

Topics: World Cultures,
Celebrations

Materials List

- ✓ Bubble wrap packing material (large, 3 cm (1¼") bubbles work well)
- ✓ Double stick tape or alternate adhesive
- ✓ Tinsel, thin Mylar strips, and/or ribbon
- ✓ Firecracker/candle die cut pattern
- ✓ Red paper

This activity can be used to teach:

- Sound (Next Generation Science Standards: Grade 1, Physical Science 4-1, 4-4)

Faux Firecrackers

Stomp and Pop



Celebrate Lunar New Year and scare away the evil spirits with safe “no fire” *firecrackers*.

To Do and Notice

1. Cut bubble wrap into a 30 cm (12") square (use perforations if present). The wrap with 3 cm (1¼") bubbles makes a nice loud pop. This size square makes a nice mat to decorate and stomp.
2. Use an adhesive i.e. double stick tape to adhere decorations such as ribbon, tinsel, and paper die cut fire crackers/candles.

The Content Behind the Activity

Lunar New Year begins on the second New Moon after the Winter Solstice (December 22). Peoples all over Asia and around the world welcome this month long celebration and honor ancient traditions with family and friends. The loud sound of fireworks is believed to scare evil spirits, and thus firecrackers and other noisemakers are used for any occasion especially concerned with being “evil spirit free”, such as births, deaths, and beginning a new year.

The bubble wrap pops when you push on it because the plastic is being stressed. Plastic is a polymer of coiled up molecules that are attracted to each other by weak Van der Waals forces. When the plastic is stretched, the molecules begin to straighten out, until the point where the Van der Waal forces give out and the molecules come apart from one another. The popping sound occurs because the pressurized air in the bubble wrap rushes out in a wave and is conveyed as a pressure change in the inner ear. Bubble wrap is not as pressurized as a balloon, which is why the popping sound is not as loud as for a balloon.

Taking it Further

- Use the firecracker mat as the culmination of your Lunar New Year or Chinese New Year parade.
- Use the Faux Firecrackers throughout the year by decorating the mat differently for 4th of July or other celebrations such as birthdays.

Web Resources - (Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=144 for more resources!)