

Activity Idea

Year of the Snake Papercraft

Recommended for Ages 5+



Happy Lunar New Year!

On January 29, 2025, we will say good-bye to the Year of the Dragon and welcome the Year of the Snake! Lunar New Year is a time of joy, celebration, and togetherness observed by many Asian cultures around the world. It marks the beginning of a new year based on the lunar calendar or the lunisolar calendar, which means the dates are determined by both the moon and the sun. The Lunar New Year is filled with traditions to bring good luck and prosperity. Let's honor this celebrate this new year by creating a colorful and fun snake papercraft with your little ones!

Please note: This craft is meant to be made with items you already have around the house. You can make substitutions for many of the materials below. For instance, you do not need to use red or gold paint; please feel free to use whatever colors you have available.

Supplies Needed

- Red and gold acrylic paint
- Paintbrush or paint sponge
- Paper plate
- Bubble wrap
- Marker or pen
- Scissors
- Googly eyes or stickers

- Red felt or construction paper
- Optional items: String

Instructions

1. Paint a paper plate of any size red.



2. Use scrap pieces of bubble wrap dipped in gold and/or yellow paint to create the look of snake scales.



3. When your paint has dried draw a spiral on the plate with a marker or pen to mimic the shape of a snake. Start with the tail and work your way inward so that you finish with its head.



4. Starting from the outside of the paper plate, cut the spiral outline to form the body of the snake.



5. Glue a pair of googly eyes and a red felt or construction paper tongue to the head to complete your snake. If you don't have googly eyes or stickers, you can always draw the eyes with markers. You can also draw a tongue, color it red, and cut it out of a sheet of white paper if you do not have felt or construction paper available.



Optional: If you'd like to hang your snake and use it as a festive decoration to ring in the New Year, you can poke a string through the top and tie.

Why We Celebrate the Year of the Snake:

- The snake is the sixth animal in the Chinese zodiac and is associated with qualities like intelligence, charm, and mystery.
- Lunar New Year is a time to reflect on the past year and embrace new beginnings with hope and positivity.
- This craft helps us connect with the traditions and symbols of this important holiday while sparking creativity, conversation, and fun!

Suggested Reading (Preschool – 3rd grade):

Place holds on these recommended titles by following the links to our online catalog.

- [A Sweet New Year for Ren](#) by Michelle Sterling
Ren has always been too little to help make her favorite pineapple cakes for the Lunar New Year, but when her one-of-a-kind brother Charlie arrives for the festivities, with his help, she finally gets her chance.
- [Wish Soup: A Celebration of Seollal](#) by Junghwa Park
Celebrate Korean Lunar New Year and join one child's quest to eat enough bowls of soup to become a "big girl!"
- [Lunar New Year](#) by Natasha Yim



Join Ling and her family as they celebrate 15 days of Lunar New Year--a time full of careful preparations, delicious food, lanterns, fireworks, and dragon dancing.

- [Baby Loves Lunar Phases on Chinese New Year!](#) by Ruth Spiro
While celebrating Chinese New Year, Baby discovers the science behind lunar phases!
- [Ping's Perfect Pot](#) by Helen H. Wu
Ping is determined to make the quintessential pot for a tangerine tree she and her grandfather purchased for Lunar New Year, but she soon discovers all things made with love are imperfectly perfect.

Additional Resources:

- [Asian Lunar New Year Youtube Video](#)
Although it's a few years old, this video we created has lots of great info on Lunar New Year traditions and customs. It also includes a tutorial on how to create a festive paper lantern!
- [LA County Library Lunar New Year Page](#)
Please visit our Lunar New Year page to learn more about the holiday. There you'll find historical and cultural info on Lunar New Year, a booklist for all ages, a list of special events at our libraries, and a link to stream Asian films on Kanopy.