

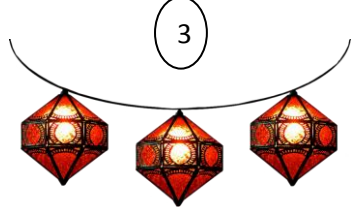








New Year's Traditions Around the World

China and Brazil

A Match the words and the pictures.

<p>①</p> 	<p>②</p> 	<p>③</p> 	<p>④</p> 
<p>Chinese dragon ____</p> <p>lanterns ____</p> <p>papercuttings ____</p> <p>dumplings ____</p> <p>fireworks ____</p> <p>goddess ____</p> <p>pomegranate ____</p> <p>lentils ____</p> <p>carnival ____</p>	<p>⑤</p> 	<p>⑥</p> 	<p>⑦</p> 
	<p>⑧</p> 	<p>⑨</p> 	

B Are the following sentences true or false? Read the text and find out.

Student A

- 1) Chinese New Year falls on a different date every year.
- 2) Children in China receive red envelopes with money on New Year's Eve.
- 3) Chinese dragon is a symbol of bad luck and wickedness.
- 4) Washing one's hair on New Year's Day is considered to bring good luck.

Student B

- 1) Brazilian New Year falls on a different date every year.
- 2) In Brazil, people dress all in white for the New Year's Eve.
- 3) Number nine is considered to be the lucky number.
- 4) Brazilians never have chicken, turkey or crabs for their New Year's dinner.

Student A:

Chinese New Year



Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is the most important holiday in China. The festival begins on New Year's Eve and lasts for 15 days. New Year's Eve falls on a different date each year because it is based on a lunar calendar.

New Year has a spiritual meaning for the Chinese. Many traditions come from an old legend of a terrible beast called "Year". The beast would appear on the New Year's Eve and threaten to harm people and animals. Luckily, people found out that the beast was afraid of red colour, fire and loud sounds. Therefore, most of the Chinese New Year's decorations are red.

Before the festival begins, houses are cleaned and traditional decorations such as lanterns, papercuttings and paintings are put up. New Year's Eve celebration starts with a family dinner. Normally, fish and dumplings are served. These two dishes symbolize prosperity. After dinner, many people set off fireworks and firecrackers in order to drive away evil and bring forth good luck. Children receive red envelopes with money from older members of the family. It is believed that money will give them a long life and keep them healthy. In bigger cities, New Year Parades are organized, with dragon dances, drums and gongs. Chinese dragons are believed to bring good luck, long life and wisdom.

On the first day of New Year, people visit their relatives and friends and pay their respect to the ancestors. They stay away from cleaning or even washing their hair because it brings bad luck. The Spring Festival ends with the Lantern Festival during which all streets and houses are decorated with red lanterns of different shapes and sizes. Their glow in the night is spectacular.

Student B:

New Year in Brazil



For most people, December 31st and snowy weather often go hand in hand. However, in Brazil, it is quite the opposite. Sunshine, beach parties and hot weather are just some of the perks of the Brazilian New Year. The biggest party takes place on Rio's Copacabana Beach with some of the most amazing fireworks, concerts and carnivals in the world.

New Year in Brazil has got a spiritual side, too. Since a lot of Brazilians live close to the ocean, one of the most important New Year's Eve traditions is to offer a gift to the sea goddess Iemanjá. Flowers, jewellery and rice are thrown into the ocean. If Iemanjá doesn't like the gift, she will send it back and the wish will not be granted.

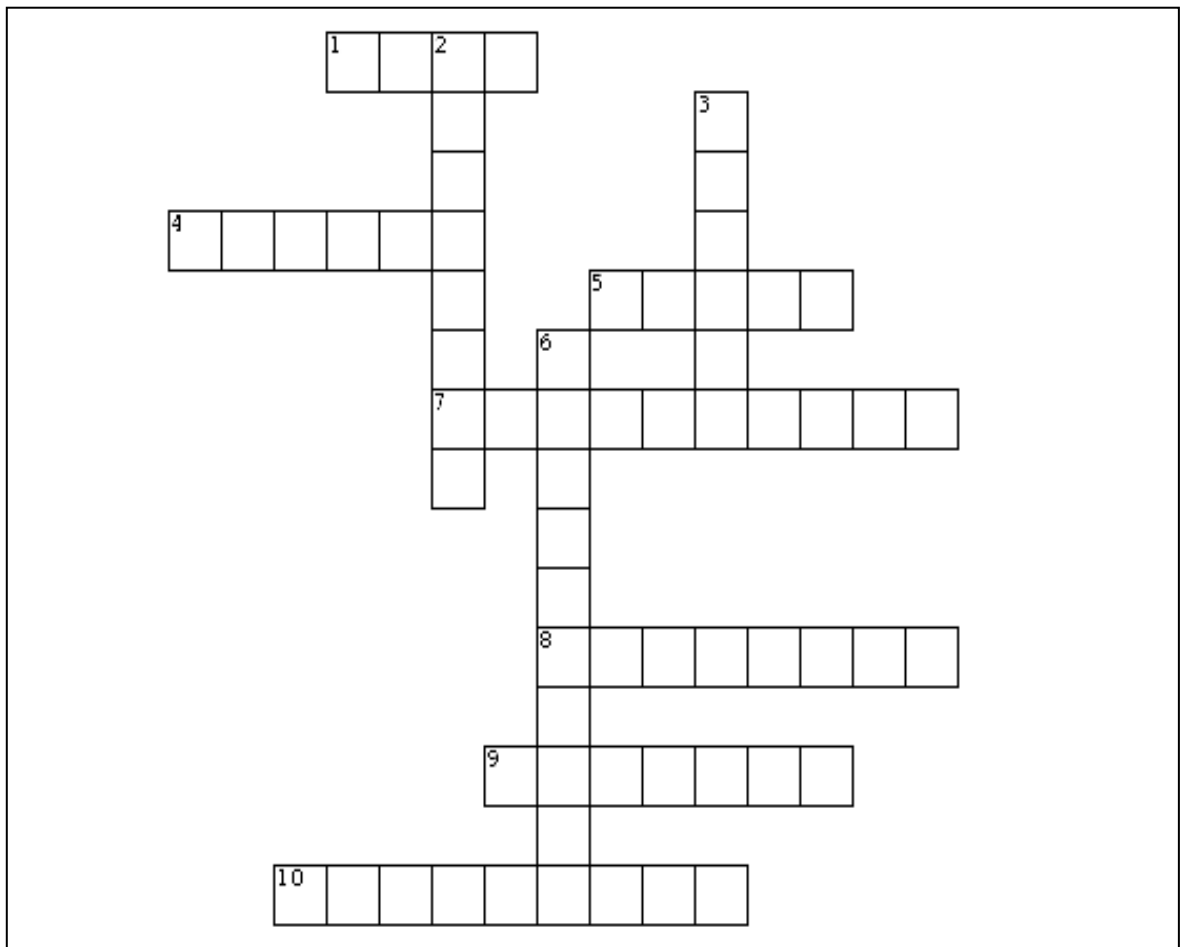
Another Brazilian tradition is to dress all in white for the New Year's Eve because white colour symbolizes peace and prosperity. The only piece of clothing that shouldn't be white is the underwear. The choice of colour for underwear depends on your New Year's resolutions. Green underwear is worn for health, yellow for money, red for romance and purple for inspiration. Also, number seven is considered to be the lucky number. Therefore, Brazilians eat seven grapes at midnight or chew on seven pomegranate seeds to ensure a wallet full of money for the next year.

New Year dinner is very carefully planned, too. Brazilians eat only the food that is believed to bring good luck, such as rice, lentils and pork. On the other hand, they never have chicken, turkey or crabs because those animals walk or scratch the ground backwards and that is considered to bring bad luck. Finally, dinner ends with a glass of champagne and a toast speech.

C Match the questions and answers that you can find in the text. Ask your friend for the rest.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 What is Chinese New Year also known as? | ___ Flowers, jewellery and rice. |
| 2 What are the perks of Brazilian New Year? | ___ The Spring festival. |
| 3 Where do many Chinese traditions come from? | ___ To ensure a wallet full of money. |
| 4 What do the people offer to Iemanjá as a gift? | ___ With the Lantern Festival. |
| 5 What colour are most of the Chinese decorations? | ___ Sunshine and beach parties. |
| 6 What is green underwear worn for? | ___ From a legend. |
| 7 What do the fish and dumplings symbolize? | ___ Rice, lentils and pork. |
| 8 Why do people chew on seven pomegranate seeds? | ___ Prosperity. |
| 9 What does the Spring Festival end with? | ___ For health. |
| 10 What do Brazilians have for New Year's dinner? | ___ Red. |

D Complete the crossword below.



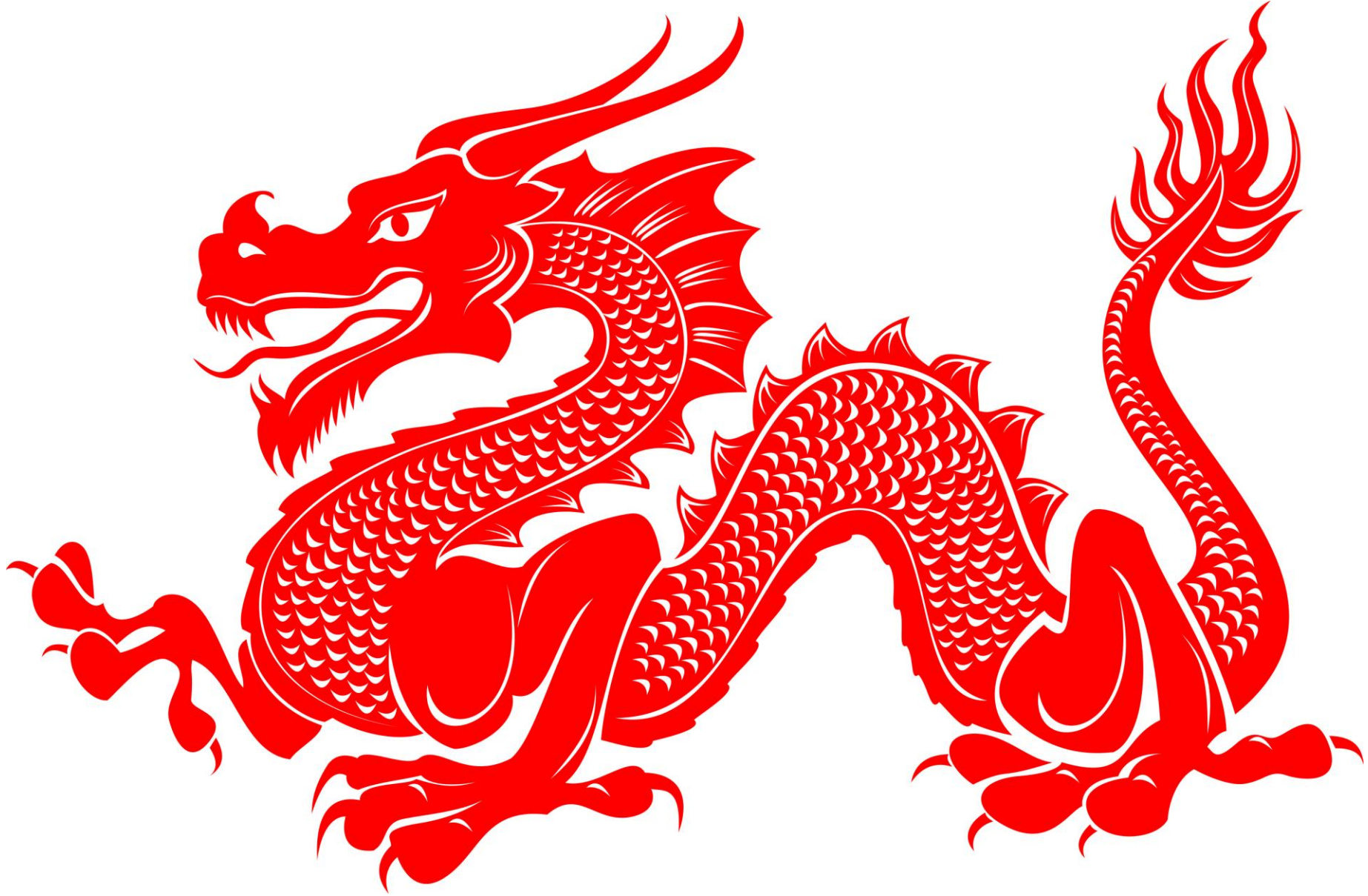
Across

- 1 small object from which a new plant can grow
- 4 the colour of underwear worn for inspiration
- 5 wild and dangerous animal
- 7 good fortune and success
- 8 a person that used to be a part of your family
- 9 Chinese lamp
- 10 toward the back, in reverse

Down

- 2 a thin package for letters
- 3 a large public procession
- 6 a famous beach in Rio de Janeiro

D Cut out.



Teacher's Notes

	China and Brazil	
Grade	7/8	
Cross Curriculum	geography	
Procedure	Introduction	Begin with brainstorming New Year's traditions in Croatia. Then ask the students to task A . Check the answers and their knowledge of the two countries in general. You can include some additional pictures.
	Main part	Cut out the text in two pieces and give each student only one piece. Instruct them to read the text and do task B . After that, students match questions and answers in task C in pairs and do the crossword puzzle in task D .
	Conclusion	Compare New Year's traditions in Croatia to those in China and Brazil orally or with help of the PowerPoint presentation. As a fun activity in the end, ask the students to do task E .
Additional info	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sH70CqaAXGo (link for teachers with additional information about Chinese New Year Customs)</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXnYMKVbp9g (link where students can see the offerings to Iemanja, Goddess of the Sea)</p> <p><u>Pronunciation:</u> IEMANJÁ [jemã'za]</p> <p><u>Crossword key:</u> Across : 1 <i>seed</i>; 4 <i>purple</i>; 5 <i>beast</i>; 7 <i>prosperity</i>; 8 <i>ancestor</i>; 9 <i>lantern</i>; 10 <i>backwards</i> Down: 2 <i>envelope</i>; 3 <i>parade</i>; 6 <i>Copacabana</i></p>	