

# CHINESE NEW YEAR: DRAGONS

## AN INSTANT MEETING FOR SPARKS FROM THE BC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

This will take two meetings to complete and should be done in back-to-back meetings. Guiders should dress in costumes from China, if possible. Cover the meeting room door with red paper and the symbol for “Happiness” painted on it. Decorate the room with Chinese lanterns.

*\*adapted from the “Sparks Instant Meeting Booklet #1” August 2009.*

### Meeting Plan

Before the meeting: purchase the craft supplies; go to the library to get a CD of Chinese music; purchase a variety of Chinese food at the grocery store or at a Chinese restaurant.

- 5-10 min: Gathering: Chinese Dragon Colouring
- 5 min: Spark Opening
- 5-10 min: Opening Discussion
- 15-25 min: Paper Dragon Craft
- 10-15 min: Food Tasting
- 5-10 min: Chinese Dragon Dance
- 5 min: Spark Closing

*60 minute meeting. Approximate activity times shown.*

### Program Connections

**The World Around Me Keeper:**  
Diversity Meeting, Additional Activity (snack from another country)

**Being Healthy Keeper:** Move to the Beat (dragon dance)

### Meeting Supplies

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> costume from China for Guiders, if possible                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> red tablecloth for table               | <input type="checkbox"/> paintbrushes                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> red paper to cover entry door with “Happiness” sign written on it in black paint | <input type="checkbox"/> printed colouring sheets               | <input type="checkbox"/> glue   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese lanterns to hang around meeting place                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> pencils, crayons, markers              | <input type="checkbox"/> tape   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CD of Chinese music from library   | <input type="checkbox"/> shoeboxes for paper dragons            | <input type="checkbox"/> googly eyes  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CD player  | <input type="checkbox"/> decorative paper or construction paper | <input type="checkbox"/> streamers  |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> scissors                               | <input type="checkbox"/> chopsticks   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> markers                                | <input type="checkbox"/> variety of Chinese food, including fortune cookies |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> paint                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Information from local library regarding China     |

## Gathering: Chinese Dragon Colouring

### Directions

Find colouring sheets online:

<https://www.google.ca/search?q=chinese+dragon+colouring+page&tbm=isch>

### Supplies

- printed colouring sheets
- pencils, crayons, markers

## Opening Discussion

Have Guiders greet the Sparks at the door and invite them to the Chinese New Year Party. Enjoy your regular opening. Introduce parent helpers. Explain that this is a special meeting. Talk about where China is in the world (a map of the world might be helpful) and discuss the differences in the way of life in China and life in Canada. Chinese music can be played during the meeting.

## Paper Dragon Craft

Explain that Chinese people think of dragons as helpful, friendly creatures. They are special creatures that can fly, swim and walk. They are very important at Chinese New Year.

### Directions

1. Give each Spark a shoebox. Give them the option of covering the shoebox with decorative paper or suggest that they paint the shoebox.
2. Cut out paper for the head, nose, wings, fangs, ears, horns, tail, etc. Use your imagination to create a dragon! Add details to the paper with markers.
3. Glue googly eyes onto the box.
4. Allow for the dragons to dry before using them in the dragon dance.

### Supplies

- shoebox
- decorative paper or construction paper
- scissors
- markers
- paint
- paintbrushes
- glue
- tape
- googly eyes

## Food Tasting

### Directions

Pass out the chopsticks and encourage the Sparks to try a variety of Chinese food such as rice, spring rolls, chow mein noodles, fortune cookies and Chinese tea.

### Supplies

- chopsticks
- Chinese food: rice, spring rolls, chow mein noodles, Chinese tea, etc.

## Chinese Dragon Dance

Chinese Dragon dances are done at Chinese New Year to help scare away evil spirits. There can be many dancers operating just one dragon, and longer dragons are thought to be luckier.

### Directions

Play the Chinese music and do a Dragon Dance with the paper dragons that the girls created earlier in the meeting.

### Supplies

- Chinese music CD
- CD player

# CHINESE NEW YEAR: FANS

AN INSTANT MEETING FOR SPARKS  
FROM THE BC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

## Meeting Plan

- 5-10 min: Gathering: Chinese Fan Colouring
- 5 min: Spark Opening
- 5 min: Opening Discussion
- 10 min: Da Feng Chui Game
- 10-15 min: Chinese Fan Craft
- 10-20 min: Singing & Story
- 5 min: Spark Closing

*60 minute meeting. Approximate activity times shown.*

## Program Connections

**The World Around Me Keeper:**  
Diversity Meeting, WAGGGS craft, Additional Activity (story from another country)

**Being a Spark Keeper:**  
Additional Activity (Getting to Know You game)

## Meeting Supplies

- costume from China for Guiders, if possible
- red paper to cover entry door with "Happiness" sign written on it in black paint
- Chinese lanterns to hang around meeting place
- red tablecloth for table
- printed colouring sheets
- pencils, crayons, markers
- a chair or mat to sit on for each girl
- coloured construction paper
- stamps and ink pads
- tape or stapler
- fabric purses or lucky money envelopes
- Chinese coin or chocolate coin for purse
- Chinese New Year story, including the story of lucky money

## Gathering: Chinese Fan Colouring

### Directions

Find colouring sheets online:

<https://www.google.ca/search?q=chinese+fan+colouring+page&tbm=isch>

### Supplies

- printed colouring sheets
- pencils, crayons, markers

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## Opening Discussion

Have Guiders greet the Sparks at the door and invite them to the continued Chinese New Year Party. Enjoy your regular opening. Introduce parent helpers. Explain that this is a special meeting. Remind the girls where China is in the world (a map of the world might be helpful).

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## Da Feng Chui Game

### Directions

1. All of the girls sit on a chair or mat, facing inwards in a circle formation. A Guider stands in the middle of the circle.
2. The Guider in the middle says “Da feng chui” (which means “Big wind blows”).
3. The girls respond “Chui shemne?” (which means “Blows what?”)
4. Now the person in the middle must say something that applies to several of the girls, preceded by “chui”. For example, “Chui long hair” (“Blows long hair”). All girls that have long hair must then get up and change seats, while the person in the middle (to start with, the Guider) takes one of the vacant seats.
5. There will be one girl left without a seat – she now stands in the middle and starts again with “Da feng chui”.
6. Rules: you must always call out something that applies to two or more girls (i.e. if only one girl has glasses, you can not call out “glasses”); you can not move to the seat right next to you.
7. To get everyone to move at once, you can say “Chui Sparks!”

### Supplies

- a chair or mat to sit on for each girl

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## Chinese Fan Craft

### Directions

1. Decorate the construction paper with stamps.
2. Use the construction paper to create a Chinese fan. Start at the short end of the paper and fold the paper accordion-style. The folds should be about 2 cm wide and all the same size.
3. Tape or staple one end of the accordion-folded paper to make a fan.

### Supplies

- coloured construction paper
- stamps and ink pads
- tape or stapler

## Singing and Story Time

### Chinese Fan Song

Origin unknown. Hear the tune online at <http://youtu.be/KvWaTipYIRI>.

The Sparks can use their Chinese fans for this song.

**My ship sailed from China with a cargo of tea  
All laden with presents for you and for me  
They brought me a fan, just imagine my bliss  
As I fan myself gaily like this, like this, like this, like this**

Repeat five times total. Actions as follows:

Verse 1 - *Fan with right hand*

Verse 2 - *Fan with both hands crossing*

Verse 3 - *Fan with both hands and right foot*

Verse 4 - *Fan with both hands and both feet*

Verse 5 - *As above plus nodding slowly*

### Chinese New Year Story

Read a Chinese New Year story (find one at your local library or by searching online <https://www.google.ca/search?q=chinese+new+year+story+for+kids>) and explain about lucky money (<https://www.google.ca/search?q=chinese+new+year+lucky+money>).

## Closing

Enjoy your regular closing activities. As the Sparks leave to go home with their parents, give them each a fortune cookie and a fabric purse (or a lucky money envelope <https://www.google.ca/#q=chinese+new+year+printable+lucky+money+envelopes>) with “lucky money” inside to take home.

### Supplies

- fortune cookies
- fabric purses (available at a dollar store) or lucky money envelopes
- “lucky money”