



Use the reproducible on page 107 to prepare the lucky fruit salad. Then, as students sample the dish, explain the symbolism of each type of fruit:



| Fruit |
|----------------------|
| Melon |
| Persimmons or Apples |
| Peaches |
| Oranges |
| Tangerines |

| Meaning |
|---------------------------------|
| wealth, virtue, and good health |
| fulfilled wishes |
| immortality or long life |
| money |
| good luck |



On the day that you serve the fruit, decorate your classroom to look like a Chinese marketplace. Ask each child to bring in a flower—real or paper. Arrange the flowers on a table, along with whole melons, persimmons or apples, oranges, tangerines, and peaches. Make a sign that says *hung fa gi*. This means "flower street" in Chinese and is the traditional name for the marketplace where shoppers buy flowers and fruit.

Happy Chinese New Year (A Poem)

(Use with the reproducible on page 108.)

Helen Moore's poem, "Happy Chinese New Year," reflects the vibrance and excitement of the holiday. Read the poem aloud several times to your class. Then, distribute copies of the poem and have students draw decorative borders for the page using Chinese New Year symbols such as dragons, lions, fruits, and flower blossoms. Encourage students to use "fiery" colors such as red and yellow.

Where Is China?

Although Chinese New Year is celebrated in cities around the world, some of the biggest and most exciting celebrations are held in mainland China. Use a globe or world map to show students where China is located. Then share these fascinating facts:

- * China is the third-largest country in the world, after Canada and Russia.
- * One out of every five of the world's people lives in China.
- * China has one of the oldest civilizations in the world.
- * Long ago, the Chinese people built a gigantic wall to keep their enemies out of their country. It is called the Great Wall, and it's so long it can be seen from the Moon!

Zodiac Parade

(Use with the reproducibles on pages 109 and 110.)

In the Chinese calendar, each year is named for an animal. The year in which a person is born is said to determine the way he or she acts. For example, a person born in the Year of the Dragon would be brave and imaginative. A person born in the Year of the Monkey would be clever and mischievous. People who believe in the zodiac base many of their most important decisions on its guidelines. There are 12 animals



Books for Children

Celebrating Chinese New Year, by Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith (Holiday House, 1998).

Ten-year-old Ryan Leong and his family celebrate and explain the Chinese New Year.

The Chinese New Year, by Cheng Hou-tien (Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1976).

Scissor-cut artwork illustrates this introduction to a holiday the author celebrated as a boy in Taiwan.

Happy New Year, by June Behrens (Children's Press, 1982).

Colorful photos tell about a Golden Dragon Parade in a California Chinatown.

Lion Dancer: Ernie Wan's Chinese New Year, by Kate Waters and Madeline Slovenz-Low (Scholastic, 1990).

Martha Cooper's colorful photographs illustrate a few days in the life of young Ernie Wan as he prepares for the great honor of being a lion dancer in New York's Chinese New Year parade.

Web Sites

www.chinesenewyears.info

Find out when Chinese New Year will be held each year, how the holiday originated, and how it's celebrated.

