

Chinese New Year Lantern Festival



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The Chinese New Year Lantern Festival began in China but is now celebrated in many different places around the world.

The festival marks the final day of the Chinese New Year celebrations. It usually takes place in February or March.

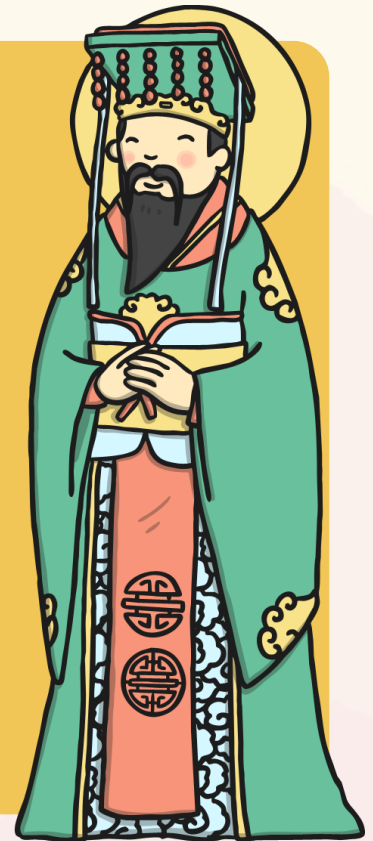


How Did It All Start?

Different people have different ideas about how this festival began.
Here is one of them...

Long ago in ancient China, there lived a palace maid named Yuanxiao. The emperor didn't allow her to leave the palace which meant that she missed her family very much.

Yuanxiao had a friend called Dongfang Shuo. He told the emperor that the God of Fire had ordered the city to be set on fire on the fifteenth day of the first month of the lunar year. The emperor needed to stop this from happening. Shuo told him that the only solution was to let off fireworks and hang red lanterns all around the city as the God of Fire liked to watch a fire show.



How Did It All Start?

When the time came, the people let off fire crackers and the lanterns shone brightly. Yuanxiao also helped by making dumplings for the god to eat; she hoped it would distract him and save the city from the fire. Luckily, the plan worked and the city was saved.

Yuanxiao was allowed to leave the palace and see her family. This is why the festival has become a time for families and friends to be together.

The emperor enjoyed the display so much that he announced that there would be a lantern festival every year. This meant that Yuanxiao could visit her family again.



Did You Know?



Some people believe that the first Chinese New Year Lantern Festival took place over 2000 years ago!

Lanterns



Lanterns of different shapes, sizes and colours can be seen in homes, shopping centres, parks and streets during the festival.

Some lanterns are decorated with pictures of birds, flowers or fruit.

Red is a popular colour as it is believed to be lucky.

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During the festival, you may see firework displays.
Tangyuan are sweet dumplings. They are eaten during the festival.

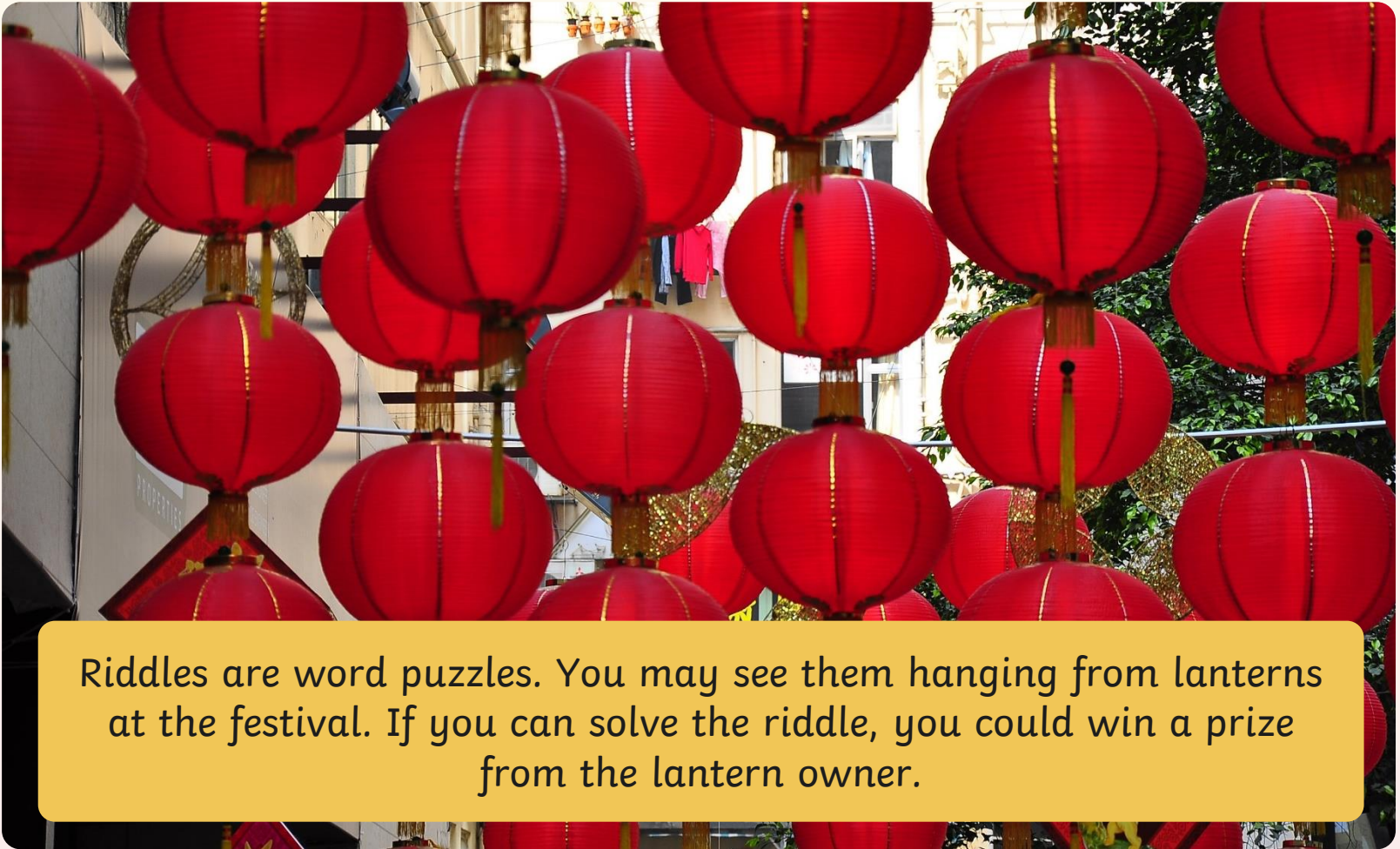
Dancing

At the festival, you may also see a dragon or lion dance.

The lion is a symbol of strength and bravery.

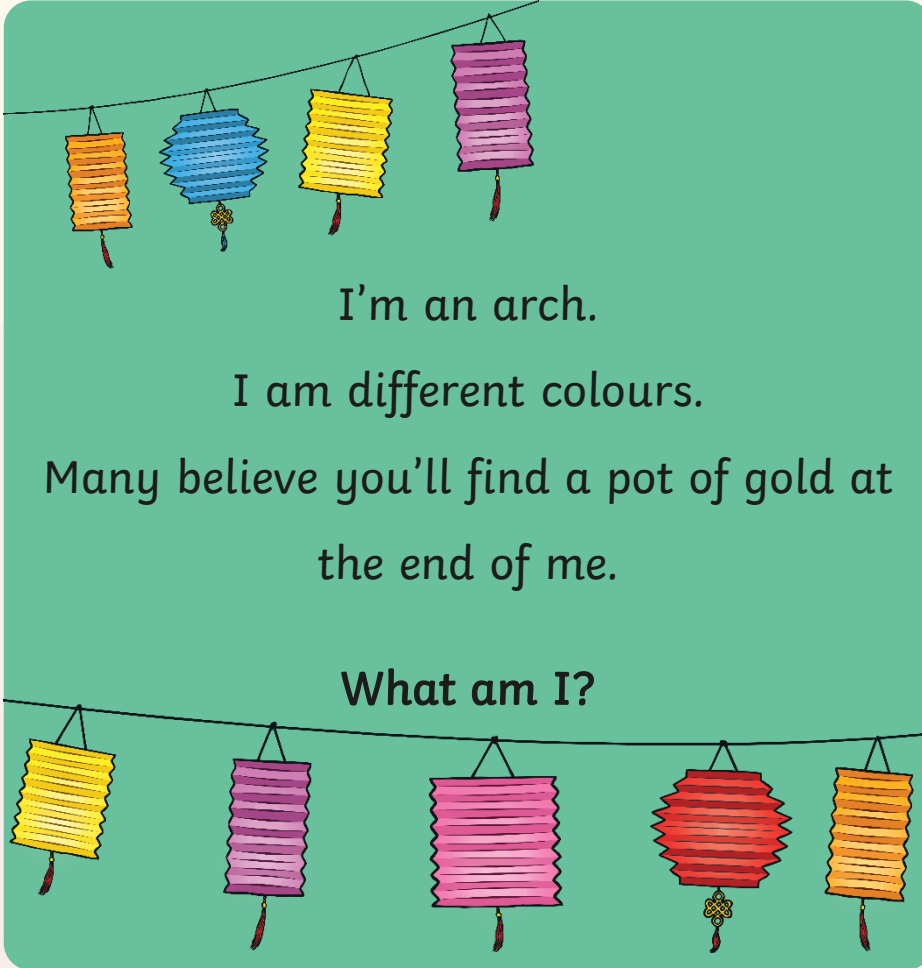


Riddles



Riddles are word puzzles. You may see them hanging from lanterns at the festival. If you can solve the riddle, you could win a prize from the lantern owner.

Solving Riddles



I'm an arch.

I am different colours.

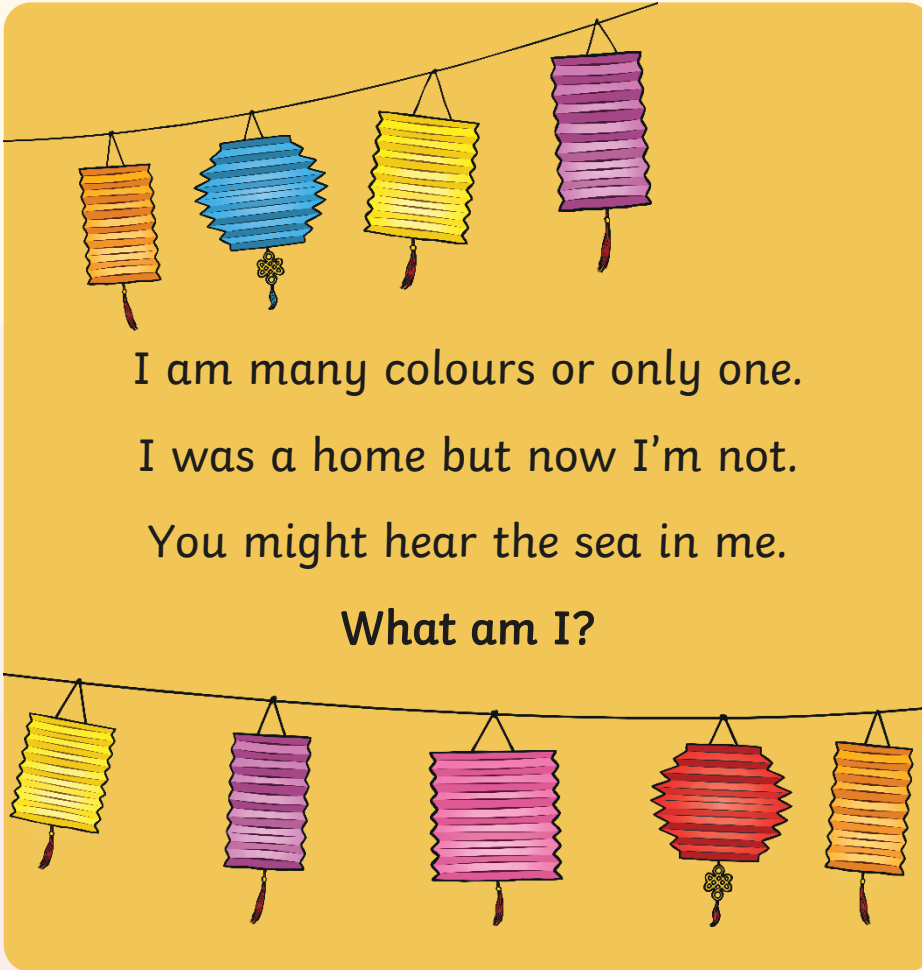
Many believe you'll find a pot of gold at
the end of me.

What am I?

Answer
rainbow



Solving Riddles



I am many colours or only one.

I was a home but now I'm not.

You might hear the sea in me.

What am I?

Answer
shell



Perhaps you could have a go at creating your own riddle?

Mrs Smith and Mrs Harrison would love to try and solve them so make sure you send them to us!

Happy Lantern Festival!



