

CHINESE NEW YEAR

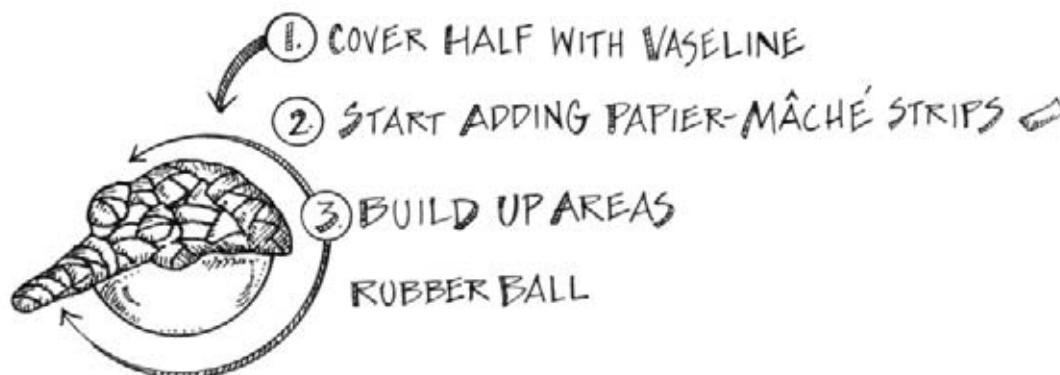
ART

MATERIALS

giant rubber ball
 petroleum jelly (such as Vaseline)
 newspaper
 glue
 brightly colored paint
 paintbrushes
 long piece of colorful fabric at least 10 yards long (different pieces of scrap fabric can be sewn together to make a long piece)
 decorations such as sequins, tassels, pompoms, or buttons
 stapler or tape
 paper
 crayons or colored pencils
 Chinese music or cymbals

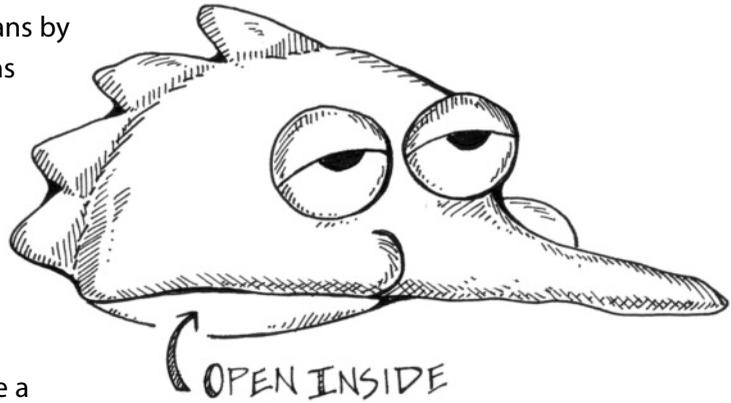
WHAT TO DO

- The Chinese New Year is a 15-day celebration, starting with the second new moon after the winter solstice and ending with the full moon. It can start any time between January 21st and February 19th, depending on the lunar calendar.
1. Cover half of the ball with Vaseline.
 2. Glue strips of newspaper over the Vaseline. Build up the papier-mâché (glue and paper strips) to make a giant dragon head, including large eyes, high cheeks, and a big mouth.
 3. When the papier-mâché dragon head is dry, slip it off the ball and paint it in bright colors and patterns.



4. Decorate the head and the long piece of fabric with sequins, pompoms, or buttons.
5. Attach the long piece of fabric to the dragon head with the stapler or tape.
6. Choose a few volunteers to dance around inside the Chinese Dragon.

7. Make Chinese fans by coloring patterns and pictures on pieces of paper. Demonstrate how to fold each piece of paper one way and then another to make a fan. Staple one end of the paper to make a fan.



8. Play Chinese music while the “dragon” dances and the children wave their fans. Have a child clash the cymbals occasionally.

★ *Amelia Griffin, Ontario, Canada*

DRAGON'S TAIL

GAMES

MATERIALS

none

WHAT TO DO

- Play this game for Chinese New Year. Explain the role dragons play in Chinese festivals. The Chinese New Year is celebrated on the second new moon after the winter solstice and ends 15 days later on the full moon. It can start any time between January 21st and February 19th, depending on the lunar calendar.
1. Form children into groups of 7 to 10, putting similar size children together so that smaller children are not overwhelmed by bigger children in the group. This is not a team game, so even one group of a few children is enough to play.
 2. Have the groups stand in a line, holding firmly onto the waist of the child in front of them.
 3. Tell the children that each of their lines is a “dragon.” The person at the beginning of each line is the dragon’s head, the middle ones are the body, and the end ones are the tail. If available, let the dragon heads wear dragon masks.
 4. Explain that the object of the game is for each dragon’s “head” to chase its own “tail” and try to catch it. The job of the body and tail is to protect themselves from the dragon’s head, while staying joined together.
 5. On a given signal (clap or whistle), the dragon heads start to chase their tails. The children must try and keep out of the head’s way—the more children there are in the dragon, the harder this is.