

## How to...

# Make a Lunar New Year dancing dragon

Around two billion people across the world celebrate the New Year according to the lunar calendar, which is based on the Moon. The date changes every year and this year it falls on 10 February. Each year has the sign of an animal and 2024 is the Year of the Dragon. The dragon is a symbol of power, wealth and wisdom. People born in the year of the dragon are said to be lucky and confident and to have leadership qualities. The "dragon dance" is a New Year tradition to bring good luck and drive away evil spirits. Here's how you can make your own mini dancing dragon.

### What you need

- Paint
- Crayons or pens
- A4 sheets of paper or coloured card
- Scissors
- Sticky tape
- Glue
- 2 wooden sticks

### TOP TIP

The sections can also be linked with a piece of thick string or ribbon, to make the body more wiggly.

### ANIMAL MAGIC

The dragon is the only imaginary creature in the lunar zodiac.

Make paper dragons dance.

**1** Paint a pattern on a piece of A4 coloured paper or card, or draw a pattern with crayons or pens. On another sheet of paper, draw a head, tail and legs and cut them out.



**2** Cut the patterned sheet of paper into six strips. Roll each strip into a tube 4cm or 5cm in diameter, then tape it along the edge.



**3** To assemble the body, cut a strip of card 30cm long and 1cm wide. Glue it to the inside of the tubes, one section at a time, until the six pieces are linked together. Leave a small space between each section.



**4** Glue the head, tail and legs onto the body. Add details for the eye, a tongue and spines along the back. Turn the dragon over then tape a stick on the head and another stick on the tail. Use the sticks to move the dancing dragon.



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3 February 2024 • The Week Junior

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