

## **February 2008 Monthly Theme: "Chinese New Year"**

Happy Chinese New Year! Or more appropriately, Gung Hay Fat Choy! (The traditional Chinese New Year greeting). This month we welcome the year 4705. Let's celebrate and welcome the New Year with dragon dances, paper lanterns, fortune cookies and oranges for abundant joy. Decorate your blue and gold banquet with banners inscribed with Chinese characters for luck and lots of red, the symbol of a bright and sunny future. Why not earn the Language and Culture belt loop and pin as we learn about and enjoy the culture of China.

Webelos Activity Badges: First year, Scholar; Second year, Start Engineer

### **Core Values**

Some of the purposes of Cub Scouting developed through this month's theme are:

- ✓ **Respectful Relationships**, Cub Scouts will learn to respect the traditions and values of another culture.
- ✓ **Family Understanding**, Cub Scouts will learn the importance of tradition in family activities
- ✓ **Fun and Adventure**, Cub Scouts will enjoy exploring the games and handicrafts of another land.

The core value highlighted this month is:

- ✓ **Cooperation**, Cub Scouts will learn how families work together in preparation for holiday traditions.

Can you think of others??? Hint - look in your **Cub Scout Program Helps**. It lists different ones!! All the items on both lists are applicable!! You could probably list all twelve if you thought about it!!

### **Theme Related Material**

#### **THOUGHTFUL ITEMS FOR SCOUTERS**

##### **Roundtable Prayer**

The Chinese New Year's Celebration is also called the "Spring Festival." Messages are hopeful and uplifting; greetings offer good luck and abundant fortune. It is a time for family reunion and for visiting friends and relatives. This is our Prayer: "Lord, grant that each of us gives messages that are hopeful and uplifting as we celebrate a new year and Scouting's birthday. As we learn more about other cultures, their customs and belief, may we learn more respect for diversity. Amen"

##### **The Eagle and the Dragon**

The theme for this year's Blue and Gold Banquet is "Chinese New Year." 2008 is also the year of the Beijing Olympic Games. The Beijing Olympics will have five mascots. The following paragraph is from the official Beijing Olympics Website:

In the ancient culture of China, there is a grand tradition of spreading good wishes through signs and symbols. Each of Fuwa symbolizes a different blessing -- and will honor this tradition by carrying their good wishes to the children of the world. Prosperity, happiness, passion, health and good luck will be spread to every continent as Fuwa carry their invitation to Beijing 2008 to every part of the globe.

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The Fuwa are also known as the "Five Friendlies." Their names are Beibei, who carries the blessing of prosperity; Jingjing, who brings the blessing of happiness; Huanhuan, who brings the blessing of passion; Yingying, who brings the blessing of health, the strength of body that comes from harmony with nature; and Nini, who carries the blessing of Good Luck. When combined the phrase translates to: "Beijing welcomes you. More than 4000 Chinese children share their names with the five mascots. Another almost 3,500 people are named Aoyun, meaning Olympics.

This month also gives Cub Scouts an opportunity to learn about the Chinese in America and their contributions and prepare to watch the Olympic Games next fall with new eyes.

September's theme was Cub Scout Express. The transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869. Many of the men who built the railroad east from Sacramento were Chinese men who had traveled to the United States with the Gold Rush twenty years before. They found they were forced to leave the gold fields and to take menial jobs to make a living because they were banned by California laws from the gold fields. The Chinese men also helped develop coastal fisheries and reclaimed swamp land for farming. As the need for labor to build the railroad increased, many Chinese men went to work for the Central Pacific Railroad.

In the Book, *The Great Iron Trail*, As Chinese Railroad foreman is quoted as saying, "Men of China were skilled at work like the big job. . . . Their ancestors has built fortresses in the Yangtze gorges, carved and laid the stones of the Great Wall. *The 2007 Utah State Quarter commemorating the completion of the Trans-Continental Railroad*



(It might be fun to hide these in cakes for treats)

A nationwide depression made work hard to find for everyone, and in 1882 Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Acts suspending Chinese immigration and denying all Chinese children born in America the basic rights of citizenship. In 1898, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned that part of the law and established the legal rights of citizenship of all Americans by birth. The children of Chinese immigrants born in the U.S.A. were legally American Citizens.

Angel Island in San Francisco Bay became the main processing center for incoming Asians, but for Chinese immigrants it was a particular harsh stay. To discover illegal entrants, Chinese citizens were detained on Angel Island for long periods of time in degrading conditions as their loyalty, and allegiance was questioned.. The Angel Island immigration station was closed in 1940 after fire destroyed several building. It was reopened as a processing center for Japanese Prisoners of War in World War II.

In 1997, Angel Island in San Francisco Bay was designated a National Historic Landmark. Many of the buildings are being restored and it may become the site of a West Coast immigration museum.

Let us take this month to learn more about the Chinese Culture and people, and gain a respect for those Americans of Chinese decent among us.

## Quotations

Quotations contain the wisdom of the ages, and are a great source of inspiration for Cubmaster's minutes, material for an advancement ceremony or an insightful addition to a Pack Meeting program cover This month in keeping with the theme of "Chinese New Year," the quotes are from the philosopher Confucius.

## Chinese Proverbs

- ✓ "If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people."
- ✓ "Preserve the old, but know the new."
- ✓ "If you want happiness for a lifetime - help the next generation."
- ✓ "If you are patient in a moment of anger, you will escape a hundred days of sorrow."

## Confucius

*Scouter Jim, Bountiful, Utah*

Confucius was a scholar (551-479 BC) who searched for the fundamental principals of social order and harmony. He wandered from court to court attempting to convince rulers of the right way to govern.

## CONFUCIUS QUOTES

- A superior man is modest in his speech, but exceeds in his actions.
- Ability will never catch up with the demand for it.
- An oppressive government is more to be feared than a tiger.
- And remember, no matter where you go, there you are.
- By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest.
- Do not impose on others what you yourself do not desire.
- Everything has its beauty but not everyone sees it.
- Faced with what is right, to leave it undone shows a lack of courage.
- He who learns but does not think, is lost! He who thinks but does not learn is in great danger.
- Heaven means to be one with God.
- Hold faithfulness and sincerity as first principles.
- I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.
- I want you to be everything that's you, deep at the center of your being.
- I will not be concerned at other men's not knowing me; I will be concerned at my own want of ability.
- If you look into your own heart, and you find nothing wrong there, what is there to worry about? What is there to fear?
- If you shoot for the stars and hit the moon, it's OK. But you've got to shoot for something. A lot of people don't even shoot.
- If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed; if in terms of ten years, plant trees; if in terms of 100 years, teach the people.
- It does not matter how slowly you go, so long as you do not stop.
- Learning without thought is labor lost; thought without learning is perilous.
- Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated.
- Never give a sword to a man who can't dance.
- No matter how busy you may think you are, you must find time for reading, or surrender yourself to self-chosen ignorance.
- Old age, believe me, is a good and pleasant thing. It is true you are gently shouldered off the stage, but then you are given such a comfortable front stall as spectator.
- Only the wisest and stupidest of men never change.
- Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in getting up every time we do.
- Real knowledge is to know the extent of one's ignorance.

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- Respect yourself and others will respect you.
- Silence is a true friend who never betrays.
- Speak the truth, do not yield to anger; give, if thou art asked for little; by these three steps thou wilt go near the gods.
- Study the past, if you would define the future.
- Success depends upon previous preparation, and without such preparation there is sure to be failure.
- The cautious seldom err.
- The expectations of life depend upon diligence; the mechanic that would perfect his work must first sharpen his tools.
- The firm, the enduring, the simple, and the modest are near to virtue.
- The more man meditates upon good thoughts, the better will be his world and the world at large.
- The object of the superior man is truth.
- The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home.
- The superior man acts before he speaks, and afterwards speaks according to his action.
- The superior man is distressed by the limitations of his ability; he is not distressed by the fact that men do not recognize the ability that he has.
- The superior man is modest in his speech, but exceeds in his actions.
- The superior man makes the difficulty to be overcome his first interest; success only comes later.
- The superior man thinks always of virtue; the common man thinks of comfort.
- The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential... these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence.
- There are three methods to gaining wisdom. The first is reflection, which is the highest. The second is limitation, which is the easiest. The third is experience, which is the bitterest.
- To be able under all circumstances to practice five things constitutes perfect virtue; these five things are gravity, generosity of soul, sincerity, earnestness and kindness.
- To be wronged is nothing unless you continue to remember it.
- To see the right and not to do it is cowardice.
- Virtue is not left to stand alone. He who practices it will have neighbors.
- We should feel sorrow, but not sink under its oppression.
- What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others.
- When anger rises, think of the consequences.
- When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps.
- When we see persons of worth, we should think of equaling them; when we see persons of a contrary character, we should turn inwards and examine ourselves.
- When you are laboring for others let it be with the same zeal as if it were for yourself.
- Where-so-ever you go, go with all your heart.
- Wisdom, compassion, and courage are the three universally recognized moral qualities of men.
- Without feelings of respect, what is there to distinguish men from beasts?
- You cannot open a book without learning something.

## Chinese Proverbs and Western equivalents

Chinese	Western
There are always ears on the other side of the wall.	Walls have ears .
Flowers look different in different eyes.	Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.
(As rare as ) phoenix feather and unicorn horns.	Scarce as hen's teeth
Water spilled can never be retrieved.	Don't cry over spilled milk
Fish a needle in the sea.	Finding a needle in a haystack
Play a harp before a cow	Cast your pearls before swine
Seeing once is better than hearing a hundred times.	Seeing is believing
Lift a stone only to drop on your own feet.	Shoot yourself in the foot
A bottle half filled (with vinegar) tends to rock.	Still waters run deep
Love my house, love the crow on it.	Love me love my dog
Pluck flowers as they bloom; wait and you'll have only the twigs.	Strike while the iron is hot
Add oil to a flame.	Add fuel to the fire
Disasters never come alone.	Misery love company
An overcrowded chicken farm produce fewer eggs.	Too many cooks spoil the soup
Pick up a sesame seed only to lose a watermelon.	Strain at a gnat to swallow a fly
A sly rabbit will have three openings to its den.	Keep your options open
Flowing water never goes bad; door hubs never gather termites.	A rolling stone gathers no moss
Throw in a rock as someone is drowning in the well.	Kicking a man while he's down
Fallen leaves return to the root.	Apples don't fall far from the tree
It is easy to dodge a spear that comes in front of you but hard to avoid an arrow shot from behind.	Watch your back
Honing your hatchet will not delay your effort of wood cutting.	Take time to sharpen you saw
A person cannot be judged by his appearance in the same token as the sea cannot be measured with a bucket.	Don't judge a book by the cover
Good will be rewarded with good and evil with evil; it is only a matter of time.	You reap what you sow
No banquet in the world that never ends.	Nothing last forever
He who plays with fire may become its victim.	Play with fire and you'll get burned.
Mend the pen only after the sheep are all gone.	Close the gate after the cows are out.
Add frost to snow.	Adding insult to injury.
A deliberate inaction is better than a blind action.	Look before you leap.
Once bitten by a snake, one is scared all his life at the mere sight of a rope.	Once bitten, twice shy.
Fight poison with poison.	Fight fire with fire.
Pass off a fish eye for a pearl.	Pig in a poke
Be considerable to others and you will be treated likewise.	Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.

## Pack Admin Helps

### Character Connections, part 1

(Part 2 - see the February 2008 Baloo's Bugle @ <http://www.usscouts.org/bugle>)



The **Character Connection** information in this article and on [www.Cubroundtable.com](http://www.Cubroundtable.com), my website come from excerpts from friends interested in helping other Scouters get needed information about the new program. Jamie Dunn, Three Rivers District -Cub Training Chair; Blaine in Coon Rapids, MN; Sean Scott, Council Vice President, Public Relations, California Inland Empire Council and Sean's Philmont Report with one of the authors of the new Character Connections, Dr. Matt Davidson. Thanks, for the help.

**Character Connections** involves 12 core character values, but the program does not assume there are only 12 values, if we can succeed in creating a strong character foundation with our scouts they will learn other values later. Also, although each achievement emphasizes one particular **CC** it doesn't mean that it is the only character value that can be focused on in that activity.

When the first **Character Connections** achievements came out in the new Tiger books, leaders were not used to teaching character building. The old BSA **Ethics in Action** program which attempted to make character an optional element of the program did not succeed. **Character Connections**, by being integrated into the books, achievements, materials, and so forth, we are building on a child's developmental ability.

**CC** also involves three dimensions that aren't separate or even separable-- to know, commit and practice. The boy needs to know the **CC** (head), commit to it (heart) and practice it in his daily life (hand). Character is both caught and taught. We see someone exhibiting character and follow their example in our community. We can also teach character by telling, discussion, experience and modeling. This is where the discussion points in the books come into play.

The end goal of **CC** is to establish a moral identity for our youth. Until a boy takes on Scouting's values as his or her own, it isn't a violation of a child's personal morals to break those values. Values are situational, too. In the context of a Scout meeting, a boy may quite comfortable reciting the pledge or discussing the importance of not littering. However, under pressure from his peers in a non-Scouting setting, the boy needs to have a sense of greater conviction to those same values to stand behind them as strongly when they may not be as popular for him or her to follow them.

**CC** can be integrated into achievements in the following manner:

1. Say you're working on a conservation project or hike. You're out in nature, and you come across a pile of rubbish left by some campers or hikers. One of your boys makes a comment about how rude or careless littering is. Ask the boys why they think it's rude to litter. This is the **KNOW** component. They've seen an example of littering, and now they realize that it's not nice to toss your trash in the woods. Ask them how they felt when they came across the pile of trash. Did it distract them from everything else that was around them? Did it make them forget that they were looking for animal tracks, or a certain type of plant?

2. This is the **Commit** phase, where these boys realize that they don't want to be thought of in the same way as they're thinking of whoever left the trash. Now that you've guided them to discover how they feel, they establish a personal set of values about littering. The important part here is that it is easy to break a rule we don't believe in or hold as a personal value. People speed because they don't think it's too wrong--they consider themselves good drivers and capable of handling a vehicle at a higher speed than the posted limit, or because the importance of being someplace sooner outweighs the importance of breaking the law. Speeding just doesn't violate most people's core values or beliefs. Most people, though, do have a value system that prevents them from shoplifting. Doing so would violate their personal values.

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3. Cultivation of a sense of community and the impact that values have on the boy's place in that community. we've helped the boys establish \*for themselves\* that littering is wrong, guided them to understand how they feel about the person that left the trash, and realize that they don't want to be thought of in the same way. Now we apply the last

part of the program, **Practice**, where the values are broken into actual skills. Here it may help to script the steps toward the end goal so that difficult concepts can be better understood.. Help them make the decision to pick up the trash, and to not litter themselves. It's not until they have an opportunity to actually do/avoid something that the three parts come together and a character connection is made.

4. Cool down, where discussion of what went well, what could have gone better, and what might come next can be discussed.

### **How to do a Character Connection activity:**

1. Reserve judgment—let them give their ideas
2. Open ended questions—require scouts to think and give personal ideas.
3. Feeling questions—what did they feel about the experience—that makes it personal to the scouts.
4. Judgment questions—about their feelings
5. Ask guiding questions and stay on track.
6. Closing thoughts—Bring discussion to an end.

This isn't a classroom type of program. Rather, it's a method by which we as leaders can have an informal discussion with our youth and allow them to discover how they feel about something. As in all Scouting activities, Make it simple, make it FUN! Examples found in the 2005 **Character Connections Packet** are collected from 2002 to present so that future Leaders will have the resources we had from the beginning.

To learn more check out [Character Connections](#)

[Character Connections Chart #13-323A](#) Chart explaining Character Connections

[Character Connections Data](#) Some history behind the program.

[Character Connections](#) Overview of all ranks on a chart.

[C Connections](#) Outdoor Grid Ideas for outdoor activities.

## **Character Connections Examples for this Theme**

### **Remember - Know, Commit, Practice.**

- ★ **Cooperation** - Boys learn to cooperate as they plan their contribution to the pack meeting.
- ★ **Compassion** - The Blue and Gold Banquet festivities and abundance of food reminds us to be aware of everything we have and to show compassion for those who have less.

## **MORE THEME RELATED STUFF**

Chinese New Year starts with the New Moon on the first day of the new year and ends on the full moon 15 days later. The 15th day of the new year is called the Lantern Festival, which is celebrated at night with lantern displays and children carrying lanterns in a parade. In 2008, New Year's Day falls on Thursday, February 7.

Legend has it that in ancient times, [Buddha](#) asked all the animals to meet him on Chinese New Year. Twelve came, and Buddha named a year after each one. He announced that the people born in each animal's year would have some of that animal's personality. In 2008 it will be the year of the Rat, those born in rat years tend to be leaders, pioneers and conquerors. They are charming, passionate, charismatic, practical and hardworking.

Lai See is the custom of giving a gift of money in a special red envelope during the New Year's celebration. In the Chinese culture red is a lucky color. The combination of the red envelope and money represent a wish for good luck and good fortune in the coming year as red represents good luck and money wealth. While the amount of money in the envelope is usually small (a single, low denomination bill - never coins) it symbolizes a wish for good fortune. Many believe that good luck will come to both the giver and the recipient of the Lai See.



Scouts of China Emblem

Chinese New Year is celebrated each year in January or February - the date is based on The Chinese calendar, a combination solar/lunar calendar, and some complex astronomical calculations, including the longitude of the sun. Chinese New Year falls on the second new moon after the winter solstice (all months begin with a new moon). Parades are held all over the world to celebrate the beginning of the Chinese New Year. The celebration lasts for 15 days and ends with a Lantern Festival, with children again parading with lanterns. There are a lot of customs or superstitions surrounding the New Year - check some of them out:

**Superstitions about the New Year:**

- Clean House - Before the New Year arrives, the Chinese consider it very important to give the house a thorough cleaning, sweeping away any bad luck that may have accumulated over the past year. They also don't clean for the first few days of the New Year - to avoid sweeping away their good luck!
- Decorate! - Doors and window panes are also often painted red, considered to be a lucky color. In addition, people like to hang paper cuts on doors and windows. (Paper cutting is an ancient Chinese art form dating back to the Han dynasty).
- An important tradition on New Year's Eve is for families to gather together and spend the evening preparing Chinese Dumplings. They hide a coin in one of the dumplings, to bring good luck in the coming year to the person who finds it.
- Pay Debts and wear new clothes - never wear white, as it is a color associated with dying. Red is the color of good luck and new beginnings.
- Chinese people believe that evil spirits dislike loud noises - that's why firecrackers are set off - houses are even decorated with plastic firecrackers!
- They also buy kumquats, since the name of the fruit is a play on the word for "Prosperity"
- The peach blossom is also considered to be lucky and the markets are decorated with the delicate blossoms wrapped in tissue paper that stops them getting damaged....
- The word for Tangerines and oranges sound like luck and wealth, so they are popular. Pomelos, the large ancestor of the grapefruit signifies abundance, as the Chinese word for pomelo sounds like the word for "to have."
- The word for fish, "Yu," sounds like the words both for wish and abundance. So on New Year's Eve fish is served at the end of the evening meal, symbolizing a wish for abundance in the coming year. For added symbolism, the fish is served whole, with head and tail attached, symbolizing a good beginning and ending for the coming year.
- And what about the sweet, steamed cakes that are so popular during the Chinese New Year season? Their sweetness symbolizes a rich, sweet life, while the layers symbolize rising abundance for the coming year. Finally, the round shape signifies family reunion.

## The Legend of the Quarreling Animals

There is a twelve year cycle to the Chinese calendar, and an animal to represent each year. According to Chinese legend, the twelve animals quarreled one day as to who was to head the cycle of years. The gods were asked to decide and they held a contest: whoever was to reach the opposite bank of the river would be first, and the rest of the animals would receive their years according to their finish.

All the twelve animals gathered at the river bank and jumped in. Unknown to the ox, the rat had jumped upon his back. As the ox was about to jump ashore, the rat jumped off the ox's back, and won the race. The pig, who was very lazy, ended up last. That is why the rat is the first year of the animal cycle, the ox second, and the pig last. According to the cycle, 2008 will be The Year of the Rat.

According to the Chinese horoscope, people born in the Year of the Rat are noted for their charm and attraction for the opposite sex. They work hard to achieve their goals, acquire possessions, and are likely to be perfectionists. They are basically thrifty with money. Rat people are easily angered and love to gossip. Their ambitions are big, and they are usually very successful. They are most compatible with people born in the years of the Dragon, Monkey, and Ox.

## Chinese Inventions

- **Umbrella** - The umbrella were used as much a 4,000 years ago in ancient Assyria, China, Egypt, and Greece, originally to make shade from the sun. The Chinese were probably the first to waterproof the umbrella for use in the rain; they used wax and lacquer (a type of paint) to repel the rain.
- **Abacus** - The abacus was first seen in a sketch book written during the 1300s in China, although there isn't a record of who actually invented it. Masters of the abacus can often count as fast as another person using a computer.
- **Papermaking** - Chinese legend tells that the new invention of paper was presented to the Emperor in the year 105 AD by Cai Lun. Archeological evidence, however, shows that paper was in use two hundred years before then. Either way, the Chinese were significantly ahead of the rest of the world. The craft of papermaking relied upon an abundance of bamboo fiber to produce a fine quality paper.

Paper was made in Egypt out of papyrus plant. Since about the first century AD when the Chinese made paper out of the fibers from the mulberry plant, **folding paper** has been practiced. The Chinese developed some simple forms, some of which survive down to this day. When the secret of paper was carried to Japan in the sixth century AD by Buddhist monks, they quickly developed complex designs.

- **Printing** - The Chinese invention of moveable type, credited to Bi Sheng in the year 1045 AD, did not significantly impact Chinese society. Three hundred years later in Europe, Gutenberg's development of moveable type revolutionized the Western world. Why? The Chinese language uses 3000 to 5000 characters in an average newspaper. The English language, in comparison, uses 26 characters in an average newspaper. Clearly, manipulating 5000 characters on a printing press took much longer than moving 26. Still, the invention of moveable type furthered Chinese technology and its role in the advancement of human civilization.
- **Gunpowder** - Imagine their enemy's surprise when the Chinese first demonstrated their newest invention in the eighth century AD. Chinese scientists discovered that an explosive mixture could be produced by combining sulfur, charcoal, and saltpeter (potassium nitrate). The military applications were clear. New weapons were rapidly developed, including rockets and others that were launched from a bamboo tube. Once again, the raw materials at hand, like bamboo, contributed ideas for new technologies.
- **Compass** - By the third century AD, Chinese scientists had studied and learned much about magnetism in nature. For example, they knew that iron ore, called magnetite, tended to align itself in a North/South position. Scientists learned to "make magnets" by heating pieces of ore to red hot temperatures and then cooling the pieces in a North/South position. The magnet was then placed on a piece of reed and floated in a

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bowl of water marked with directional bearings. These first navigational compasses were widely used on Chinese ships by the eleventh century AD.

- Silk - was first made by the Chinese about 4,000 years ago. Silk thread is made from the cocoon of the silkworm moth (*Bombyx mori*), a small moth whose caterpillar eats the leaves of the mulberry tree. The cocoon is a single, continuous thread about 500 to 1200 yards long - it's made from a protein from two glands in the caterpillar's head. After the caterpillar spins his cocoon, it is dropped into boiling water and the thread is unwound. Silkworms are also fed to turtles, lizards, frogs, fish and birds. Some American teachers send away for silkworms so their class can see the whole process and actually unwind the silk thread. (*It takes about 6 weeks or more, but if you have scouts who really want to try it, go to <http://www.mediamessage.com/Kayton/Silkworms/whole.htm>. There is also a journal from a class that did the project, which is fun to read, at <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Forum/6966/silkworms.html>*)

## Chinese Trivia

Did you know...?

- Some of the first forms of currency in China were made of shell, satin, or Jade.
- There are 55 official minority nationalities, and 206 listed languages.
- China has approximately a 75% literacy rate.
- Only Imperial dragons embroidered on the robes of the Emperor or his personal attendants could display five claws.
- The Chinese women have won medals at the Olympics for their outstanding ability of weight lifting!
- In China, Tiger body parts are sought for use in traditional Chinese medicine and exotic recipes.
- In China, snake is a delicacy. Some dishes include roast boa and five-step snake, snakeskin with peppers, and snake lemon liqueur, which is "good for a person with a weak body". Some Chinese even check into sanitariums for extended snake-diet therapy.
- Even though there are French and Italian eateries popping up in southern China, Barbecued rat and dog are still favorites. Others include silkworms and black beetles.
- The ancient Chinese consider the peach a symbol of long life and immortality. These "Persian apples" actually had their beginning in China, but were developed in Persia and went from there to Europe and then to America with the colonists.
- Ladies in the high society in China once made black dye from dark eggplant skins and used it to stain their teeth to a black luster, a fashionable cosmetic use.
- Chinese is the oldest and the greatest of the world's literature.
- Acupuncture originated in China more than 5000 years ago.
- The Great Wall is the only man-made structure that can be seen from the Space Shuttle and is used by scientists to study earthquake

## Pack and Den Activities

### Advancement Ideas:

#### Tigers -

Ach 2D, 4G, 4F; Elect. 2, 30

#### Wolf -

Ach 2A, 2B, 8C, 12; Elect. 4E, 11B, 14A, 22A, 22B

#### Bear-

Ach 15B, 15C, 17B, 17E, 22A, 23; Elect. 11B

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The **Language and Culture Belt Loop** would be an excellent choice for every level of Cub Scouts for this theme.

### **Tiger Cub Achievements:**

**#5G** - Take a hike with your den - try making one of the Chinese forms of art about the world of nature you have seen

### **Tiger Cub Electives:**

**#1** - If you have a boy with a Chinese heritage, this would be a great time to invite him or his family members to come share how they celebrate

**#2** - If you make decorations for a Pack Chinese New Year's celebration

**#3** - Have a family Tangram puzzle night

**#21** - Make a puppet based on a Chinese character or animal

**#31** - Choose an animal from China, such as a Panda Bear - but there are lots of others!

**#35** - Play one of the Chinese children's games outdoors with your pack

**#45** - Visit a Chinese bakery if there is a China Town in your area - try to find out what the different treats are called;

### **Wolf Achievements:**

**#4f** - If you are able to visit a China Town in your area, or an important religious building used by Chinese people;

**#6b, c** - Make a collection about something Chinese - pictures of the different animals used in the Chinese horoscope, pictures of famous Chinese locations from travel agent or Chinese embassy brochures, or maybe a collection of "Chops" for family members or friends;

**#8c** - help make a Chinese dinner for your family

### **Wolf Electives:**

**#2** - if your den puts on a skit about China or a Chinese folk tale;

**#4f** - Play one of the Chinese outdoor wide games;

**#5a-e** - Learn kite flying safety rules, then make and fly a kite to celebrate the invention of kites in China;

**#9** - Help prepare for a family or den party with a Chinese New Year theme;

**#12a or d** - Do an art project based on China or Chinese art;

**#22a, b** - Learn to say hello and count to ten in Chinese

### **Bear Achievements:**

**#3d** - If you are able to visit a China Town or a Chinese heritage location and learn about it;

**#8e** - See if there is any Chinese background to the history of your community;

**#9b,c** - If you choose food with a Chinese theme; **#10b** - Have a family Tangram Puzzle night;

**#15b, c** - if you choose Chinese games from this packet;

**#18e** - write a thank you note if a guest expert comes to talk about China or teach Chinese customs;

**#19** - Use whittling chip skills to create your own "Chop" or make a sculpture of an animal that lives in China;

### **Bear Electives:**

**#9** - Visit an Asian art museum or make an art project based on Chinese art;

**#10** - make a mask of a Chinese character or animal

### **Webelos Activities:**

**Artist #3, 7, 9** - follow a Chinese theme or style;

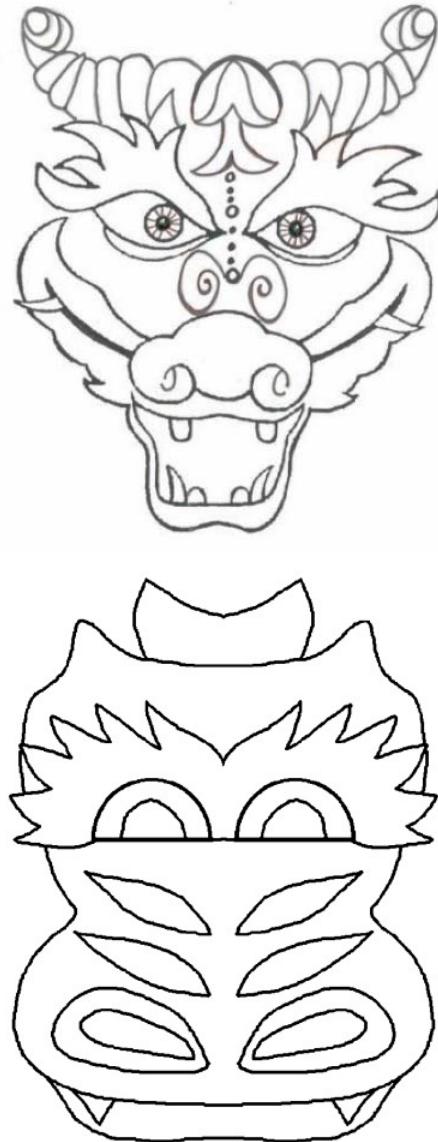
## February 2008: "Chinese New Year"

**Communicator #10** – invite a Chinese speaking person to share what they know about their language;  
**Craftsman** – try making something that represents Chinese culture or craft;  
**Showman** – using puppetry, music or drama, share something about China or its culture or history.

### Paper Dragon

In China, the dragon is a symbol of good luck.

During the New Year's holiday, people have a dragon parade.



Here's a dragon that you can make for your own parade.

#### Materials

- Two different colors of construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Craft sticks, dowels, tongue depressors or even chopsticks (for holding the dragon)
- Tape
- Glue

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- Poster board or cardstock for stiffening the dragon's head
- Crayons or markers
- Sequins for eyes
- Dragon head pattern
- Colored tissue paper (several colors) in  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " strips least 12 inches long

### Instructions

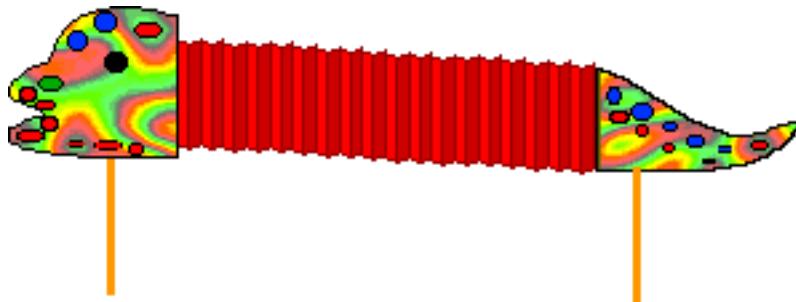
#### Dragon Head

1. Enlarge the dragon head pattern to fill a piece of construction paper (or larger if you have bigger paper and a plotter)
2. Color the dragon head.
3. Glue it to the poster board or cardstock and let it dry.

#### Forming the dragon body. using the two long construction paper strips,

1. From the construction paper, cut several 1" wide strips from both of your colors of construction paper until you have enough to make (by taping strips together) two different colored 36" strips
2. Take the end of one long strip and lay it crosswise over the end of the other strip. (You can tape these beginning ends together).
3. Now take turns folding one strip over the other until your strips runs out. Tape the two ends of the strip together and then open the dragon body.
4. Glue the dragon body to the back of the dragon head.
5. Glue several tissue paper strips to form the tail of the dragon.
6. Attach a craft stick (or other stick) to the dragon's head and another craft stick to the dragon's tail - you will hold onto the dragon in these two places during the dragon parade.

#### Dancing Paper Dragon Toy



Cut a Dragon head and tail out of colored paper. Decorate with glitter, feathers, etc. Cut another piece of colored paper in half lengthwise, then paste two ends together to make a long rectangle. Now accordion fold vertically along the whole length of the rectangle. Glue or tape the head to one end and the tail to the other end. Now tape the head and tail to two wooden barbecue skewers, balloon sticks, chopsticks or straws. Hold each skewer in one hand and make your dragon dance by moving your hands in a swirling fashion while you move around the space. *This is an individual version of the huge Chinese dragons carried by many people in Chinese New Year parades.*

#### Neckerchief Slides

**Panda Bear:** Use 1 white  $1\frac{1}{2}$  or 2 inch pompom for each bear. You will need 2 small black pompoms for the ears and 2 small white pompoms for the cheeks. Use two small wiggly eyes. You can use a tiny black pompom for the nose if desired. Glue a ring to the back for the neckerchief to be threaded through. (Note: I like to use expandable fake wedding bands for backs so that they can be made tighter or looser.)

**New Year Banner:** Write Happy New Year in Chinese on red laminated card stock. This is an easy inexpensive way to go. Put a ring on the back of the paper and you're finished.

## February 2008: "Chinese New Year"

**Paper Kite:** Make this with toothpicks and tissue paper or construction paper strips make cute neckerchief slides, either with a diamond-shaped kite or a box kite, with or without tails. Tails are fun but can be caught easily and break the slide.

**Zodiac Animals:** You could also let the boys research their Chinese Zodiac Sign and make paper animals or more pompom animals. The snake is very simple-a pipe cleaner and wiggly eyes. Twist it around your finger loosely. However, Webelos would have been born in 1997, so the year of the ox would be appropriate. Nine year olds would have been born in 1998 which was the year of the tiger. The eight year olds would have been born in 1999 which was the year of the hare. All these animals are very easy to make with pompoms, but you will need a little felt or pellon to make ears and strips and horns. Have fun!!!

## Make Your Own Chinese Abacus

Have the Cub Scouts make and learn to use an abacus. Here are some simple instructions for making a 5-digit abacus.

### Materials (for 1 abacus):

- 9 - 4 1/2" craft sticks
- 1 4 1/2 by 4 1/2 inch cardboard sheet If you used different size craft sticks, adjust size to match size of craft sticks)
- 5 stir sticks - round, not flat
- 35 pony beads (optional: 25 of one color and 10 of another color)

### Notes:

- Be careful in using the glue gun. A low temperature glue gun is best when working with Cub Scouts.
- Use tweezers to remove the "hot glue spider webs" from around the beads so that the beads can move freely.
- The "straws with beads" are just pony beads on mini coffee stirrer straws (round ones, not flat ones). You can get coffee stirrers at a grocery store. The beads need to slide on the straws so don't glue them!
- Also, the Chinese abacus has 5 beads below (earth) and 2 beads above (heaven) the middle cross bar. You can make the beads different colors for above and below the cross bar.

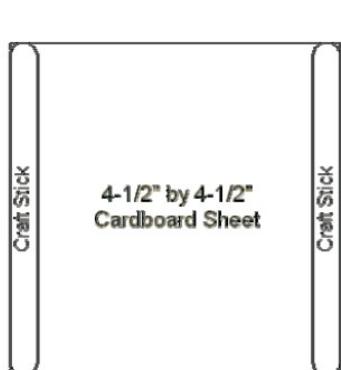


Figure 1. Glue 2 craft sticks to sides of cardboard sheet

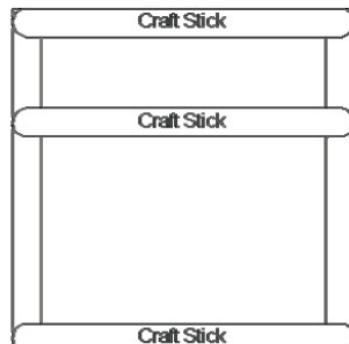


Figure 2. Glue 3 craft sticks across the first ones at the top, bottom, and about 3" from the bottom

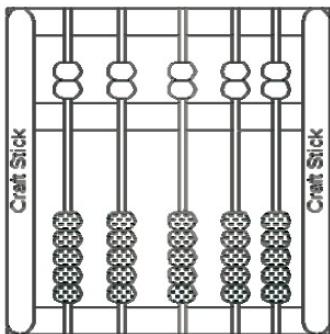


Figure 3. Glue "straws with beads" onto cross pieces and glue 2 craft sticks along sides. DO NOT glue the beads to the straws; they're supposed to slide!

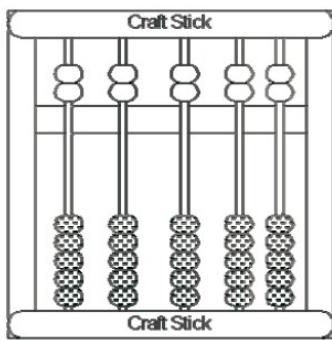


Figure 4. Glue 2 more craft sticks across top and bottom

## Activity Ideas

**Decorate the Pack meeting room** - Hang Chinese Lanterns made by the boys. Take cuttings from flowering branches and place around the room, or take bare branches and add "blossoms" made from scrunched up pieces of colored tissue paper and glued on. Each den or family could also produce their own "mural" - their own version of Chinese painting, a Chinese landscape with poetry, or a collage of photographs from brochures about China obtained from a travel agent or Chinese embassy.

**For Gathering Time as families enter, have them go to different stations:** Some ideas for stations -

- Learning to say 5 words or count to 5 in Chinese;
- Playing a Chinese game;
- Hearing a Chinese legend;
- Making their own Chinese Dragon for a parade.
- Pick an activity that the boys have enjoyed during the month, and use it for one of the stations.
- Let the boys display something they have done during the month at each station and explain it.

**Contact the Chinese Embassy in any large city** - they will send you brochures, pictures, sometimes even games and other information about their country-especially if you explain that you are a Scout leader - (*This works for any country - I even got a large Korean flag! - Alice*)

**Check with local colleges or universities for foreign student groups or students from China** - Invite them to come and share information about their homeland. (*One time when I did this, the students made a special calligraphy of each person's name, using ink and a brush - everyone was excited to take it home! They might also share a special food treat. -Alice*)

**Ask Travel agents for brochures from China**. They have them from countries all over the world. See if the agents have been there or know someone who could come and share pictures and information about their travels in China.

**Visit an Asian Museum** - Look for information about culture or history you have heard about, or for art examples that you might want to try doing yourself.

**Make a Chinese Dragon and have a parade** ~ There are several ways to make a dragon - For a pack-wide dragon, provide plenty of boxes - Families and boys can make a Dragon using the boxes - provide scissors, colored paper, markers, glue and tape. The whole dragon could consist of a boxes, or you could make the head out of boxes and provide a long red plastic tablecloth body, with each section attached to the others with duct tape - **Start your Pack meeting with a Dragon parade** - Be sure there's a camera to record the fun - and take a picture of each family peeking out of the dragon.

Each den, person or family could also have their own individual dragon - see easy directions under Crafts. Everyone marches around the room to show off their dragon before the pack meeting begins. Play an authentic Chinese music tape and have people drop those little "bomb" noisemakers to make the sound of firecrackers.

## February 2008: "Chinese New Year"

**Attend a Chinese New Year parade** as a den or pack.

**Visit a China Town** if there is one in your area.

During the month, have the boys **draw Chinese quotes in Chinese script**, and have them on display for the pack meeting. (*See <http://www.chinapage.com/quote/quote.html> for some great ideas and samples*)

**Make and fly kites** to celebrate the invention of the kite in China. Be sure to go over the rules for kite safety under Wolf Elective #5a. Check out the March 2007 issue of Baloo for "Baloo Skies". There is a long item on kites in the article. Or go to The Big Wind Kite Factory," <http://www.molokai.com/kites/>

**Gather or make some abaci** (plural of abacus but abacuses is also acceptable) and let the boys try their hand at counting things.

### Origami Flying Bird



#### Materials:

A Square (4"x4" or larger) piece of origami paper. Use different colors. Construction or bond paper works, too

#### Instructions:

Watch video at

[http://www.metacafe.com/watch/254377/flying\\_paper\\_bird/](http://www.metacafe.com/watch/254377/flying_paper_bird/)

or check directions at

[www.wikihow.com/Make-an-Origami-Flying-Bird](http://www.wikihow.com/Make-an-Origami-Flying-Bird)

and make birds

#### Note to leaders -

*It took me several viewings until I could make the bird. Don't expect instant success from video. However, once you master the skill, I think you will be able to easily teach your Cubs because you will be both verbalizing the instructions and demonstrating. And you can give them help as they do it.*

### Parade Stilts

Players make stilts by running twine or light rope through #10 cans or large tomato cans

*See Wolf Book, Elective 7b.*

Make sure rope or twine is strong enough and long enough for players to hold it comfortably while standing on the cans.

### Chinese Juggling Sticks

These Juggling Sticks originated in China a couple of thousand years ago. The pompoms on the ends of them look like flowers, therefore the name for this toy translates into flower stick. The Juggling Stick is an empowering toy. Learning to play Juggling Sticks gives the player a sense of control that comes from mastering something that is challenging and fun. (Think Cub Scout Core Value - Perseverance and CS Purposes - Personal Achievement and Fun and Adventure) Also, developing concentration, eye-hand coordination and the stress relief that comes from rhythmic and focused movement. They are good for solitary or noncompetitive interactive play.



#### Materials:

1 - 5/8" X 24" hardwood dowel for the baton

2 - 3/8" X 18" hardwood dowels for the handsticks

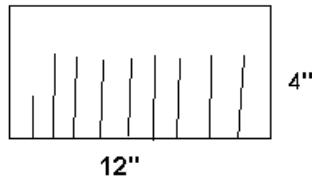
## February 2008: "Chinese New Year"

- A couple of yards of colored electrical or duct tape (1/2" wide) - The more colors used, the more colorful the sticks!
- 1 roll -- Rubber tape (available at electrical supply or hardware stores).
- Small standard roll of duct tape.
- 3 -- 4" X 12" strips of felt that will match tape colors or recycled material - (such as leather, jeans, fur or other thick material that would look nice around the ends).
- 1 container of a permanent fabric adhesive

### Instructions:

#### For the Baton

- Find center of longest dowel by measuring. (12" from each end)
- Wrap tape on either side of center and put a strip of colored tape around center.
- Take the same colored tape as in center and, beginning from the outside center, wrap it around the stick in candy cane fashion leaving space for the width of rubber tape to also be wrapped around in candy cane style.
- Wrap the rubber tape around in the same way, covering the dowel with alternating rubber and colored tape Do this from center to both ends.
- Wrap duct tape on both ends in equal amounts for weight distribution (1/2 - 3/4 inch thick around both ends). Weighted ends are critical to may tricks. Test the weight distribution by balancing the center on a finger.
- Cut 1/2" wide by 3" long strips in the felt or material rectangles into as shown below. Do not cut all the way through. The material rectangle must stay in one part. Using pinking shears makes the ends look more decorative.



- Stack the 3 strips and wrap non stripped end of the felt or material with permanent fabric adhesive around the duct tape so that the strips flap in a flowery display.

#### For the hand sticks

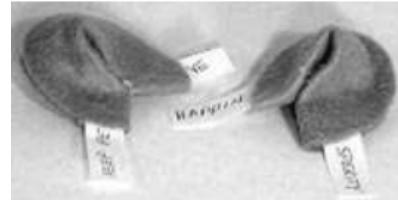
- Alternate colored and rubber tapes around 2/3 of smaller dowels in candy cane fashion.
- Wrap Extra rubber tape around the end and at end of candy cane design.
- For the other 1/3 of hand stick, cover candy cane style with your choice of colored tape.
- Wrap a couple of extra times around the end.

*For instructions on using these juggling sticks - do a Google search on learning Chinese juggling sticks.*

## Fortune Cookie Decoration

### Materials:

- Tan felt
- Yogurt lid (or similar size)
- Black marker
- Scissors
- Low-temp glue gun
- Thin strip white paper
- Black pen



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### Instructions:

- Write a good fortune on the piece of paper with the pen. An example could be: You will find peace and happiness. (Note: Only the ends of the paper will show)
- Trace around lid on felt with black marker.
- Cut out the circle you traced.
- Fold felt in half and crease by pushing down with finger.
- Open felt.
- Put a line of glue around the edge of the circle. *Leave a gap near the crease where the paper will stick out.*
- Quickly lay the white strip of paper across the felt circle to one side of the crease, be sure to let the paper stick out on both ends. (see #1)
- Immediately fold the felt over and press with fingers until glue sets.
- Push the felt in the middle of the folded area (see #2) to make the felt puff up.
- Then add some glue in the middle where the felt will meet when pushed together.
- Push the ends toward each other and hold until glue sets.



### Easy Paper Lantern

#### Materials:

- 1 Piece of 9" by 12" +/- Construction Paper (You can also use bond or cardstock. But stay close to the 9" by 12" (or 8 1/2 by 11") size)
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Scissor



#### Instructions:

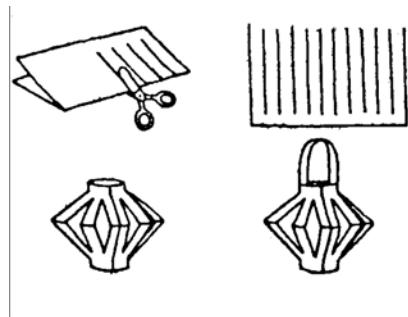
- Use the ruler and make a straight line about 3/4" away from one of the 6.5" long edges.
- Cut this strip off and set it aside to be the lantern handle.
- Fold the piece of paper in half, lengthwise. *Make sure you line up all the edges.*

*NOTE: If your paper has a good and bad side, make sure the bad side (the side that will be the inside of your lantern) is facing out at this point.*

- Draw a line along the open, long edge, of the paper, about 1" of an inch from the edge.
- Take your scissors and, starting at the folded edge, cut a strip from the folded edge up to the line you drew.
- Make the first strip about 3/4" away from a short edge and continue to cut several strips along the piece of paper like shown in the picture.
- Once all your strips are cut, you should unfold your piece of paper and refold it lengthwise so the pencil mark will be hidden on the inside.

#### Assembly

- Roll the paper into a tube shape as shown above
- Staple or tape the edges together
- Attach the handle by taping or stapling the ends of the strip of the paper you cut off the large sheet of paper, just inside the top of the lantern.
- Completed lanterns can be hung up or set on a table for decoration.



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**These lanterns are only for decorative purposes and should not be used near open flames such as candles.**

## Felt Snake

If you look closely, you can see the red snake wound around a red stick.



### Materials:

- Red felt,
- Ruler,
- Black marker,
- Scissors,
- Glue or tacky glue,
- 2 (6 mm) wiggle eyes,
- Chenille stem (any color) aka pipe cleaner.
- Clothespins.

### Instructions:

- Lay the ruler on the long edge of the felt.
- Use your marker to draw a line the length of the ruler.
  - Note: When you cut the felt out it will be the same length and width of the ruler.
- Cut the felt strip.
- Lay the chenille stem down the middle of the felt.
- Put glue along the long edge of the felt and one end.
- Fold the felt over the chenille stem, matching the long edges together.
- Hold the felt together using clothespins.
- Cut a piece of felt about 1/4" wide by 3/4" long.
- Cut a "V" shape in one end (short end) to make the tongue.
- Take the opposite (short) end and place it in the one end of the snake that you did not glue shut.
- Glue the tongue in place.
- Glue the eyes on the end of the snake right above where the tongue is located. (see photo)
- Let glue dry. (Note: This may take overnight)
- Remove clothespins.
- Wind the snake around the pencil or object of your choice.



## Make a Chinese Gift Packet

Instead of presents as in the West, the Chinese give gifts of money at Chinese New Year, weddings and birthdays. The money is usually placed in a red packet/envelope decorated with an appropriate symbol, greeting or lucky sign. Red envelopes filled with money are called "hong bao." [Children](#) are the typical recipients though adults with no job also receive them. Red is a lucky color that represents good fortune, good luck, happiness, and abundance.

### Materials:

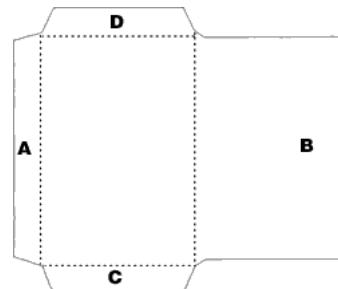
- sheet of red paper
- Scissors,
- Black or Gold marker (fine point Sharpie?)
- paper glue.



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### Instructions:

- Copy and enlarge the pattern to desired size
- Print the pattern onto a sheet of red paper, (or white paper and color it red)
- Draw a Chinese character on the rectangle bounded by flaps A, B, C, and D. (To make your packet extra nice, use gold paint or a gold marker)
- Cut out the packet and fold along the dotted lines, fold away from the printed Chinese characters.
- Straighten the packet out, and turn it so you are looking at the side without the characters.
- Now fold over flap A and apply a little glue along its right edge.
- Fold over flap B and press it firmly onto the glued edge of flap A.
- Apply a little glue to flap C and press it firmly onto flap B.
- You now have your Chinese gift packet! Flap D is the flap of the envelope and a little glue can be applied to seal it- but don't forget to put your gift money inside first!

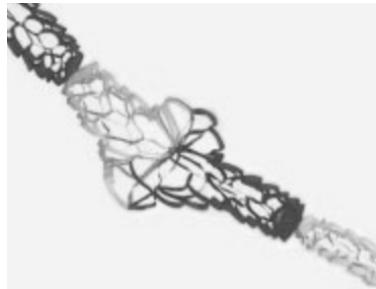


### Chinese Garland

Each year the streets of China are decked with long, lacy garlands in honor of the New Year. Celebrate in your home with this version of the popular decorations.

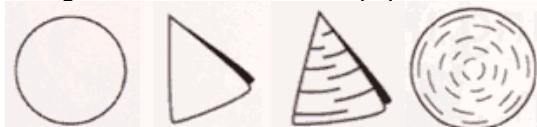
### Materials:

- Colored paper
- Scissors
- Glue



### Instructions:

- Cut at least a dozen or more large circles from colored paper.



- Fold each circle in half, then in half again, and finally in half a third time (it will resemble a wedge of pizza).
- Perforate each wedge by making a series of snips from both sides toward the center.
- Unfold the snipped circles.
- Apply a few drops of glue along the edge of one open circle.
- Place a second circle on top of the first, so that the edges stick together.
- Next, apply glue to the center of the second circle and place a third circle on top of it.
- Continue adding the remaining circles, alternately gluing the edges and the centers.
- When the glue is dry, gently pull the top and bottom circle in opposite directions and hang the garland

### Stamp Your Name

When a Chinese artist signs his paintings, he uses a carved stone block or chop to print his symbol on the canvas. To personalize his art or stationery, your child can make a decorative signature stamp out of Styrofoam and cardboard.

First, have your child write her initials on tracing paper, making the letters as ornate as she likes or incorporating them into a unique design. Next, place the paper printed-side down on a clean Styrofoam meat tray. Trace over the design with a pen, bearing down to leave an impression in the Styrofoam. Cut out the design, leaving a narrow border all the way around, and glue it onto a piece of cardboard trimmed to the same size.

## **February 2008: "Chinese New Year"**

For a handle, glue a tissue tube to the back. Then press the stamp onto an ink pad, and it's ready to use.

### **Shine Your Pennies**

In the Chinese New Year tradition, red envelopes are given to children containing brand new money. Make old pennies shiny and new with this science activity.

#### **Combine**

- 1/2 cup vinegar
- 4 tablespoons salt.

#### **Instructions**

Dip in your penny and see what happens.

#### **Another Idea -**

If you would like to extend this activity, you can make it into an experiment.

Fill 4 bowls with the following ingredients and see what happens when you dip in a penny.

Bowl #1: vinegar

Bowl #2: salt

Bowl #3: salt and vinegar

Bowl #4: salt and water

Let the children hypothesize about what they think will happen.

Encourage them to use their skills of observation to describe what happens after dipping each penny in a bowl

## **GAMES**

### **Rock, Paper, Scissors**

For as long as most of us can remember, kids have been trying to one-up each other in the game of Rock, Paper, Scissors. In China, children take it a step further. Here's how:

Two kids sit side by side at the bottom of a short staircase. On the count of three, both of them must throw one hand forward in the form of a rock (a fist), paper (fingers held together, straight out), or scissors (forefinger and middle finger in a "V").

Following the logic that paper covers rock, rock breaks scissors, and scissors cut paper, the player who presents the winning symbol in that round moves up one step. If both kids display the same symbol, it's considered a tie.

Play continues in this manner until one child reaches the top step and wins the game.

### **Chop Sticks Relay Race**

- Have enough sets of chop sticks so that each relay team gets two sets. (You decide how many relay teams you need.)
- Get a bag of individually wrapped fireballs so that when they drop them the candy isn't everywhere!
- Divide the boys into equally-sized teams and then split the teams in half again.
- Send one half of each team to one end of the hall and the other half to the other end.
- The object of the race is to use the chop sticks (I am not making rules on how they use them!) to carry the fireball down the hall to the other half of your team and to hand it off to the next racer.
- This goes back and forth until the two groups are on the opposite ends of the hall from where they started (i.e., everyone got a turn "to run with the ball..").
- If you have enough fireballs, then give one to each participant after the race.
- If you have enough chop sticks, give them to the winning team/dens to hang on their den colors.

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### Chinese Ball

**Needed:** A basketball

**Instructions:**

1. The players stand shoulder to shoulder in a large circle.
2. One player has a basketball which he throws to any player in the circle who must try to catch it.
3. When the ball is caught by a player, children on either side must raise their arms in the following manner:  
The player on the catcher's right will raise his left arm, and the player on the catcher's left will raise his right arm.
4. If a player raises the wrong arm, or neither or both, that player leaves the circle.
5. If a player fails to catch the ball, he too must leave the circle.
6. If the player catches the ball, he throws it instantly to some other player, whose neighbors must raise their arms as described above.
7. The upraised arms are lowered again as soon as a catcher has thrown the ball.
8. When all but five players are eliminated, the remaining players are the winners, and the game starts all over again.

### Crossing the Rice Fields (China)

Divide dens into two teams. Have each team break into two-boy teams. When the leader calls, "Rice!" the first pair on each team forms a "wheelbarrow" (one boy walks on his hands while the other holds his ankles) and races across the "rice field" to a "river" (two parallel ropes on the floor with a board (2x4 lying on wide side) going across it). At the edge of the river, the players stand up and walk across the bridge. Then they return.

#### *Alternate River Crossing*

*At the edge of the river, one player climbs on the other's back and is carried piggyback across the river. On the other bank, they change places for the return trip across the river and then wheelbarrow back to their team. The next pair then starts.*

### Chinese Number Games:

Use the calligraphy number chart under Den and Pack Activities to print our or make two sets of cards. Use the cards to play a Memory, Matching or Snap game.

### Forcing The City Gates

(very much like "Red Rover")

Appoint captains, choose sides, and form into two lines facing each other. Everyone in each line, take hold of each other's hands tightly and sing:

He stuck a feather in his hat,  
And hurried to the town  
And children met him with a horse  
For the gates were broken down.

One player from the other side runs with all his force throwing himself upon the hands of the children who had sung. The object of the game is to "break through" the gate (the hands). If successful, the two players whose hands were parted come to his/her side. The other side then sings. One from this group will try to break through the line, and thus alternate until one side or the other is broken up.

## Chopstick Race

### Set Up:

- Place a bowl of uncooked rice, popcorn (easier), M & Ms or Smarties (hardest!) for each team on a chair or table at one end of the room,
- Place a pair of chopsticks and an empty bowl for each team at the other end of the room.

### To Play:

- Using the chopsticks, the first member of each team picks up a piece of popcorn, rice or a Smartie etc. from their bowl
- He then carries it to their team's bowl at the other end of the room
- Then he runs back and passes the chopsticks to the next team member who does the same.
- Continue as a relay race
- When every team member has successfully completed the task the team has finished
- The first team to finish wins. (If the teams are uneven in numbers, make sure each bowl has the same number of pieces of popcorn, sweets etc., and continue till they have all been transferred to the other bowl.).
- If boys are having troubles with the smaller items at first, let them use cotton balls.

## Select Fruit

- Select captains and choose sides.
- All squat down in two rows twenty feet apart.
- Each child is given the name of some kind of fruit, such as apples, pears, peaches, quinces, or plums - all of which are common about Peking.
- The captain on one side then blindfolds one of the children, while one from the other group rises and walks over to touch the blindfolded child - returning to their place among their own group and taking as nearly as possible the position they had when the other was blindfolded.
- In case their companions are uncertain as to whether their position is exactly the same, they all change their position, in order to prevent the one blindfolded from guessing who it was who left his place.
- The covering is then removed from the blindfolded person's eyes.
- They should approach the members of the opposite team to examine carefully the positions of the players or a trace of guilt in the face or eyes of any of them.
- They can make "faces" to try to cause the guilty one to laugh.
- The player needs to risk a guess and make a selection of the person who touched them while blindfolded.
- If they are right, they take the place of the child who touched them.
- If they are wrong, they stay on their side.
- One from their side is then blindfolded, and the whole is repeated until one group or the other loses all its children.

## Caught You!

Needed: a large group of people (about 20-30 people), a piece of cloth, and a small ball.

### Directions:

- One person is "it" and is blindfolded.
- Everyone else sits in a circle.
- Leader says "Start" and the ball is passed around the circle.
- It can shout "Stop" at any time.
- The person with the ball at that time must stand up and sing a song, tell a story, make a funny face and noises.
- See if "It" can identify the person performing. "

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- "It" is replaced every few minutes to keep the game fun. (*This may seem tame and without competition to American children, but is very popular with Chinese children*)

### Lame Chicken

**Equipment:** 10" long stick for each boy

**Set Up:**

Divide into two groups and have the boys place the sticks on the ground about 10 inches apart, like the rungs on a ladder.

**Instructions:**

On the signal, the first boy on each team hops on one foot over all ten sticks. He then reaches down, picks up the tenth stick and hops back over the other nine sticks. He tags the next player who repeats the first boy's actions. Continue until all the sticks are gone. The first team to pick up all their sticks wins!

### Chinese Wall

**Materials needed** - masking tape or rope, measuring tape

**Play:**

Players line up along one side of the gym. Two parallel lines of masking tape are made down the center of the gym about three to four feet apart. The catcher stands between the lines and tries to tag players as they try to cross the "wall". The catcher must stay on the "wall" and players can only be caught when they are on the wall. If caught, players stay on the wall and help to catch the rest.

### Catch The Dragons Tail

**Materials needed:** handkerchief, Chinese music, cassette or CD player

**Play:**

The boys line up in a single line, each holding onto the waist of the boy in front. The boy at the end (the tail) has a hanky hanging out of his back pocket. The boys count down together, "EM"-1, "ER"-2, "SAN"-3, "KO"-GO! Then the music starts and the boys walk in time to the music. When the music ends, the first person, who is the Head of the dragon, tries to catch the tail, (the hanky), on the last person. The whole dragon must remain unbroken. If the dragon breaks, a new dragon must be formed. If the head player grabs the tail, he may continue to be the head. If the body breaks before he touches the tail, the head becomes the tail, and the next in line is the head and so on, until each has had a turn being the "fiery head of the lashing tail".

### HIT THE SQUARE

**Equipment:-** chalk, disks or washers

**Set Up:**

Draw a rectangle on the ground about twelve inches by twenty-four inches. Divide the rectangle into two equal squares. Each player has a disk or a washer.

**Instructions:**

One player places his disk into the square. Another player stands about eight to ten feet away and tosses his disk into the square. If it lands in the square with the other player's disk, he scores two points. If it lands in the empty square, he scores one point. The player who reaches a predetermined score wins.

## Fan The Fish

### Preparation:

Draw a circle on the finish line about 20 inches across. Make paper fish for each team. Make cardboard or paper place fans for each team. Draw a start line for teams to line up at. Line up teams in relay formation at the starting line. Place a paper fish in front of each team at the start line. Place the fan behind on the floor.

### Instructions:

At the word "Go" the first person in line picks up the fan and starts fanning the fish toward the circle on the floor. When he gets it into the circle, he picks up the fish and takes the fish and fan back to the start for the next player. Players may not hit the fish with the fan.

## Tiger Cubs

### Achievement 4, How I Tell It

This requirement is about Communication. Getting our Tigers to talk with others and be positive in what they say. They may learn how to carry on conversations and a little about mass communication.

Tigers can learn there are many modes of communication - when we talk, write, dance, sing or draw pictures. We communicate too with our faces when we frown or smile and our bodies with how we stand or move our arms.

Our uniforms and beads (on our Tiger totems) and patches communicate information about who we are and what we like to do.

*Adults communicate through newspapers, magazines, books (Harry Potter) television and radio. Be open to showing all these to your Tigers to help them Search, Discover and Share.*

### Achievement 4 Family Activity

4F - At a family meal, have each family member take turns telling the others one thing that happened to him or her that day. Remember to practice being a good listener while you wait for your turn to talk.

Mealtime conversations should be kept positive. Sharing your day's activities could become a regular family activity. Try to do this at a meal when everyone is there. Sharing amongst family members is always good so try to keep doing it even if only a few members are present.

The requirement helps promote Family Understanding, one of the Ten Purposes of Cub Scouting!!

This requirement involves doing a Character Connection on Respect. There are three elements to every Character Connection. A Tiger must first know what is correct, then practice doing it and finally commit to doing it in the future. If you want more info on Character Connections there is a BSA Bin Item 13-323A or go to Bill Smith's Virtual roundtable at - <http://www.wtsmith.com/rt/chardev.html>

### For the Respect Character Connection -

Know - Have the Tiger discuss how he can show respect while talking with others. How to listen respectfully. How he may interrupt and still be respectful.

Practice - Have him participate in a family conversation (The one for this requirement would be great!!) Then discuss how he and others showed respect.

Commit - Have him discuss how it felt to be respected while he talked and how he felt showing respect to others. Have him make a list of three things to remember to help him talk respectfully.

### Achievement 4 Den Activity

#### 4D - Play "Tell It Like It Isn't"

This is the old "Whistling Down the Alley" game where the boys line up and pass a secret along. By the time it gets to the end, it usually is different than the start. *The more boys the more fun.* The Adults should join in, too, to make the line longer.

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After the game discuss how things your Tiger may hear may not always be accurate. That messages change as they are passed from person to person. Discuss, too, how unkind words (gossip) can do harm and is often untrue. Cubs should only try and say things that are true. Honesty is a core value of Cub Scouting.

### Achievement 4 Go and See It

4G - Visit a television station, radio station, or newspaper office. Find out how people there communicate with others.

This is very easy. Where I live we have a great radio station, WJBR ([www.wjbr.com](http://www.wjbr.com)) that invites Scouts up to tour. Then, if the Den wants to, they tape them saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Every day at 7:00 AM, they play a tape of a group (school class, Den, Troop, Club). *They even came to my roundtable and had us one morning saying the Pledge.* I really like it when I hear a Tiger Den; they are so honest and excited. And most say it correctly - saying "One Nation Under God" as a continuous phrase without a pause. Of course it helps that the morning DJ, Michael Waite, grew up in Indiana, the Heartland of America, and his assistant, Mr. Rhoads is an experienced Philmont trekker!! I have heard the Pledge said on several other area stations so maybe there is one by you.

Our local newspaper encourages tours. When my son's Den went for Communicator, they inserted a picture of the Den on the front page and ran enough copies so each Scout could get one!!

## The Pack Meeting

### BLUE AND GOLD IDEAS

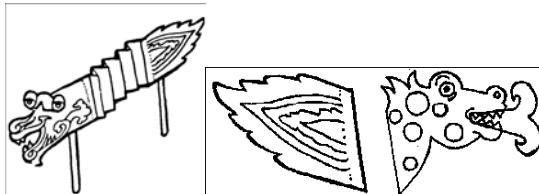
#### Chinese Decorations Ideas for Your Blue and Gold

#### Posters and Banners

One of the prominent Chinese New Year decorations is called "chunlian." A chunlian is a temporary decoration placed outside the home at the entrance used only during Chinese New Year. Vertical strips of red paper contain Chinese characters expressing happy, uplifting messages about the coming new year. The characters are typically hand painted using a calligraphic style. These strips of paper are then posted on the front door with the first chunlian hanging vertically on the right side of the door, a second on the left and an optional third posted horizontally across the top.

Another typical decoration involves the Chinese word "fu" which means "luck." When people celebrate Chinese New Year, they often create posters with this word written upside down. This is the only time that Chinese words are purposely posted upside down. Chinese people often decorate their homes with beautiful paintings at the beginning of the year. These paintings usually depict spring rituals and legends. In addition, Chinese

#### Dragons



The Chinese dragon is a symbol of royalty and a symbol of strength and goodness. A dragon parade is held every Chinese New Year. **You can stage a dragon dance to open your Blue and Gold.**

First, have each boy make a dragon's face from paper plates, then tape each plate to a craft stick or straw. Play some lively music and have the boys lead a dragon dance around the room.

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They should hold their dragons high as they wish one another happiness and good luck. The body of the dragon shown is made of green construction paper and the head/tail patterns should be enlarged.

### Lanterns

Chinese New Year celebrations traditionally end with the Festival of Lanterns. *This would make a great closing for your Blue and Gold.* Help the boys celebrate their Chinese New Year, which signals the end of winter and the coming of spring, by making paper lanterns.

For each lantern, fold 9" x 12" construction paper in half lengthwise. Cut slits from the fold to about one inch from the edge. Unfold the sheet and tape or staple the two shorter edges of the paper together to form the lantern. Add a paper handle and hang from ceiling or use as table decorations.

### A Different Kind of Calendar

One of the calendars used in China is a lunar calendar, which is divided into 12-year cycles, that follow the moon. Each year of the lunar calendar is named after an animal, so the year and date a person is born determines their animal sign. Some believe that their animal sign can determine the type of life they will live. The beginning of each lunar year changes because of the moon cycles, but it usually falls between January 21 and February 20 on our calendar. Have the boys create their own Chinese New Year calendar. Can they find out which animal sign they were born under?



### A Luck Hanging

Paper was invented in China. Besides writing, another use for paper that is still popular today is "papercuts". They are pictures or designs cut into paper and hung for good luck. Some believe that the rooster will protect the house from fires. A favorite color for papercuts is red, which stands for joy and life. Have the boys make their own luck hanging using the pattern below, enlarge to desired size.



### Chinese Banners

Have the Cub Scouts trace these characters and transfer them to red poster board. Use them to decorate for your Blue & Gold Banquet.



### Another Poster

Around the Chinese New Year, people often put up a poster with this word on it - upside down! It's the only time when a Chinese word is posted upside down intentionally. If you want to try it, just start at the left top, go down and then across and down - and you don't have to use a brush and ink as calligraphers do - 90% of the time, Chinese people use a ball point pen like we do! Now just turn it upside down and you'll be ready for the New Year!

福

### Blue and Gold Table Lanterns

The Chinese love lanterns so light up your night with table lanterns for your Blue and Gold dinner.

#### Needed:

- 16 Craft Sticks
- 4 Scout Foamies or wooden Fleur-de-lis cutouts
- Blue and Gold Paint
- Foam Brush
- Wax Paper
- Tacky Glue
- Small Candle, Tea Light or Glow Stick



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### Instructions:

- Paint 16 craft sticks blue.
- Paint 4 Fleur-de-lis gold.
- Let dry.
- Lay a 24" piece of wax paper on your work surface.
- Start at the left bottom and glue four craft sticks on the wax paper to make a square box.
- Right next to it make another square of four craft sticks.
- Repeat two more times so you have four squares.
- Glue Fleur-de-lis in place.
- Let dry.
- Trim the wax paper along the top.
- Trim down the side but leave a half inch to glue.
- Fold wax paper to make a box.
- Glue flap to secure.
- Set a candle in a votive inside and see how pretty it looks when the light shines through.

*Keep candle away from sides*

## Gathering Activities

### Chinese Horoscope Animals

Y	E	P	H	C	B	H	R	Z	L	C	Q	F	O	J
Y	E	D	U	G	A	U	C	R	Z	T	E	S	G	A
L	E	K	F	C	L	N	M	S	N	S	U	H	S	V
X	Z	U	N	J	A	R	V	X	G	D	J	W	W	X
D	I	K	S	O	O	T	U	J	G	T	A	C	M	S
M	W	T	L	O	M	C	R	R	C	O	E	W	B	E
N	H	Q	S	T	G	A	Q	F	S	G	D	O	B	Q
K	Q	T	J	I	E	P	X	F	A	K	M	G	V	D
H	E	F	T	B	B	Q	Y	P	Q	T	B	M	R	T
R	W	W	M	B	R	I	A	I	X	H	G	I	Y	H
S	H	L	Z	A	K	B	R	G	R	E	O	X	W	I
T	A	R	J	R	Q	A	R	W	K	N	B	R	F	W
E	M	Y	Z	F	M	M	U	A	X	C	X	K	S	Q
M	F	L	Z	N	E	R	N	H	S	R	L	N	R	E
N	O	G	A	R	D	S	T	I	G	E	R	Y	B	M

Find these words in the word search - they can be going in any direction:

Pig

Ram

Rat

Ox

Dragon

Monkey

Snake

Rooster

Tiger

Horse

Dog

Rabbit

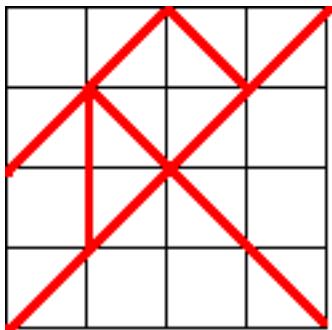
### Make a Tangram

A Tangram is an ancient Chinese puzzle. This activity is sometimes called "seven pieces of cleverness," named for the seven pieces that were used. The object of the puzzle is to rearrange the pieces of a square (the puzzle pieces) to form figures (like a picture of a cat) using the tangram pieces.

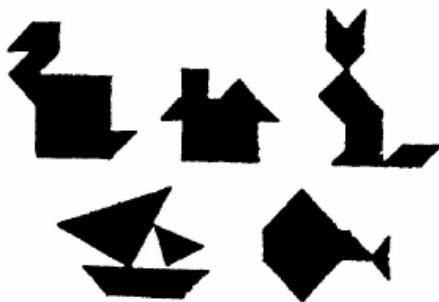
File folders, cardstock or thick paper work well to make tangrams.

Start by making a square, then cut into pieces as shown.

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Now see if you can make the bird, cat, dancer, top - how about a rat, since 2008 is the Year of the Rat?



What else can you make using all seven pieces?

(This is a great Gathering Activity - give each boy a set of tangram pieces in an envelope-  
Or

You can create your own using unique shapes -

Choose any letter and print it block form on cardboard square (See Block Puzzles on page 5-25 of the  
How To Book)

Then cut it into 7 pieces,

Then challenge the boys to discover the letter -

The letter can be the boy's initial or something chosen to introduce the theme - Alice)

## Origami

Bring out a package of Origami paper and let everyone try their hand at it. The paper is usually easily available in packages - but you can make your own.

If you use wrapping paper or colored copy paper, cut out perfect squares - 6" or 8" is a good size to use.

Have the cubs and parents make an Origami Rat (actually a Mouse), in honor of the Year of the Rat.

Get directions for the mouse at [www.ActivityVillage.co.uk](http://www.ActivityVillage.co.uk).

Try other places listed under Web Sites for more ideas!!

Under Pack and Den Activities there is a link to a video on how to make a bird.

## Chinese New Year Word Find

I	M	C	H	I	N	E	S	E	E	S	N	A	K	E	C	O	A
L	P	O	D	S	E	L	D	O	O	N	O	O	G	H	U	T	R
S	T	I	R	F	R	Y	X	G	U	N	G	O	O	T	W	A	N
A	R	O	S	S	E	N	I	P	P	A	H	P	K	X	T	O	K
F	G	O	O	D	L	U	C	K	T	S	S	A	R	D	O	S	I
I	R	N	O	D	R	U	M	R	E	T	S	O	O	R	R	L	
R	E	N	I	A	N	O	U	F	I	R	A	B	B	I	T	E	O
E	C	H	O	Y	H	N	Y	C	C	N	T	I	G	E	R	N	N
C	F	I	S	H	F	I	K	Y	E	K	N	O	M	R	O	N	G
R	I	N	N	R	E	D	E	N	V	E	L	O	P	E	R	A	E
A	K	I	T	E	S	H	H	D	V	D	O	G	O	D	I	B	V
C	E	K	N	T	T	I	A	L	R	K	U	Y	X	B	G	I	I
K	E	A	J	L	Z	A	E	A	A	M	B	O	A	R	A	T	T
E	K	I	A	X	P	W	G	N	E	W	Y	E	A	R	M	A	Y
R	B	E	D	Z	T	O	H	O	R	S	E	L	O	T	I	P	M
S	W	H	E	Y	N	A	N	L	O	V	E	Z	O	D	I	A	C
L	A	N	T	E	R	N	S	A	Y	E	E	T	A	F	R	Y	U

Find these words in the word search - they can be going horizontal, vertical, forward, backwards, diagonal - that is in any direction:

firecrackers	kites	origami
noodles	drum	happiness
chopstick	ox	Chinese
New Year	dragon	tiger
red envelope	lanterns	wealth
snake	stir fry	dog
gung	hey	fat
choy	banner	fish
nian	good luck	longevity
boar	horse	rat
ram	rooster	rabbit
monkey	zodiac	twelve

## Paper Chinese Yo-Yo

*This really works!*

### Materials:

- 1/8" or 1/4" [Dowel](#)
- Roll of wrapping paper
- Tape or Glue

### Instructions:

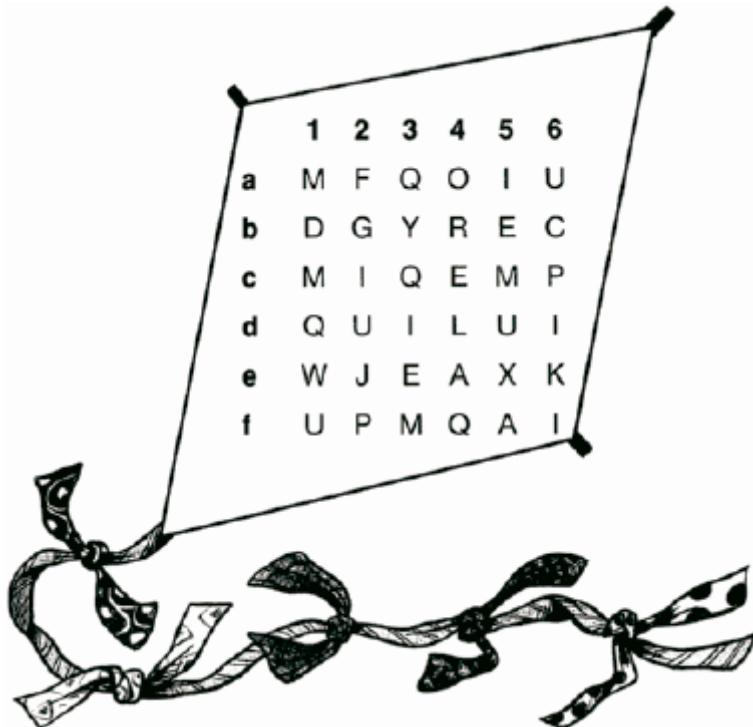
- Cut a strip of wrapping paper 7' long by 4" wide.
- Glue or tape one end of the strip to the dowel at the end.
- Roll the paper tightly around the dowel.

## February 2008: "Chinese New Year"

### How to play:

Hold the dowel and flick your wrist in an upward motion. Paper will yo-yo out and back in.

### Go Fly a Kite



What kind of paper makes the best kites? Follow the directions below. Then unscramble the leftover letters to find the answer.

- 1st. Cross out the M's and Q's.
- 2nd. Cross out the vowels in Column 4.
- 3rd. Cross out the letters in Row b that come before H in the alphabet.
- 4th. Cross out the consonants in Row e.
- 5th. Cross out the I's and U's.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_!

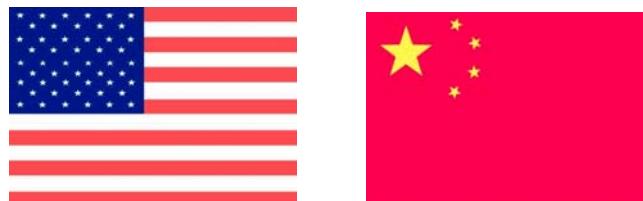
*flypaper*

### Opening Ceremonies

#### Welcome And Happy New Year

- Cub # 1: Welcome to America! - Where there are more than 3 million people that are from China or claim Chinese descent. We'd like to wish a Happy New Year to them.
- Cub # 2: Chinese New Year's Day this year is on February 7th and the celebration lasts for 15 days.
- Cub # 3: Wow! That's a long celebration!
- Cub # 4: Let's all say, "Gung Hay Fat Choy" [Everyone says, "Gung Hay Fat Choy"]. "Gung Hay Fat Choy" means "Best wishes and congratulations. Have a prosperous and good year."
- Cub # 5: Before our celebration of Chinese New Year this evening begins, please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Brotherhood Opening



### Preparation:

- Have U.S. and pack flags posted.
- Have a boy hold the Chinese flag or picture of the flag or map of China.
- Write each boy's part of the poem in LARGE print on a card for him to read his part in turn.
- When done with the poem, ask the audience to rise and say the Pledge of Allegiance.

Cub # 1: Last night I watched the sunset

Cub # 2: When my day was almost done,

Cub # 3: And thought about another boy

Cub # 4: Whose day had just begun.

Cub # 5: I'll probably never know him,

Cub # 6: Since we're half a world apart.

Cub # 7: How different we must be

Cub # 8: If my day ends as his day starts.

Cub # 9: On the far side of the sunshine,

Cub # 10: On the other end of day,

Cub # 11: Lives a boy who seems a stranger

Cub # 12: In a hundred different ways.

Cub # 13: Still I think we might discover

Cub # 14: If we look beneath the skin,

Cub # 15: That instead of being strangers,

Cub # 16: He and I are more like twins.

Cub # 17: His skin's another color,

Cub # 18: And he walks another shore.

Cub # 19: The flag that he salutes

Cub # 20: Is not the flag that I adore.

Cub # 21: But listen to his heartbeat,

Cub # 22: Oh, just listen to his dreams.

Cub # 23: You'll know that deep inside

Cub # 24: We aren't as different as we seem.

Cub # 25: I think I'll write a message.

Cub # 26: I might send it on the wind.

Cub # 27: So when he hears it blowing

Cub # 28: He will know he has a friend.

Cub # 29: I think that I can touch him

Cub # 30: If I reach out with my heart.

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Cub # 31: How different can we be  
Cub # 32: When we're just half a day apart?  
Cub # 33: On the far side of the sunshine,  
Cub # 34: On the other end of day,  
Cub # 35: Lives a boy who exactly like me  
Cub # 36: In the most important ways.  
Cub # 37: Yes, I know we will discover  
Cub # 38: When we look beneath the skin,  
Cub # 39: That instead of being strangers,  
Cub # 40: He and I are really twins!

## Stories and Audience Participations

### Chinese Legend Of Nian

One legend goes that the beast Nian had a very big mouth that could swallow a great many people with one bite. People were very scared. One day an old man came to their rescue. He offered to subdue Nian. To Nian he said. "I hear say that you are very capable, but can you swallow other beasts of prey on the earth? And not just people?" "People are by no means worthy opponents for you." So, Nian went out into the mountains and jungles and forests to find opponents worthy of his skill and prowess and did indeed swallow many beasts of prey on earthy that also harassed the people and their domestic animals.

After that, the old man disappeared riding the beast Nian. The old man turned out to be an immortal God. Now that Nian is gone and other beasts of prey are also scared off into the forests, people begin to enjoy their peaceful life. Before the old man left, he had told the people to put up red paper decorations on their windows and doors at each year's end to scare away Nian in case Nian sneaked back again, because red is the color the beast feared the most.

From that day on, the tradition of observing the conquest of Nian is carried on from generation to generation. The term "Guo Nian" which means "survive the Nian" becomes today, "Celebrate the New Year." The Chinese word "guo" mean pass-over or observe. The custom of putting up red paper and firing firecrackers to scare away Nian should it have a chance to run loose is still around. However, people today have long forgotten why they are doing all this. They feel the color and sound add to the excitement of the celebration.

### How The Chinese Zodiac Started

Instead of dividing the audience into different groups, have the audience make the sound for each animal. For ANIMAL(S) the audience can make any animal sound they choose.

The New Year was drawing near and twelve **ANIMALS** were arguing because each one wanted the year to be named after himself. You can just imagine the commotion as **TIGER**, **DRAGON**, **SNAKE**, **HORSE**, **RAM**, **MONKEY**, **OX**, **ROOSTER**, **RABBIT**, **DOG**, **PIG**, and **RAT** argued and argued.

The **DRAGON** and the **TIGER** argued over which one of them was the fiercest. "This should be called the year of the **DRAGON** because I can create storms," roared the **DRAGON**. The **HORSE** came galloping in. "No, it should be called the year of the **HORSE**, because I can run fastest." The proud **ROOSTER** was preening himself. "No, you are both wrong. It should be called the year of the **ROOSTER** because I am the most handsome."

All the **ANIMALS** disagreed with **ROOSTER**. There was such a noise of roaring, hissing, neighing, bleating, chattering, barking, grunting and squeaking that the gods were disturbed.

The gods appeared in the sky and demanded to know what all the noise was about. "What are you arguing about?" asked one of the gods. All the **ANIMALS** tried to answer at once. The noise was deafening. "Be quiet, at Santa Clara County Council

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once!" ordered the gods. "You all have very bad manners." The **ANIMALS** were ashamed of themselves. They politely explained one by one what they had been arguing about. Each ANIMAL explained why he was the most important and why the New Year should be named after him.

The gods thought hard about the problem and decided to involve all the **ANIMALS** in a race. "Can you see the big river?" asked the gods. "You can all race across the river and the first ANIMAL to get to the other side will have the New Year named after him."

All the **ANIMALS** agreed to the race; secretly each one thought he would be the winner. They lined up along the bank. "Ready, steady, go!" shouted the gods. There was an enormous splash as all the **ANIMALS** leapt into the water.

The race was very close to start with as **HORSE**, **DRAGON**, **TIGER**, and **OX** swam neck and neck. However **OX** was the strongest swimmer and he began to take the lead. **RAT** was not a very strong swimmer but he was very clever. As soon as he saw **OX** take the lead, **RAT** thought "He's not going to beat me. I have a plan." **RAT** swam as fast as he could and just managed to grab hold of **OX**'s tail. He carefully climbed onto **OX**'s back without **OX** noticing him. **OX** looked around but did not see **RAT** on his back. "I'm going to be the winner," thought **OX**, "I am well ahead of the other **ANIMALS**, no one will catch me." **OX** slowly and confidently waded the last few meters to the bank but clever **RAT** leapt over his head and onto the bank first. "I'm the winner, I'm the winner," squeaked **RAT**. The **OX** was so surprised. "Where did you come from?" he asked **RAT**.

The gods declared clever **RAT** the winner and named the New Year after him. "Next year will be the year of the **OX** because **OX** was second."

One by one the other **ANIMALS** reached the bank. **TIGER** was third, **RABBIT** was fourth, **DRAGON** was fifth, **HORSE** was sixth, **SNAKE** was seventh, **RAM** was eighth, **MONKEY** was ninth, **ROOSTER** was tenth, **DOG** was eleventh, and **PIG** was twelfth and last. "You have all done well," said the gods. "We will name a year after each one of you, in the same order that you finished the race."

All the **ANIMALS** were exhausted but quite happy with this decision because they didn't need to argue any more.

## Advancement Ceremonies

*DO NOT FORGET to recognize all your leaders at the Blue and Gold - CD*

### A Den Leader's \*PayDay\*

To make a great presentation to volunteer, substitute either the candy bar or a picture of the candy bar where you see an asterisk (\*).

Sometimes we were \*Butterfingers\*

But always a \*Joy\*

Even though we heard \*Snickers\*

We think from other boys.

What we would like to do is give you \*\$100,000 Grand\*

But we have \*Zero\* money

So that idea was canned.

We \*M & M\*ade you this card

With \*Mounds\* of love and rhyme

To thank you for giving up so much of your time.

*Then I end with a row of Hershey Hugs and Kisses and have the boys sign the card or plaque. I use a calligraphy pen for printing and a poster board for mounting the candy.*

## February 2008: "Chinese New Year"

### Confucius Said...

Our Cub Scout theme this month is "Chinese New Year" and we have been learning about the customs of the Chinese people.

China, the most populous country in the world, might be called the "Gateway to Civilization."

The oldest living civilization on Earth had its beginning in this country. We have some boys here tonight who are also at their beginning -the beginning of their Cub Scout trail, which they have marked by earning their first Cub Scout badge, the Bobcat Badge. Will the following boys and their parents please come forward?

*Present Bobcat badges to parents,*

*who present them to the boys.*

Confucius was an ancient Chinese philosopher who throughout history has influenced Chinese attitudes toward education and how people learn best. He said, "I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand." Our Tiger Cubs have demonstrated this ancient idea as they learned to "Search, Discover and Share" their first Scouting experiences with their Tiger Cub adult partner.

Will the following Tiger Cubs and their partners please come forward?

*Present Tiger badges to parents,*

*who present them to the boys.*

Confucius liked to talk about correct personal behavior and the individual's duty to society. He said, "What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others." The Cubs Scouts in our Wolf Den have learned to work together and take care of themselves and each other. Their achievements have taught them their duty to God, to their family and to their country. Will the following Wolf Cubs please come forward with their parents?

*Present Wolf badges to parents,*

*who present them to the boys.*

One of the things stressed by Confucius was politeness and respect toward authority. He said, "The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home." On the Bear Trail the Bear Cubs have worked with their leaders and their parents to have fun while learning important skills like cooking, planning family adventures outdoors, how to save and spend the money they earn, and how to make good choices. Will the following Cub Scouts and their parents please come forward?

*Present Bear badges to parents,*

*who present them to the boys.*

Boys who have been in the Webelos Den this year have been working on activity badges, camping as a den while gaining new outdoor skills and also learning what it will mean to be a Boy Scout. Confucius said, "Wherever you go, go with all your heart." Webelos Scouts, you've been in Cub Scouts quite a while. You know the meaning of "Do Your Best." You are now practicing what it means to "Be Prepared." Remember what Confucius said and do those things with all your heart. Will the following Webelos Scouts and their parents please come forward?

*Present Webelos badges to parents,*

*who present them to the boys.*

To close this advancement ceremony, here is one more thought from the Chinese philosopher, Confucius: "When you are laboring for others let it be with the same zeal as if it were for yourself." In other words, the words of the Cub Scout Motto - always "Do Your Best."

### Chinese New Year Advancement

Tonight we gather to not only celebrate the birthday of Scouting, but also to recognize our Scouts for their excitement in the Scouting program. All of our boys have been working hard to present their parents and families with an exciting and well decorated party tonight. Lets thank all of them for their effort with a New Years Cheer = Gung Hay Fat Choy!! (that means Congratulations on coming into prosperity)

## **February 2008: "Chinese New Year"**

**First let us present our Tiger rank.** Will our Tigers please come forward? Our Tigers remind us of the Firecrackers we see during the Chinese New Year. Firecrackers are used to awaken the dragons during the New Year celebration and to chase off evil. Our Tigers are busy all year running and shouting and enjoying the Scouting program with their Tiger partner. Tigers, can we hear some Firecracker noises? Your advancement is enclosed in the symbolic firecracker!

**Next lets call up our Wolf dens.** The wolves remind us of the Chinese dragons in the way they dance and weave through the program. They were awakened by the Tiger "firecrackers" last year and continue this year to learning about the community, citizenship, health and more. They are in and out of all areas of the program and are very eager and showy in their manner. Wolves can we see the dragon dance! Your advancement is enclosed in the symbolic firecracker that awakens the dragon during the Chinese new year.

**Bears, will you come to the front please.** Our Bears have been busy this year doing what Bears do..... At this stage in the Scouting program they are becoming knowledgeable in family life as well as citizenship in the community. They become more independent and work on "other" activities that interest them. They are looking for more, much more in the Bear year. Our bears remind us of Chinese Kites; Soaring on the breezes, wanting to go higher, needing more in the program. Be sure to keep them challenged!! No one wants to be around a bored Bear! Your advancement is enclosed in the symbolic firecracker that still excites you, but with more "POW". Can we see either some kite antics or some POW!!

**Will our Webelos I please come forward.** Our Webelos are beginning to transition into the Boy Scout program. They are a symbol of change as they explore the unknown.

**We will let the Chinese lantern represent our Webelos I.** They are becoming the older boys in the Pack and as such they become the guiding light of the unit. Webelos please show us your best guiding light impression! Your advancement is enclosed in the symbolic firecracker to remind you of how fun and important the Tiger year is, and to encourage you to lead and encourage the Tigers.

**Please welcome our Webelos II to the front.** This will be their last Blue and Gold as a member of the Pack. They are branching into a new program called Boy Scouts. They have been visiting Troops and camping with them. Most of these boys know what Troop they will be joining this month. What Chinese symbol do with give them?.....

They are the fortune cookie. They have been created with the best ingredient, mixed with the Scouting program and values, shaped by their mentoring leaders, and baked in the great outdoors. Inside them is the fortune that will begin to reveal itself in the coming years. Webelos, your advancement is contained in the symbolic firecracker, always keep the firecracker excitement you had as a Tiger. Webelos, can we hear some POW!

**Those Webelos who have received their Arrow of light please come forward.** The arrow of light is the highest award in the Cub Scout program. These scouts have had their Arrow of Light Ceremony with all the bells and whistles. Please add this feather to your arrow as a symbol of encouragement as you go into the future and the Boy Scout program.

## **Tangram Advancement Ceremony**

**Make a giant Tangram** - when completed, it could form a Chinese Dragon or the unit number of your pack or whatever you wish.

Awards can be attached to the back of each tangram piece, to be given out before the piece is put into the final shape.

Cut the Tangram pieces out of colored poster board, one piece for each boy (in a large pack, you could have one piece for each den).

Make sure the Cubmaster knows the final shape of the tangram and what it looks like - putting a small number on the back of each tangram piece where it connects with another piece would help to create the proper shape.

## February 2008: "Chinese New Year"

**Narrator or CM:** This month the boys have been learning about China and Chinese customs. A tangram is an ancient Chinese puzzle - sometimes called "seven pieces of cleverness" because traditionally, only seven pieces were used. The object of the puzzle is to rearrange the pieces of a square (the puzzle pieces) to form figures using the tangram pieces.

Tonight, we have a mysterious tangram - the puzzle will only be revealed when we have presented the awards earned by the boys of our pack. (CM then calls up boys and parents, presenting awards till the tangram is empty, then placing it in the right place to form the final puzzle.) When the puzzle is completed, explain why the figure was chosen. (For example, if making a Dragon, it could be to remind the boys to be bold in learning and working toward advancements. If the tangram forms the number of the Pack, remind the audience that this number represents the accomplishments of all the pack members, past and present.)

### Chinese New Year Arrow of Light Ceremony:

**Props:** Red Envelope (bag) with 4-6 surprise display items obtained about Cub(s) ahead of time, and 3 or more oranges depending on people asked to share service/activity stories.

**Narrator, CC or CM:** The Chinese New Year Parade was first celebrated in the 1860s by Chinese immigrants working in the mines during the California Gold Rush. They wanted to teach others about the Chinese New Year. The fortune cookie was invented at a Tea Garden bakery in Golden Gate Park in 1909.

So this month, in the year of 2008, we are celebrating the year of the "Arrow of Light." All Cubs who are awarded in the year of the "Arrow of Light," will exemplify these character traits: (meaning of the Arrow of Light-highlighting the values as found in Ceremonies for Packs and Dens pg. 110.) In the year of the "Arrow of Light," these requirements need to be met. (Explain the requirements.)

With every New Year, the Chinese children ask for their red envelopes. The red envelopes contain even amounts of money to signify life and luck. The year of the "Arrow of Light" red bag contains treasures revealing the fortune of that Cub. Display items.

Oranges were given for abundant joy. We have some oranges to give out tonight. Have the Webelos Den Leader and Parents share a service/activity about each Cub and give him an orange.

*The Cub can then tell about his favorite activity/service to earn the Arrow of Light and quote either the Scout Oath or Law.*

*Cubmaster then presents the award. The Cub then gives the pin to his mom with the "Mother's Salute," after which, the Father can present the award with the Cub Scout or Scout handshake. The Cub leads everyone in his favorite cheer!*

### Advancement Ideas

Make red envelopes (*lai see* - pronounced "lie-see") for each boy receiving an award. Have the boys come up with their parent(s) and then they can open the envelopes and receive their awards. Don't forget to emphasize the importance of the color red in the Chinese New Year and the significance of the envelopes that are given to children each year during the New Year celebration.

Attach awards for boys to different symbols used to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Some of these could be: red envelope, small dragon, lantern, firecracker (not real), a small broom, pictures of the different Chinese zodiac animals, a tangerine, etc. You can explain the symbolism (see section on symbolism above) of each object as each boy comes up to receive his award.

### Fortune Cookie Advancement

**Preparation:** Purchase fortune cookies for each of the boys. Hand-write in small print or use a printer with condensed print so the message can be small enough to fit on a strip to be placed in the cookies.

Use messages like:

- "Congratulations - You are a Wolf!"

## **February 2008: "Chinese New Year"**

- "You are a hard worker - You have earned a Bear Badge!"
- "We'll be loyal Scouts it's true and so are you."

### **To prepare cookies -**

- Put fortune cookies into microwave, one at a time, for about 20-30 seconds.
- Warm cookie will be pliable enough to pry open.
- Quickly remove the original strip of paper and slip your own fortune in; press back into closed position before it hardens again.
- Keep cookies for different ranks separate.

**CUBMASTER:** We have had a wonderful year full of hard work and good fortune. Will \_\_\_\_\_ please come forward with his parents? You have made many wise choices as a Cub Scout that have brought you here tonight. Please choose your new fortune and read it to the audience..."

## **Songs**

### **Chinese Hello Song**

(Tune: The Farmer in the Dell)

Let's wave and say "Ni hao (nee how),"  
Let's wave and say "Ni hao."  
Let's say "hello" to all our friends,  
Let's wave and say "Ni hao."

### **Chinese Dragon**

(Tune: Frère Jacques)

Chinese dragon, Chinese dragon,  
Breathing fire, breathing fire,  
Happy, happy New Year,  
Happy, happy New Year,  
Gung hay fat choy,  
Gung hay fat choy.

### **Gung Hay Fat Choy**

(Tune: Happy Birthday)

Gung Hay Fat Choy,  
Gung Hay Fat Choy,  
Happy New Year, everybody!  
Gung Hay Fat Choy!

## **February 2008: "Chinese New Year"**

### **Lion Dance Song**

(Tune: Mary Had a Little Lamb)

See the lion dance and prance,  
Dance and prance, dance and prance.  
See the lion dance and prance  
On Chinese New Year's Day.  
Hear the firecrackers pop,  
Pop,pop,pop; pop,pop,pop  
Hear the firecrackers pop  
On Chinese New Year's Day.

### **China Lies Over The Ocean**

(Tune: My Bonnie)

Oh, China lies over the ocean  
Oh, China lies over the sea  
Oh China has big high mountains  
Please take me to China with thee  
Oh take me, please take me.  
Oh take me to China with thee, with thee  
Oh take me, please take me  
Oh take me to China with thee.

### **Chinese Dumplings**

(Tune: Alouette or Ravioli)

Chinese Dumplings, I like Chinese Dumplings  
Chinese Dumplings, they're the best for me!  
Have I got them on my chin?  
Yes, you've got them on your chin.  
On my chin?  
On my chin. OHHHHH  
Chinese Dumplings, they're the best for me.

#### **Other Verses -**

2. tie
3. shirt
4. pants
5. shoes
6. floor
7. walls

## **February 2008: "Chinese New Year"**

### **Nian**

(Tune: Bingo)

There was a dragon had a name and

Nian was his name Oh.

N-i-a-n Oh, N-i-a-n Oh, N-i-a-n Oh,

and Nian was his name Oh.

### **Skits**

#### **Chinese Zodiac Animals**

Each Cub Scout stands with a picture or drawing of one of the 12 Chinese zodiac animals with the most recent corresponding year number on the front and his part in **LARGE** print on the back. .

If you don't have 12 Cub Scouts, have them take turns, or invite members of the audience to hold one of the zodiac pictures.

**Leader:** We are here to celebrate Chinese New Year. Chinese years are based on a lunar calendar which means that the cycle of years is based on the cycles of the moon. The New Year starts with a new moon and is usually sometime in January or February.

Each year is given the name of one of the zodiac animals. Each animal has certain qualities. Some people believe that you will have the same qualities as the animal connected with the year you are born. Let me now introduce the twelve Chinese zodiac animals.

You decide if the animal for your year has qualities that you have, too.

**Cub #1:** 1997 is the Year of the Oxen. Oxen are hardworking and patient.

**Cub #2:** 1998 is the Year of the Tiger. Tigers have a forceful personality and are adventurous and confident.

**Cub #3:** 1999 is the Year of the Rabbit. Rabbits are home lovers, peaceable and sociable.

**Cub #4:** 2000 is the Year of the Dragon. Dragons have strong personalities, love their freedom and hate routine.

**Cub #5:** 2001 is the Year of the Snake. Snakes are sensitive with a strong sense of responsibility.

**Cub #6:** 2002 is the Year of the Horse. Horses are hardworking, admirable and ambitious.

**Cub #7:** 2003 is the Year of the Ram. Rams are gentle, caring and achieve what they want by kindness.

**Cub #8:** 2004 is the Year of the Monkey. Monkeys are charming, cheeky and clever.

**Cub #9:** 2005 is the Year of the Rooster. Roosters are faithful to family and friends.

**Cub #10:** 2006 is the Year of the Dog. Dogs: are loyal and caring with a fearless streak.

**Cub #11:** 2007 is the Year of the Pig. Pigs are peace loving, trusting and strong.

**Cub #12:** 2008 is the Year of the Rat. Rats are cheerful, charming and welcome everywhere.

#### **The Abacus**

**Prop:** Construct a small abacus with beads that can be moved and heard clinking together. You can use dowel rods or wires on which to string the beads. It doesn't have to be an exact replica, just a reasonable design for the purpose of the skit.

**Cub #1:** Look what I found at the flea market, a genuine abacus! (Waving the abacus around.)

**Cub #2:** A-ba-what?

**Cub #1:** An abacus!

**Cub #3:** What do you use it for?

## February 2008: "Chinese New Year"

Cub #1: It's an ancient counting device. Why, it's an ancestor of the modern calculator and computer. In fact, it's still used in China and Japan today.

Cub #2: Do you mean you can count things with that? No way. It can't possibly work.

Cub #1: I'll prove it. Give me a problem.

Cub #2: OK. An elevator starts with five people on it. It stops and three people get off and two people get on.

Cub #1: Got it. (Beads moving furiously.)

Cub #3: Then it stops again and four people get on and no one gets off.

Cub #1: Right. (Click, click, click.)

Cub #2: Next stop five people get off and one person gets on.

Cub #1: Five off, one on. (Click, click, click.)

Cub #3: Next three people get on and two people get off.

Cub #1: Got it. (Click, click, click.)

Cub #2: Then one person gets on and seven people get off.

Cub #1: One off, seven on, keep going. (Click, click, click.)

Cub #3: Finally, four people get off and two people get on.

Cub #1: Got that.

Cub #2: OK, Mr. Abacus, how many stops did the elevator make?

Cub #1: (Exasperated) I don't know!

Cub #2: See, I told you it wouldn't work.

## Why The Sun Shines When The Rooster Crows

This is a puppet play. Make stick puppets (cardboard figures attached to sticks) and move them as narrator reads the script. Boys take turns being narrator. Control the room light accordingly.

**Stage:** Have a tall mountain at one side of the stage.

### Puppets:

- 4 medium suns
- 5 small suns (can be placed on one stick)
- 1 large sun
- elders (can be placed on one stick)
- Oppopollo the Giant (holding his bow and arrow)
- nightingale
- thrush
- lark
- blackbird
- rooster

Puppet for the main sun should have two sides, one with a smiling face, the other frowning. The elders should have smiling side and frowning side.

"Once upon a time, the earth was surrounded by many suns. To the east shone one sun, another in the west; there was one in the north and one in the south. And in between there were five smaller suns! There was also the sun we know today in our sky."

"As you can well imagine, the earth was scorched. No grass could grow, and people were too hot and tired to work or sleep. So one day the wise elders of the world met to think what to do. They decided to ask the giant, Oppopollo, to shoot down the suns so that the poor earth could feel coolness."

"Oppopollo lived on top of the highest mountain and was as tall as ten ordinary men. His body was strong and his eyes flashed with bravery. The elders climbed the mountain with their request and the giant agreed to help."

(clear the stage)

## February 2008: "Chinese New Year"

"So it was that the very next day when the first sun rose over the horizon, Oppopolo took his mighty bow and shot it down. The people cheered with joy (puppeteers can cheer). (raise other suns) Another speedy arrow brought down the second sun, then the third, fourth, fifth and more.

At first the people danced with glee. But by the time the ninth sun fell, they became rather worried, for the tenth sun had watched everything, and hidden himself behind the mountain. The earth was dark as night and cold as winter ice."

"Stop, Oppopolo, stop!" cried the people. They begged for the remaining sun to return but he refused to leave his safe hiding place!"

"It was decided that someone must plead with the sun, but as he might now fear a human, a bird would be sent instead. First the nightingale went as messenger, singing sweetly. The sun refused to listen. Then the thrush tried, and the lark, and the blackbird. But it was no use. At last the rooster was asked if he would try. "All right" he replied. "But I can't sing. All I can do is crow."

"The rooster lifted his neck and crowed loudly (crow). When he did this, the sun didn't recognize the noise, and as it came again the sun peeped out, curiously. As his light appeared from behind the mountain, the birds, animals and people all shouted and sang with joy (cheer)! The sun was pleased, and felt bold enough to show himself in full. So, to this day, the sun hides at night until the rooster's crow tells him it is safe again to come out!"

## Stunts and Applauses

### APPLAUSES & CHEERS

#### Firecracker Cheer

(Remember - firecrackers were invented in China)

Strike a match on the leg, light the firecracker, make noise like fuse "sssss", then yell loudly "BANG!!"

#### Broom Cheer

Pretend to take a broom and sweep the floor saying "Clean Sweep" three times.

Can Do Applause: Shout "Gung Ho!" (Can Do in English) three times with enthusiasm.

Happy New Year Applause:- Shout "Gung Hay Fat Choy!!" while jumping up and down.

Chinese New Year Applause: Divide room in thirds -

First group makes sounds like firecrackers and fireworks: Pop, Pop, Pop, Pop, BOOM!

Second group then looks up in the sky and says "Ooooooooh!

Third group shouts, "Gung Hay Fat Choy!!"

Repeat three times, getting faster each time.

Origami Applause: Audience shouts "Fold it - Fold it Right - Fold it Tight!"

Year of the Rat Applause: Hooray for the Rat! Shouted three times, getting louder each time

Chinese Dragon Applause: Audience forms a chain, holding onto each other by the shoulders, then walk quickly around the room, weaving and bending up and down and shouting "Happy New Year!"

Fish Applause - Suck in your cheeks, form an "O" with your mouth, move it as if you were a fish, make no sound!

Chinese Applause I - Put your hands together under your chin, bend from the waist and say, "AH SO, AH SO, AH SO."

#### Chinese Applause II

Put your hands together under your chin, bend from the waist saying: "Kung Phooey, Kung Phooey, Kung Phooey!"

#### Chinese Applause III

## **February 2008: "Chinese New Year"**

Pretend you are eating with chopsticks, lay your sticks down, stand up and rub your stomach and say, "Velly good, velly good!"

Chinese New Year Applause I

Pretend to light a string of firecrackers and shout, "BANG, BANG, BANG, BANG, BANG!!!!!!

Chinese New Year Applause II

Look up in the sky, say BANG, then AHHHHHHHHH!

Chinese New Year Applause III

Put your hand together, bend from the waist and say "Gung, Hey Fat Choy! (Which means Happy New Year.)

## **RUN-ONS**

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Al.

Al who?

Al be back from China next week.

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Pagoda.

Pagoda who?

Pa-go-da store and I haven't seen him since.

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Dragon.

Dragon who?

These knock knock jokes sure do dragon.

Cub # 1: When I'm down in the dumps, I get a new hat.

Cub # 2: I wondered where you got your hats.

## **JOKES & RIDDLES**

What do Chinese Bears eat for breakfast?

Pandacakes

What do you get if you put 100 Chinese bears together?

Pandamonium

Why do Panda Bears have fur coats?

They would look silly in Raincoats.

What do they do in China when it Rains?

They let it rain.

What's purple and 5,000 miles long?

The grape wall of China.

How is the Yellow Rive in China and a Clock alike?

Because neither of them runs without winding.

What did one China plate say to the other China plate?

Lunch is on me.

## **February 2008: "Chinese New Year"**

Why did the fortune cookie go to the doctor?

He was felling crummy.

What do you get when a fiery dragon jumps into the sea?

A heat wave.

*Alice, Golden Empire Council*

**Q:** What's a rat's least favorite record?

**A:** What's New Pussy Cat!

**Q:** Why do rats need oiling?

**A:** Because they squeak!

**Q:** Why do rats have long tails?

**A:** Well, they'd look silly with long hair!

**Q:** When should a rat carry an umbrella?

**A:** When it's raining "cats and dogs!"

**Q:** What do you get if you cross a rat with a skunk?

**A:** Dirty looks from the rat!

**Q:** What do you call a rat that can pick up an elephant?

**A:** "SIR!"

**Q:** What's a rat's favorite game?

**A:** Hide and Squeak!

**Q:** Why aren't you happy to see the light at the end of the tunnel?

**A:** Because it might just be a Dragon!

## **Closing Ceremonies**

### **Lantern Closing**

**CM:** The Festival of Lanterns takes place on the last day of celebrations for the Chinese New Year. There are many legends about how this festival originated. The festivities begin on the 15th day of the New Year, when the first full moon of the New Year also occurs. The festival ushers in the increasing light and warmth of the sun after the winter's cold into the New Year.

**Cub # 1:** According to a Chinese tradition, at the start of a New Year, when there is a bright full moon in the sky, the presence of colorful lanterns hung out will make people cheerful.

**Cub # 2:** We can be cheerful.

**Cub # 3:** As people we can be like those lanterns and give off light.

**Cub # 4:** Like the Chinese lanterns, let us be warm and welcoming in our friendships...

**Cub # 5:** Let us cheerfully give light...

**Cub # 6:** The light of friendliness...

**Cub # 7:** The light of kindness...

**Cub # 8:** And the light of understanding.

## Cubmaster's Minutes

### World Brotherhood

This month we have learned about peoples in China. To understand people, we need to learn how they live, how they play, what they make, what they wear, and what they eat. Fears and misunderstanding come from lack of knowledge. Through Cub Scouting and World Brotherhood of Scouting, boys can become more understanding.

### 2008 Chinese Olympics



In a couple months, the 2008 Olympics will be held in China.

Like the Five Olympic Rings from which they draw their color and inspiration, the Five Friendlies will serve as the Official Mascots of Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, carrying a message of friendship and peace -- and blessings from China -- to children all over the world.

Designed to express the playful qualities of five little children who form an intimate circle of friends, the Five Friendlies also embody the natural characteristics of four of China's most popular animals -- the Fish, the Panda, the Tibetan Antelope, the Swallow -- and the Olympic Flame.

Cub scouting is also meant to inspire the boys in our communities by promoting character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness.

### Chinese Characters

The Chinese language is both unique and beautiful. The Chinese writing system first appeared in China over 3200 years ago during the Shang Dynasty making it what is believed to be the oldest surviving writing system.

The number of Chinese characters contained in the Kangxi dictionary is approximately 47,035.

That's a lot more than double the number of Cub Scouts in the largest council in America - The Great Salt Lake Council which has 18,080 Cub Scouts.

Each character is important in its own respect just as each Cub Scout is in their own respect. Each Cub Scout has a special responsibility to help their pack grow as stated in the Cub Scout Law of the Pack.

Please stand with me, make the Cub Scout Sign, and repeat with me the Law of the Pack.

書 行 行 書