

## Further Reading

### Storytelling and visuals

Storytelling is a powerful way to introduce young learners to Chinese festivals. Begin with an engaging story or an animated video about a festival such as Chinese New Year or the Mid-Autumn Festival. Use visuals, posters, and real-life pictures to illustrate key elements like food, decorations, and traditional activities. Ask learners guiding questions like: 'What do you see? What do you think this means?' to encourage observation and discussion."

#### Hands-on Activities

Engage learners in hands-on activities related to the festival. For example:

- Arts and crafts: Learners can create paper lanterns, dragon masks or red envelopes.
- Calligraphy and writing: Introduce simple Chinese characters related to the festival, such as '春' (*chūn* - spring) for Chinese New Year. This allows learners to connect language with cultural symbols.

#### Intercultural awareness

Cultural comparisons help learners relate the festival to their own experiences. Ask them about their own special celebrations: 'How do you celebrate with your family?' Use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast traditions, highlighting similarities and differences. This encourages curiosity and respect for diverse cultures."

#### Music, dance and games

Music and movement make learning about festivals engaging and memorable. Introduce simple festival songs and dances, such as basic dragon dance movements. You can also incorporate traditional festival games, like 'tossing mooncakes' (Mid-Autumn Festival) or solving lantern riddles. These activities provide an interactive way to experience the festival.

#### Food Tasting and discussion

Food is an essential part of every festival. Learners can interact with images of symbolic festival foods like dumplings for Chinese New Year or mooncakes for the Mid-Autumn Festival. If possible, allow them to taste some traditional foods. Discuss why these foods are significant and compare them with special foods from their own cultural celebrations.

## Further Reading

This encourages deeper cultural connections."

### **Role-playing and mini celebration**

Roleplaying is a great way to make the festival come alive. It enhances understanding and encourages participation. Organize a mini festival where learners:

- Greet each other using simple Chinese phrases.
- Exchange red envelopes as a cultural gesture.
- Participate in a mini celebration, acting out key traditions."

Let learners reflect on their experiences and express their thoughts through drawings, short writings or verbal sharing. This reinforces learning and helps them internalize the cultural experience.