

Name _____



Nian's Night

Directions: Read the passage about the Legend of Nian. Then answer the questions that follow in complete sentences.

The Legend of Nian

Long ago in a small village, people lived in fear of a fierce creature called **Nian**, who came down from the mountains every year at the start of spring. The beast had sharp teeth, glowing eyes, and a roar so powerful it shook the ground. Each year, Nian would storm into the village, destroying homes and scaring away livestock.

One year, an **old traveler** came to the village just before Nian's arrival. The villagers warned him to hide, but he calmly told them he had a plan. When night came, Nian approached-but instead of finding terrified villagers, he saw the houses glowing with **red decorations** and heard **loud crackling noises**. The old man had hung bright red papers on the doors and lit firecrackers to fill the air with sound. Startled by the color and noise, Nian roared in fear and fled back into the mountains.

From that day on, the villagers celebrated their victory by wearing red, lighting fireworks, and decorating their homes each year to keep Nian away. Over time, this joyful tradition became known as **Lunar New Year**, a celebration of bravery, renewal, and hope for the year ahead.

Comprehension Questions

1. What did Nian do that frightened the villagers each year?
2. Who helped the villagers find a way to stop Nian?
3. Which two things scared Nian away, according to the story?
4. How did the villagers celebrate after they scared Nian away?
5. What lesson can be learned from the Legend of Nian?