

Activity Booklet



By Thái Nguyễn & Monique Truong
Illustrated by Dung Ho

A Family Tradition

In Mai's family, Tết, the Vietnamese name for the Lunar New Year, is one of the biggest celebrations of the year. It is also a time that her whole family gets to spend together. Use the blank photo below to draw you and your loved ones in one of your favorite days to celebrate!



Mai's Áo Dài

By Thái Nguyễn & Monique Truong | Illustrated by Dung Ho

REPRODUCIBLE • Illustrations © 2025 Dung Ho



A
atheneum

How Do You Celebrate?

Everyone has their own favorite special day of the year.
Use the space below to write down all the ways you like to have fun on yours!

My favorite special day is:

I like to celebrate it by:

1.

2.

3.



Mai's Áo Dài

By Thái Nguyễn & Monique Truong | Illustrated by Dung Ho

REPRODUCIBLE • Illustrations © 2025 Dung Ho



A
atheneum

Design Your Own Áo Dài!

One of the most exciting part of Mai's Tết celebration is getting to wear an áo dài! And this year, she needs your help! Use the space below to design and color in your very own áo dài!



Mai's Áo Dài

By Thái Nguyễn & Monique Truong | Illustrated by Dung Ho

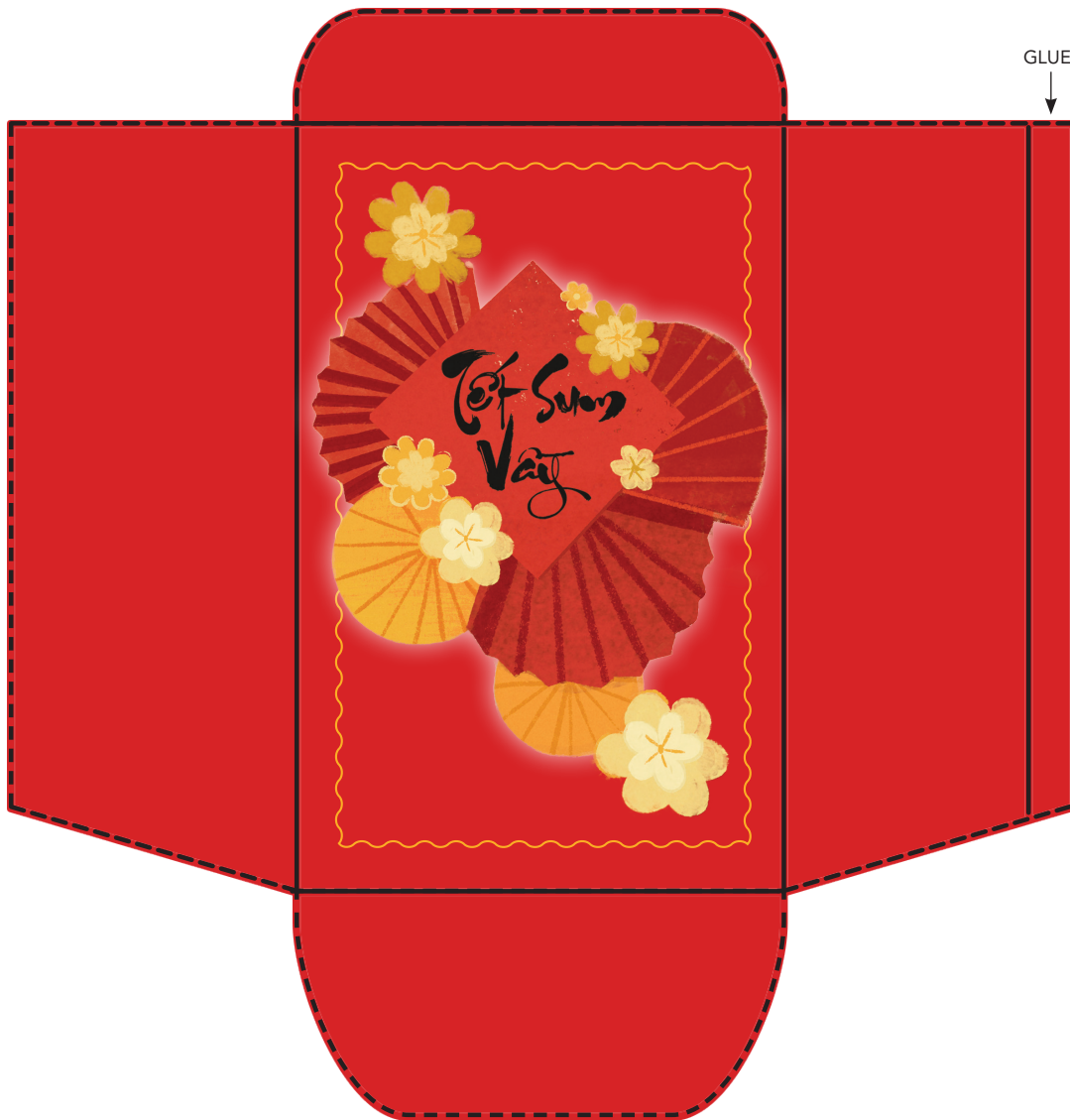
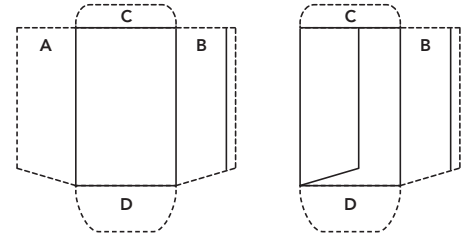
REPRODUCIBLE • Illustrations © 2025 Dung Ho



A
atheneum

Happy Tết!

One of the special ways to celebrate the Lunar New Year is for adults to give lì xì, small red envelopes containing “lucky money,” to children and younger adults. Have an adult help you cut out the template below and fold/glue along the appropriate lines. Then you may use the envelope to gift and share your own well wishes!



Mai's Áo Dài

By Thái Nguyễn & Monique Truong | Illustrated by Dung Ho

REPRODUCIBLE • Illustrations © 2025 Dung Ho



A
atheneum

Mai's guide to her family and Tết!



Glossary

áo dài: pronounced “owl yai,” with “yai” rhyming with “my.” An iconic, traditional garment of Vietnam consisting of a long tunic and pants. It can be worn by everyone and by all ages.

Family

Mai: rhymes with “bye.” A Vietnamese given name derived from “hoa mai vàng,” which are the small blossoms of the yellow apricot tree, which is a beloved Tết decoration.

Ba: rhymes with “pa.” Vietnamese for “dad” or “father” and is used mainly in the southern part of Vietnam.

Bà Nội: “Bà” rhymes with “pa” and “Nội” rhymes with “toy.” Vietnamese for one’s paternal grandmother.

Bố: rhymes with “glow.” Vietnamese for “dad” or “father” and is used mainly in the northern part of Vietnam.

Lunar New Year

Tết: rhymes with “bet.” Vietnamese for the Lunar New Year.

Chúc Mừng Năm Mới: “Happy New Year” in Vietnamese.

lì xì: pronounced “lee see.” On Tết, these small red envelopes containing “lucky money” are traditionally given to children and younger adults.

Extras

Cô cô: pronounced the same way as the English word “cocoa.” The name is a play on the Vietnamese word “cô,” meaning (paternal) “aunt” or “Miss.”

moon bears: medium-sized black bears with a distinctive patch of yellow or white fur in the shape of a crescent moon on their chests. They are indigenous to Vietnam and other parts of Asia.

ơi: pronounced “oy.” A Vietnamese exclamation similar to “oh!” and can be used as a term of affection similar to “dear” in English.



Mai's Áo Dài

By Thái Nguyễn & Monique Truong | Illustrated by Dung Ho

REPRODUCIBLE • Illustrations © 2025 Dung Ho

