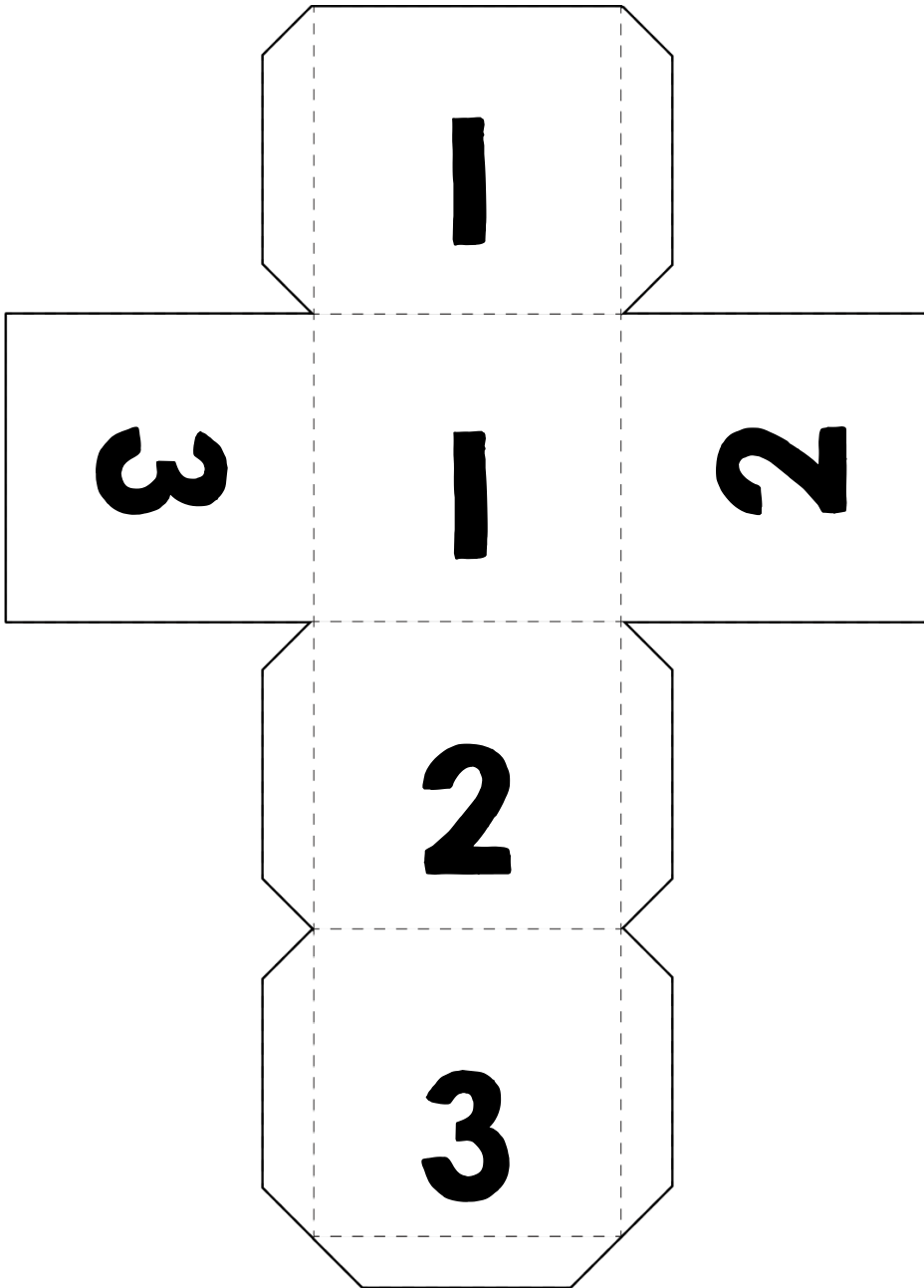
Option 2: This option works well if the students will have a chance to go to the center three times a week. On the first day or two, students will read the passage and discuss it. On the second or third days, the students will “play” the game or answer the questions.

Playing the “Game”

Option 1: Have the students take turns rolling and moving that many places. Have the student who rolled answer the question, while the other student listens and adds to the answer before checking the answer.

Option 2: Have the students take turns rolling and moving that many places. However, have both students answer the question in a written format before discussing.

Option 3: Have both students roll and move that many places. Then both students write the answers to their questions at the same time before discussing with each other.



Use this cube as dice if you want your students to move more slowly across the board.

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is a festival celebrated in China and around the world. It is the biggest and most important of the Chinese holidays. It begins with the first day of the Chinese lunar calendar. This calendar doesn't line up with the Western calendar. This means that Chinese New Year isn't January 1. The date is actually different each year. However, it always lands sometime between January 21 and February 20. Celebrations begin the evening before New Year's Day. They traditionally last until the 15th day, but some people celebrate over a shorter period.

Chinese New Year has been celebrated for thousands of years. Its origins are often traced to one story. A monster was terrorizing villages in the Chinese countryside. A wise monk told the villagers to use loud noises and red paper to frighten off the monster. It worked! The day when the monster was driven off became Chinese New Year.

This story is also the reason for some of the holiday's main traditions. Red paper decorations are hung everywhere, and firecrackers are a big part of the celebrations. Parades are also important. They often include large decorative dragons that are operated by dozens of people. Each year, a different animal – such as the monkey, tiger, or rabbit – is a central figure in the celebrations.

In China, red symbolizes joy and happiness. As a result, red shows up in other aspects of the festival, too, including clothing. People also hand out red envelopes with money inside to young people. However, it's not just young people who are celebrated. Chinese New Year is also a time to celebrate families and honor elders. Finally, an important tradition is cleaning one's house. This symbolically clears out the old, especially bad luck, in preparation for the new

In the story of the monster terrorizing villages, how was the monster frightened off?

What parts of the celebrations came from the story of the monster?

What is often included in the parades held to celebrate Chinese New Year?

Go back one space.

How long has Chinese New Year been celebrated?



What does red symbolize in China?

Between which dates does Chinese New Year occur?

In what other ways does red show up during the celebrations?

Why is Chinese New Year not on January 1?

Directions: Roll a die and move that many places. Use *Chinese New Year* to answer the questions.

Switch places with another player.

Roll Again

Find evidence from the text that Chinese New Year is celebrated in other areas around the world, not just China.

Besides young people, who else is celebrated during Chinese New Year?

What is the tradition that helps clear out bad luck?

START

FINISH

Chinese New Year

Recording Sheet

Chinese New Year

Name: _____ Date: _____

| Question | Answer |
|--|--------|
| Find evidence from the text that Chinese New Year is celebrated in other areas around the world, not just China. | |
| Why is Chinese New Year not on January 1? | |
| Between which dates does Chinese New Year occur? | |
| How long has Chinese New Year been celebrated? | |
| In the story of the monster terrorizing villages, how was the monster frightened off? | |
| What parts of the celebrations came from the story of the monster? | |
| What is often included in the parades held to celebrate Chinese New Year? | |
| What does red symbolize in China? | |
| In what other ways does red show up during the celebrations? | |
| Besides young people, who else is celebrated during Chinese New Year? | |
| What is the tradition that helps clear out bad luck? | |

Answer Key

Chinese New Year

| Question | Example Answer |
|--|---|
| Find evidence from the text that Chinese New Year is celebrated in other areas around the world, not just China. | “Chinese New Year is a festival celebrated in China and around the world.” |
| Why is Chinese New Year not on January 1? | Chinese New Year isn't on January 1 because the Chinese lunar calendar doesn't line up with the Western calendar. |
| Between which dates does Chinese New Year occur? | Chinese New Year occurs between January 21 and February 20. |
| How long has Chinese New Year been celebrated? | Chinese New Year has been celebrated for thousands of years. |
| In the story of the monster terrorizing villages, how was the monster frightened off? | The monster in the legend was frightened off by loud noises and red paper. |
| What parts of the celebrations came from the story of the monster? | The red paper decorations and firecrackers that are used as part of the celebration came from the story of the monster. |
| What is often included in the parades held to celebrate Chinese New Year? | Large decorative dragons are often included in the parades. |
| What does red symbolize in China? | Red symbolizes joy and happiness. |
| In what other ways does red show up during the celebrations? | People wear red clothing and hand out red envelopes with money inside to young people. |
| Besides young people, who else is celebrated during Chinese New Year? | Families and elders are also celebrated. |
| What is the tradition that helps clear out bad luck? | Cleaning one's house is a tradition that is supposed to clear out bad luck. |

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Thanks!
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