

# **Surf Soup® Chinese Lunar New Year Adventure**

## **Reader Guide**

By Donna Kay Lau

Surf Soup® Chinese Lunar New Year Adventure: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DG963SHT>

Surf Soup Asian Adventures: <https://mybook.to/asianadventures>

Thank you for sharing Surf Soup® Chinese Lunar New Year Adventure with your learners.

This reader guide is designed to support classroom instruction, library programming, and at-home learning through culturally rich storytelling that celebrates Lunar New Year traditions, family togetherness, and joyful learning. Using food, symbols, and celebration, the Surf Soup® series helps children explore cultural heritage while building social-emotional skills and creative thinking.

### **EDUCATIONAL FOCUS**

This guide supports learning in the following areas:

#### **Cultural Understanding**

Lunar New Year traditions and symbols

Family customs and celebrations

Stories passed through generations

#### **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)**

Belonging and community

Gratitude and joy

Sharing and cooperation

#### **Literacy & Story Skills**

Story comprehension

Character exploration

Vocabulary development

#### **STEAM Integration**

Science through sound, movement, and observation

Engineering through lantern design and structure

Math through counting, patterns, and comparisons  
Art through creative expression and symbolism

### CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Activities in this guide naturally align with:

ELA: Discussion, sequencing, reflection

Math: Counting, patterns, simple problem-solving

Science: Cause and effect, vibration, observation

Art: Visual storytelling and design

SEL Frameworks: Emotional awareness and community-building

No special materials or prior knowledge are required.

### IDEAL FOR USE IN

Classrooms (Grades 1–5)

School and public libraries

Homeschool environments

Lunar New Year celebrations and cultural units

Family reading and activity nights

### ABOUT SURF SOUP®

Surf Soup® is a multicultural storytelling series created by Emmy-honored, Oscar-qualified animator and author Donna Kay Lau. Inspired by family kitchens, cultural traditions, and shared meals, Surf Soup® encourages curiosity, kindness, and connection—one story at a time.

### SKILLS COVERED

Cultural awareness

Observation & inquiry

Design thinking

Math reasoning

Emotional connection through tradition

### TIP FOR EDUCATORS

Activities may be used individually or as a complete unit.

Encourage learners to share their own traditions and celebrations to deepen cultural understanding.

If you want next, I can:

shorten this for a TPT preview blurb  
create a librarian-only version  
or align language to school district multicultural standards  
This is excellent Lunar New Year curriculum material – you're  
absolutely set for February promotion 

### WHY TEACHERS LOVE THIS

Cross-curricular  
Culturally authentic  
Easy to implement  
Perfect for Lunar New Year units

Celebrate the Lunar New Year with Surf Soup TV and the Instant Ramen Noodles: A Chinese Lunar New Year Adventure, a whimsical and heartfelt children's book that blends imagination, culture, and connection.

When Koa wishes for a new friend, his wish comes true in the most unexpected way—Auntie Donna magically transforms into a packet of instant ramen noodles! As the Surf Soup gang comes together to celebrate Lunar New Year, they discover that food has the power to bring people together across generations, cultures, and distances.

Rooted in Asian traditions and inspired by family storytelling, this joyful adventure introduces young readers to Lunar New Year customs, symbolism, and the importance of togetherness, kindness, and community.

Perfect for families, classrooms, and libraries, this Surf Soup® favorite is a meaningful way to welcome the Lunar New Year with warmth, laughter, and heart.

### STEAM ACTIVITIES: LUNAR NEW YEAR, TRADITIONS & TOGETHERNESS

These STEAM activities connect culture, science, art, engineering, and social-emotional learning using Surf Soup® Chinese Lunar New Year Adventure.



### SCIENCE: Sound, Vibration & Celebration

Goal: Explore how sound and vibration create celebration.

Materials:

Metal bowl or cup

Spoon

Water

Activity:

Fill the bowl with water.

Gently tap the bowl with a spoon.

Watch the ripples move across the water.

Discuss:

How does sound make movement?

Why are loud sounds used during Lunar New Year?

How do celebrations help bring people together?

Connection:

Sound and movement symbolize energy, joy, and new beginnings.



### ENGINEERING: Build a Lucky Lantern

Goal: Design a structure that holds light safely.

Materials:

Paper

Tape or glue

String

Battery tea light

Activity:

Design a paper lantern that can hang and hold a light.

Test balance and strength.

Discuss:

What makes a lantern strong?

Why is light important during Lunar New Year?



### ART: Zodiac Animal Character Design

Goal: Express identity and personality through art.

Activity:

Choose a Lunar New Year zodiac animal.

Design it as a Surf Soup character.

Add:

Colors

Patterns

A personality trait

Extension:

Write one sentence about what the animal represents.



MATH: Red Envelope Counting & Patterns

Goal: Practice counting, patterns, and simple math.

Materials:

Paper red envelopes (or drawn ones)

Coins or counters

Activity:

Fill envelopes with different amounts.

Compare totals.

Create number patterns.

Discuss:

Why is sharing part of celebration?

How does math help with fairness?



TECH / MEDIA: Traditions Then & Now

Goal: Explore how traditions travel across generations.

Activity:

Draw two panels:

Lunar New Year long ago

Lunar New Year today

Discuss:

What stays the same?

What changes?

Connection:

Stories and traditions travel with families.



STEAM + SEL REFLECTION

Ask students to complete:

“Celebrations help me feel \_\_\_\_\_. ”

“Being together makes me feel \_\_\_\_\_. ”