

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Festival Clues

**Directions:** Read the passage carefully. Look for **cultural references** (traditions, symbols, food, clothing, holidays, or practices) that may not be directly explained in the text. Use surrounding details and your background knowledge to infer their meaning. Answer the questions in complete sentences.

### The Festival Night

The village square glowed with hundreds of paper lanterns drifting into the evening sky. Children carried red envelopes, each holding a small gift of money from their elders. At the center of the square, families shared steaming bowls of dumplings, believed to bring good fortune for the year ahead. Musicians played traditional instruments, their melodies echoing through the crowd. Firecrackers burst loudly, sending sparks into the air and, according to custom, chasing away evil spirits. Laughter, warmth, and celebration carried on until the moon hung high above, reminding everyone that a new year had begun with hope and blessings.

1. What cultural event is being described in this passage? What clues led you to this answer?
2. What is the significance of the **red envelopes** in the context of the festival?
3. Why do families eat **dumplings** during this celebration?
4. What is the purpose of **firecrackers** in the cultural tradition?
5. How does understanding these cultural references help you better understand the meaning of the passage?