INTRODUCTION

Lunar New Year is celebrated in East Asia and Southeast Asia and is also known as Chun Jié (traditional Chinese: 春節; simplified Chinese: 春节) or the Spring Festival, as it marks the arrival of the season on the lunisolar calendar. Across many Asian countries, the color red represents luck and prosperity. The giving of red envelopes (known as lai see in Cantonese and hóng bao in Mandarin) is one of the biggest traditions of the Lunar New Year celebration. The envelopes contain money inside as a way of wishing prosperity among the recipient and are traditionally given to children by parents and grandparents to symbolize wishes of good fortune, health, and well-being for the upcoming new year. The recipient in turn wishes prosperity to the giver by saying, “Gōng Xi Fā Cái.”

Use the directions to teach your little ones how to make, design, and personalize their own red envelopes to celebrate the Year of the Ox!

ESTIMATED TIME

15 minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED

• Red envelope template
• Printer
• Red paper
• Scissors
• Glue stick
• Colored metallic markers or stickers for decoration

PRACTICE WRITING CHINESE CHARACTERS FOR DECORATION

福 (fú)
Good luck and fortune

恭喜發財 (gōng xǐ fā cái)
Congratulations, prosperity, and good luck

新年快樂 (xīn nián kuài lè)
Happy New Year

STEPS

1. Print out the red envelope template (found on the next page) on red paper.
2. Cut out the template along the solid line.
3. Valley-fold Flap 1 along the dotted line and apply glue to the back side of the flap.
4. Valley-fold Flap 2 along the dotted line and attach the edge of Flap 2 to the glued back side of Flap 1. (This will form the back of the envelope.)
5. Apply glue to Flap 3, valley-fold upward along the dotted line, and attach it to Flap 2. (This will secure the bottom of the envelope.)
6. Valley-fold the last flap along the dotted line. (This will be the opening of the envelope.)
7. Use markers or pens to add Chinese characters or other decorative patterns and personalized touches to your finished red envelope.