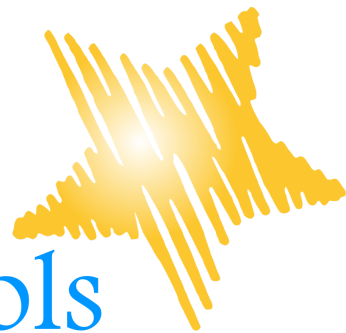


CREATIVE CLASSROOM IDEAS

THE GREAT RACE
- CHINESE ZODIAC DANCE WORKSHOP

West End
in Schools



PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT - A CHECKLIST

- Please confirm your schedule with West End in Schools and share it with all class teachers participating in the day.
- Share this resource pack with all teachers of classes taking part.
- You may wish to familiarise the children with the story of The Great Race before the workshop, although this is entirely optional.
- Whether your workshop is in person or live-on-screen, our main requirement is bundles of enthusiasm!

HOW TO USE THIS PACK

Before the workshop you may find it helpful to use the plot synopsis to familiarise yourself and your class with the story.

Please feel free to explore any and all of the suggested activities contained within this pack. The activities have been divided into sections based on activity type, rather than ability level, as many are adaptable for different ages.

We would love to hear about what your class get up to during and after your workshop to celebrate Chinese New Year and the story of The Great Race:

You can tweet us [@WestEndInSchool](https://twitter.com/WestEndInSchool)

Or find us on Facebook [@WestEndInSchools](https://www.facebook.com/WestEndInSchools)

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Chinese New Year is based on the lunar calendar which follows the cycles of the moon, with similar New Year celebrations held across many countries in East Asia. However, the origins of the celebration are steeped in myth and legend. As a result, lots of the celebrations around Chinese New Year are based on superstition.

The festival begins with house cleaning and sweeping to clear out the worries and problems of the past year.

Many of the decorations used to celebrate Chinese New Year are the colour red. Red is a lucky colour because it was said there was once a mythical creature who was destroying the harvest but he was afraid of the colour red!

Fireworks and firecrackers can be seen during the festival. These were originally used to ward off the mythical creature with their loud bangs.

The dragon is symbol of luck and protection, as it displays these characteristics in the folktale of The Great Race.

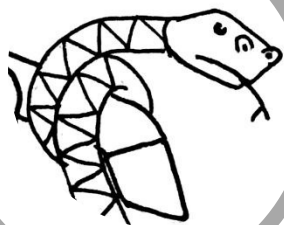
The Lunar New Year is celebrated in lots of countries across East Asia and they all have different traditions, songs and stories.

→ Can you make a map showing where else in the world The Lunar New Year is celebrated?

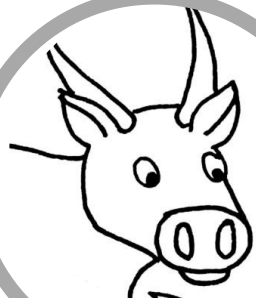
ORDERING ACTIVITIES

Sequencing activities can help children engage with the story and develop a stronger understanding of the order of events.

1. Pre-reading: Predict the outcome of the race, who do you think might come first and why?
2. During reading: Who will come next? Is this how you expected the race to go, why/why not?
3. After reading: Can you recall the order of the animals?
 - a) Cut and stick them into the correct order
 - b) Make a timeline of the events in the story
 - c) Create a board-game using the animal counters where they must progress through the race
 - d) If there was another animal that took part in the race what position do you think they would come? For example, what place would a penguin come?



Snake



Ox



Pig



Rat



Rooster



Goat



Dog



Monkey



Dragon



Rabbit



Horse



Tiger

OUR MISSION

Every child's imagination should be inspired by the arts. Our shows and workshops are highly creative cultural experiences - which children will remember for ever.

DANCE WORKSHOPS

<https://westendinschools.org.uk/dance/>

From popular children's books and poetry to cultural celebrations, mini musicals and themes such as friendship and teamwork, our dance workshops encourage children to use their imaginations while engaging with the topic from a new, active perspective.



DRAMA WORKSHOPS

<https://westendinschools.org.uk/drama>

Bring learning to life with the highest quality drama available in schools today. With the guidance of an expert drama facilitator the children develop their feelings and thoughts about your chosen story or topic. Drama exercises enable the children to imagine and explore the characters, context and topics from new angles.



WORLD BOOK DAY

<https://westendinschools.org.uk/world-book-day>

Celebrate World Book Day with our online or in person literacy workshops exploring popular children's books, fairytales, or Shakespeare.

