

## Chinese Dragon for the New Year

### Materials

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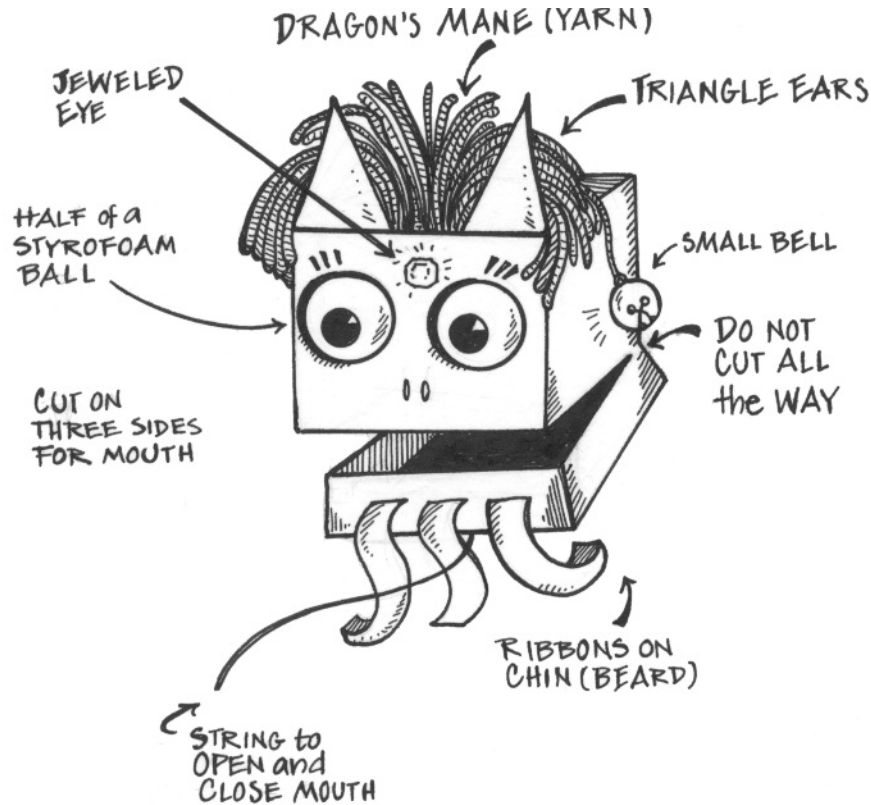
Cardboard box • scissors or knife (adult only) • string • paint • paintbrushes • egg carton or Styrofoam balls • glue • yarn • jewels • diaper pin • colorful blanket or material • small bed

### What to do

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1. Make a Chinese dragon with the children for the Chinese New Year (see illustration on the following page).
2. First find a box that will fit over a child's head and shoulders to create a dragon head.
3. Cut a square opening to be the mouth on three sides, leaving one side uncut. Attach a string so that you can open or close the mouth wearing the head.
4. Encourage the children to paint the box whatever color they choose.
5. When the box is dry, glue two egg carton cups or two halves of a Styrofoam ball on the box for eyes.
6. Cut long strings of thick yarn. Encourage the children to attach to the yarn to the top sides of the box for a mane. Mixing colors of yarn adds a beautiful effect to your dragon's mane.
7. Glue a jewel to the center an egg carton cup and glue it to the center of the dragon's head. This is the dragon's jeweled eye.
8. Add triangle-shaped ears to the head. Attach a small bell to the mane or ears.
9. When the dragon head is completed, choose one child to be the head. Use a diaper safety pin to attach the blanket or material on the child. Or, cut a hole in the material and put it over the child's head.
10. Select a few other children to stand in a line and hold onto each other's shoulders. Place the material over their bodies to represent the dragon's body. The custom is to keep the dragon moving at all times so the dragon never stands still.
11. Encourage the other children in the class to make loud noises using drums, bells, and other musical instruments. They should accompany the dragon wherever he goes to bring him good luck. Bring the dragon around the school to other classrooms or around the neighborhood to bring good luck for the New Year.

*(continued on the next page)*



12. Read books to learn about more customs, such as how it is customary to feed the dragon a red envelope, or salad from shopkeepers.

## Related books

*The Last Dragon* by Susan Miho Nunes

*This Next New Year* by Janet S. Wong

★ Cookie Zingarelli, Columbus, OH

# Chinese Dragon and Feast

## Materials

Old full-size sheet • construction paper scraps • glue • medium-size box • marker • small knife (adult only) • paint and paintbrush • stapler • CD or cassette tape of Chinese music • books on the Chinese New Year celebrations