



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

## What to do

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1. This is a great activity if you are learning about other cultures and their holidays.
2. Spread the sheet on a large table and ask the children to gather around it.
3. Give each child a bottle of glue and a pile of construction paper scraps.  
Explain that the scraps of paper will be the dragon scales and the sheet is the dragon's body.
4. The children can glue the construction paper scraps all over the sheet.
5. As the children are working on the body, draw a dragon face on the long side of the box.
6. Next, cut out the dragon's eyes with a small knife. Then paint the face. If desired, ask the children to help paint the rest of the box red.
7. When the face and "scales" are dry, attach the box to the end of the sheet with a stapler.
8. When the dragon is finished, show the children how to line up behind each other and put their hands on the waist of the child in front of them. Practice moving to the Chinese music before you place the "dragon" over them. Select a line leader to wear the head of the dragon and lead the dragon around the room. It is also great fun to visit other classes.

**Tip:** If you have Chinese-American children in your class, you could invite their parents to speak to the class about their culture, traditions, and foods.

★ Joy M. Tuttle, London, OH

## Five Little Valentines

### Materials

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5 paper plates with large hearts (preferably with lace on them) • scissors • black, felt-tip pen • contact cement or hot glue gun (adult only) • 5 craft sticks

### What to do

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1. Look for paper plates with a heart in the center the next time Valentine's Day rolls around. If you can't find any, make your own.
2. Cut out the hearts from the center of five plates. Discard the remainder of the plates.
3. Write the five spoken parts of the verse on each of the five hearts. For example, write "Will you be mine?" on one heart, and so on.

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