

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Noodle of Fortune

**Directions:** Read the passage below about a traditional Chinese New Year dish, then answer the comprehension questions that follow.

During Chinese New Year, families often share a warm bowl of **longevity noodles**, a dish that symbolizes long life and good health. The noodles are kept extra long because cutting or breaking them is thought to bring bad luck or shorten one's lifespan. To prepare this festive meal, cooks first boil the noodles gently so they stay unbroken, then toss them with savory sauce, vegetables, and sometimes shrimp or chicken.

Each region in China has its own way of serving longevity noodles. In northern areas, they may be stir-fried with soy sauce and green onions, while in southern regions, they are often served in a light broth. Families eat the dish together, sharing laughter and blessings for the new year. The simple act of eating the noodles reminds everyone that happiness grows when shared with loved ones.

### Comprehension Questions:

1. What do longevity noodles symbolize during Chinese New Year?
2. Why do people try not to cut or break the noodles?
3. Describe two different ways the noodles may be prepared in different regions.
4. What does sharing longevity noodles represent for families?
5. What message about life can be learned from this tradition?
6. What might happen symbolically if someone accidentally breaks their noodle?

**Extension Challenge:** Write your own short recipe for a "Good Fortune Dish." Include a symbolic ingredient and explain what it represents.