Chinese New Year Celebration: Teacher Background

Chinese New Year and calendar

The Chinese calendar lunisolar. It was originally based on the phases of the moon and later elements of the solar calendar were added to help with calculations for agriculture. This method of calculation can be traced back to the mid-2000's BCE. Today, the Gregorian calendar is commonly used for day-to-day activities, but the traditional calendar is used to calculate the timing of celebrations, such as the Chinese New Year.

The Chinese New Year, also called the Spring Festival, begins on the last day of the last month of the Chinese year, and lasts until the 15th day of the first month. It usually falls in early February according to the Gregorian calendar. Typical celebrations include the color red to promote good luck, fireworks, and gift-giving.

Dragon Dance

The dragon dance is commonly performed and associated with the Chinese New Year. It includes a dragon float, like the one used by the Chinese population in 19th century Rock Springs, and dancers who move the dragon. Dragons are considered lucky and thought to drive away evil spirits. Dragon floats typically range in size from 80 to over 200 feet and are made of silk draped over bamboo poles. Green, gold, silver, yellow, and red are common colors making up the body of the dragon.

The Chinese in Rock Springs

Most Chinese laborers lived in homes provided by the Union Pacific in the section of Rock Springs that came to be known as Chinatown. At least two Chinese pharmacists had shops in Rock Springs and Beckwith & Quinn Company (a general store in town) had a special Chinese section that catered to the Chinese population, complete with a translator.

Labor tensions between white and Chinese workers eventually resulted in the Chinese Massacre of 1885, in which 28 Chinese were killed. Chinese workers continued living and working in Rock Springs, but the UP focused on hiring workers from a variety of diverse backgrounds, rather than one primary ethnic group. Upon their retirement, many Chinese workers returned to China; by the 1920's the Chinese population in Rock Springs had been significantly reduced.

Rock Springs New Year's Celebrations

In 1893, a 140-foot dragon was purchased for use in the Chinese New Year celebrations in Rock Springs and Evanston. In addition to a parade with the dragon and flags, the festivities included feasting and fireworks.

The pictures included in the trunk are from the 1896 Chinese New Year celebration in Rock Springs.
Chinese New Year Math

Preparation:

Teachers will need:

- Copies of the worksheet(s) for each student
  - There are 3 worksheets that ask students to fill in blanks to answer a question posed at the beginning of the worksheet. Each of these worksheets have the same question (how long was the dragon in Rock Springs?) and the same answer (140 feet) they are just designed for students at different levels.
  - There is also a worksheet with word problems. It is 2 pages long, with easier problems on the first page.
    - Any of these worksheets might be used for this activity.
Chinese New Year Math

Level: 3rd Grade
Estimated Lesson Time: 30 minutes
Standards/Curriculum:

Math:
- Operations and Algebraic Thinking
  3. Use multiplication and division within 100 to solve word problems in situations involving equal groups, arrays, and measurement qualities, e.g., by using drawings and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem.
  7. Fluently multiply and divide within 100, using strategies such as the relationship between multiplication and division or properties of operations. By the end of Grade 3, know from memory all products of two one-digit numbers.

Language Arts:
- Speaking and Listening
  1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-let) with diverse partners on grade 3 topics and texts, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Social Studies:
- Cultures/Cultural Diversity
  A. Students will identity cultural characteristics in our community.
  C. Students will compare and contrast a culture to their own.

Learner Objectives:
1.) Students will know how and be able to apply multiplication and division to solve word-problems.
2.) Students will know how and be able to describe characteristics of the Chinese New Year celebration.

Materials:
- Trunk Materials:
  o Pictures of New Year's celebration (in photo album)
  o Chinese hat
-Copies of the New Years math worksheet (or both) for each student (master copies included in trunk)

Procedures:
- Warm-up: Ask students to share ways they celebrate the New Year (staying up until midnight, fireworks, etc.)
- Give brief background on the Chinese New Year (see Teacher Background for further information).
  o Discuss the Chinese New Year celebrations (for example, the different timing and ways of celebrating—see background if needed) show modern pictures of celebrations (in photo album), has anyone ever seen a celebration like this?
Explain to students that if they lived in Rock Springs in the late-1800's they likely would have seen a celebration like this every year.

- Pass around the hat, emphasizing that the areas with embroidery are representative of the material and technique used to create the dragon float that was used in Rock Springs. Show the pictures of the Chinese New Year celebrations from Rock Springs (in photo album).

- Discuss the dragon and how people celebrating the New Year paraded the dragon.
  - Ask student to guess how long the dragon in Rock Springs was

- Have students complete the "Chinese New Year Celebration" worksheet (3 at different levels included) to discover the length of the dragon and how many people it took to hold it during the parade.
  - Also included is a word problem worksheet ("Chinese New Year Dragons") that asks student to solve 6 word problems and then create 1 of their own. This worksheet might be substituted or used additionally but note that it mentions the length of the dragon so it has the answer to the question posed on the other worksheet.

- **Wrap-up:** Once students have completed the worksheet(s), go over the answers.
Chinese New Year Celebration

Name:____________________

In the 1800’s the Chinese New Year was an important celebration in Rock Springs. One of the highlights of the celebration was a parade that included a huge silk dragon. Just how long was the dragon? Solve the problems below to find out! Use the answers to the problems to decide where the letters go.

16÷8=____2____(r) 3x7=____(a) 40÷10=_____ (y)
8x8=____(d) 4÷4=____(p) 48÷6=_______(w)
5x6=_____ (m) 7x11= ____ (o) 20÷4=____(L)
10x2=____(b) 6x1=____(e) 60÷6=____(i)
6x3=______ (t) 8x4=_______(f) 15÷5=_____(u)
12x3=_____ (g) 96÷8=_____(v) 7x7=_______(h)
10x9=______ (s) 55÷5=_____ (n)

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.
Chinese New Year Celebration

In the 1800’s the Chinese New Year was an important celebration in Rock Springs. One of the highlights of the celebration was a parade that included a huge silk dragon. Just how long was the dragon? Solve the problems below to find out! Use the answers to the problems to decide where the letters go.

16÷8=___2__(r)  3x7=___21__(a)  40÷10=___4__(y)
8x8=___64__ (d)  4÷4=___1__(p)  48÷6=___8__(w)
5x6=___30__ (m)  7x11=___77__(o)  20÷4=___5__(L)
10x2=___20__(b)  6x1=___6__(e)  60÷6=___10__(i)
6x3=___18__ (t)  8x4=___32__(f)  15÷5=___3__(u)
12x3=___36__(g)  96÷8=___12__(v)  7x7=___49__(h)
10x9=___90__(s)  55÷5=___11__(n)

T    h    e    d    r    a    g    o    n    w    a    s
18    49    6     64     2     21     36     77     11    8    21    90

o    n    e    h    u    n    d    r    e    d    f    o    r    t    y
77    11    6     49     3    11     64     2     6    64    32    77     2    18    4

f    e    e    t    L    o    n    g    a    n    d    h    e    l    d
32    6    6     18     5    77    11    36    21    11    64     49     6    5    64

u    p    b    y    t    w    e    n    t    y    f    i    v    e
3    1    20    4     18    8    6    11    18    4     32    10    12    6

m    e    n    !
30    6     11
Chinese New Year Celebration

Name:______________

In the 1800’s the Chinese New Year was an important celebration in Rock Springs. One of the highlights of the celebration was a parade that included a huge silk dragon. Just how long was the dragon? Solve the problems below to find out! Use the answers to the problems to decide where the letters go.

4÷8=____(r)  3x7=_____ (a)  40÷10=____ (y)
5x5=_____ (d) 4÷4=_____ (p) 48÷6=_____ (w)
5x6=_____ (m) 7x1= ____ (o) 20÷4=____ (L)
4x5=_____ (b) 6x1=____ (e) 60÷6=____ (i)
5x3=_____ (t) 6x3=_____ (f) 15÷5=____ (u)
4x4=_____ (g) 3x4=_____ (v) 7x2=_____ (h)
3x3=_____ (s) 11x1=_____ (n)

___ ___ ___  ____  ___ r  ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ __ __ __
15 14 6    25 2 21 16 7 11 8 21 9

___ ___ ___  ____  ___ r  ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ __ __ __
7 11 6    14 3 11 25 2 6 25 18 7 2 15 4

___ ___ ___  ____  ___ r  ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ __ __ __
18 6 6 15 5 7 11 16 21 11 25 14 6 5 25

___ ___ ___  ____  ___ r  ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ __ __ __
3 1 20 4 15 8 6 11 15 4 18 10 12 6

___ ___ ___ !
In the 1800’s the Chinese New Year was an important celebration in Rock Springs. One of the highlights of the celebration was a parade that included a huge silk dragon. Just how long was the dragon? Solve the problems below to find out! Use the answers to the problems to decide where the letters go.

4÷8= __2__ (r)
3x7= _21__(a)
2x2= _4__ (y)
5x5= __25__ (d)
4÷4= _1__(p)
4÷2= _8__ (w)
5x6= __30__( m)
7x1= _7__(o)
20÷4= _5__ (L)
5x4= _20__(b)
6x1= _6__(e)
5x2= _10__ (i)
5x3= __15__ (t)
6x3= _18_(f)
15÷5= _3__ (u)
4x4= _16__(g)
3x4= _12__(v)
7x2= _14__(h)
3x3= _9__(s)
11x1= _11__(n)

T h e d r a g o n w a s
15 14 6 25 2 21 16 7 11 8 21 9

_ o n e h u n d r e d f o r t y
7 11 6 14 3 11 25 2 6 25 18 7 2 15 4

_ f e e t l o n g a n d h e l d
18 6 6 15 5 7 11 16 21 11 25 14 6 5 25

_u p b y t w e n t y f l y
3 1 20 4 15 8 6 11 15 4 18 10 12 6

m e n !
30 6 11
Chinese New Year Celebration

Name:_____________________

In the 1800’s the Chinese New Year was an important celebration in Rock Springs. One of the highlights of the celebration was a parade that included a huge silk dragon. Just how long was the dragon? Solve the problems below to find out! Use the answers to the problems to decide where the letters go.

72 - 70 = __2____(r)
32 + 32 = ______ (d)
20 + 10 = ______ (m)
27 - 7 = _____(b)
14 + 4 = ______ (t)
40 - 4 =______(g)
19 + 10 =______(s)

11 + 10 = _____(a)
50 - 49 =_____ (p)
60 + 17 = _____(o)
20 - 14 =_____ (e)
16 + 16 =_____ (f)
24 - 12 =_____ (v)
30 + 19 =______(h)

16 - 12 =______(y)
30 - 22 =_______(w)
45 - 40 =______(L)
60 - 50 =______(i)
27 - 24 =______(u)
41 - 30 =______(n)

30     6     11
Chinese New Year Celebration

In the 1800’s the Chinese New Year was an important celebration in Rock Springs. One of the highlights of the celebration was a parade that included a huge silk dragon. Just how long was the dragon? Solve the problems below to find out! Use the answers to the problems to decide where the letters go.

72-70= 2 (r) 11+10= 21 (a) 16-12= 4 (y)
32+32= 64 (d) 50-49= 1 (p) 30-22= 8 (w)
20+10= 30 (m) 60+17= 77 (o) 45-40= 5 (L)
27-7= 20 (b) 20-14= 6 (e) 60-50= 10 (i)
14+4= 18 (t) 16+16= 32 (f) 27-24= 3 (u)
40-4= 36 (g) 24-12= 12 (v) 30+19= 49 (h)
19+10= 29 (s) 41-30= 11 (n)

T h e d r a g o n w a s
18 49 6 64 2 21 36 77 11 8 21 29

o n e h u n d r e d f o r t y
77 11 6 49 3 11 64 2 6 64 32 77 2 18 4

f e e L o n g a n d h e l d
32 6 6 18 5 77 11 36 21 11 64 49 6 5 64

u p b y t w e n t y f i v e
3 1 20 4 18 8 6 11 18 4 32 10 12 6

m e n !
30 6 11
Chinese New Year Dragons

Name:_____________________

The Rock Springs dragon was 140 feet long and held up by 25 people! This means each person was responsible for holding up 3 3/5 feet. Use multiplication or division to solve the following problems:

1.) It takes 10 people to carry a dragon float during a parade. Each person is responsible for holding up 2 feet. How many feet is the entire dragon?

Answer:__________ feet

2.) A 25 foot long dragon float is held up by 5 people. How many feet is each person responsible for holding up?

Answer:__________feet

3.) Each person is responsible for holding up 4 feet of a 12 foot long dragon float. How many people does it take to hold up the entire dragon?

Answer:__________ people
4.) It takes 7 people to hold up a dragon float. Each person is responsible for holding up 8 feet. How many feet is the entire dragon?

Answer:__________ feet

5.) A dragon is 42 feet long, each person is responsible for supporting 7 feet of the dragon. How many people does it take to hold up the entire dragon?

Answer:__________ people

6.) How long is a dragon float that is held up by 9 people, if each person is responsible for holding 4 feet?

Answer:__________feet

Create your own dragon float:

Your dragon is _______ feet long and held up by _____ people. How many feet is each person responsible for holding up?

Answer:________feet

Draw your dragon float below:
The Rock Springs dragon was 140 feet long and held up by 25 people! This means each person was responsible for holding up $5 \frac{3}{5}$ feet. Use multiplication or division to solve the following problems:

1.) It takes 10 people to carry a dragon float during a parade. Each person is responsible for holding up 2 feet. How many feet is the entire dragon?

Answer: $20$ feet

$10 \times 2 = 20$

2.) A 25 foot long dragon float is held up by 5 people. How many feet is each person responsible for holding up?

Answer: $5$ feet

$25 \div 5 = 5$

3.) Each person is responsible for holding up 4 feet of a 12 foot long dragon float. How many people does it take to hold up the entire dragon?

Answer: $3$ people

$12 \div 4 = 3$
4.) It takes 7 people to hold up a dragon float. Each person is responsible for holding up 8 feet. How many feet is the entire dragon?

Answer: 56 feet  
7x8=

5.) A dragon is 42 feet long, each person is responsible for supporting 7 feet of the dragon. How many people does it take to hold up the entire dragon?

Answer: 6 people  
42÷7=

6.) How long is a dragon float that is held up by 9 people, if each person is responsible for holding 4 feet?

Answer: 36 feet  
9x4=

Create your own dragon float:

Your dragon is _______ feet long and held up by _____ people. How many feet is each person responsible for holding up?

Answer:_________

Draw your dragon float below: