

Music from China

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Chinese Festivals

Chinese people celebrate festivals over the four seasons – winter, summer, spring and autumn. The Chinese New Year is perhaps one of the most famous Chinese festival. This colourful festival takes place in January or sometimes early February. People give presents to each other, then meet outside to see plays and dancing. The sky is lit with candlelit lanterns and fireworks. Acrobats dress up in lion costumes. They dance, leap, fall and climb tall poles. A large dragon with a huge head and tail appears. The people inside the dragon costume make it dance and jump through the streets. Cymbals, gongs and drums join in the festivities and accompany the story telling.

Pentatonic Scale

In China the number five is sacred. There are five elements – earth, fire, wood, metal and water. There are five kinds of love and five kinds of grain. Many Chinese tunes are composed (made up) from a scale of five notes. This is called the pentatonic scale as it has five notes. Penta means five.



Written task

Copy and complete the following:

There are _____ notes in Chinese music. A piece of music using this number of notes is based on the Pentatonic scale. Penta means _____.

Name: _____

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B	R	A	N	Q	W	E	L	E	M	E	N	T	S	C	D	Z	I	I	V
B	U	O	G	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	S	J	H	T	H	R	L	D	E
X	X	S	U	W	U	L	R	I	V	S	G	N	O	G	A	I	D	C	T
S	L	A	B	M	Y	C	U	T	B	F	I	F	U	N	M	M	N	K	N
A	J	Q	F	A	N	N	B	J	A	N	U	A	R	Y	H	L	D	A	I
P	J	W	M	E	P	W	W	R	G	P	B	F	X	B	M	S	Y	S	G
D	F	E	S	T	I	V	A	L	N	Z	B	Z	W	H	Q	A	Q	N	C
L	H	A	B	V	E	T	K	C	W	G	C	O	D	R	A	G	O	N	U
T	O	E	Z	Q	P	C	O	W	O	L	H	O	Z	H	N	R	E	Q	X
B	X	C	T	W	T	S	N	I	N	U	Z	S	L	W	R	E	T	A	W
I	I	H	P	E	T	J	J	N	K	V	M	U	M	O	A	D	U	X	L
I	F	J	F	U	M	N	J	W	H	O	M	P	K	U	U	U	X	B	I
G	K	P	M	L	A	T	E	M	S	W	F	V	R	T	R	R	U	Q	Q
Z	I	E	Z	P	E	N	E	L	V	H	T	Z	A	V	X	D	F	O	Y
B	S	L	O	I	F	X	L	R	L	I	E	P	H	V	Y	G	J	U	X
J	C	V	T	W	I	N	L	G	I	L	O	E	P	B	Z	G	L	I	L
F	I	R	E	M	M	F	F	I	V	E	B	P	C	W	B	E	G	E	A
T	S	V	A	I	A	J	G	X	D	M	K	E	R	T	Z	B	R	Y	V
S	F	I	R	E	W	O	R	K	S	N	L	D	R	V	G	D	U	B	D
U	H	G	I	S	Y	U	H	T	R	A	E	V	U	A	U	U	T	S	O
C	E	U	Q	Z	G	C	D	C	I	N	O	T	A	T	N	E	P	V	O
W	C	U	T	V	N	E	W	Y	E	A	R	J	E	I	E	Z	O	V	W

China	Colourful	Costumes	Cymbals	Dragon
Drums	Earth	Elements	Festival	Fire
Fireworks	Five	Gongs	January	Metal
New Year	Pentatonic	Presents	Water	Wood