



Hello T.Y.C.Y. students! Smarties is back and in this issue we focus on pets. Pets are an important part of our lives. We usually keep dogs, cats, birds or fish as pets. Do you know there are many wonderful and interesting pets we can take care of? They are called exotic pets. Below are some exotic pets you can find in Hong Kong.

Exotic Pets

Potbelly Pig



The Potbelly Pigs are very popular exotic pets! They are very clever and behave like dogs. They can understand commands and you can even take them for a walk. Potbelly pigs live in the house with you. They are omnivores. They eat vegetables, nuts and seeds. And, they are very cute!

Bearded Lizard



Bearded Lizards are the most popular reptile exotic pets. They are from Australia. They live in dry areas of the country and are excellent climbers. They have sharp nails and prickly skin. They eat vegetables and insects. If you have one, you can keep it in a dark aquarium.

European Ferret



Ferrets are part of the weasel family. People have been keeping them as pets for a long time. They are very clever and playful animals. Ferrets can live up to 10 years. They love sleeping. They sleep from 12 to 16 hours a day. Ferrets are interesting and furry exotic pets.

Tarantula



Tarantulas can be found all over the world. They have become popular exotic pets. If you have a pet tarantula, you must keep it in an aquarium. They can get quite big in size and can live up to 25 years. They eat small insects and drink water. Tarantulas are hairy and have 8 legs. Even though they look a bit scary, they are great pets for some people.

Golden Python



Do you like snakes? Some people keep them as pets. The Golden Python is a popular example. They are originally from tropical countries. They are very colourful and beautiful. They are not poisonous. They live in an aquarium. They eat mice and birds for dinner. They can grow up to 6 feet long. Do you want to have one as a pet?

Guinea Pig



These little animals are called Guinea Pigs. They are very cute and furry. Many children have guinea pigs as pets all over the world. They are bigger than hamsters. They live in big cages. They love to eat vegetables and guinea pig food from pet stores. They are easy to care for and that is why they are popular.

We Love Our Pets

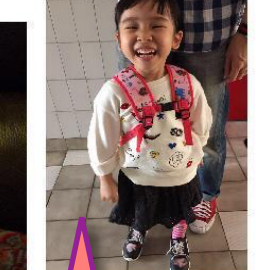
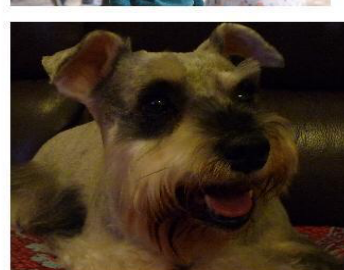
We are very lucky to have four schoolmates introduce their pets to us. Take a look at their pictures and read their introductions. They take care of their pets with their parents.



My name is Paddy Mak. I'm in Class 3E. I have three tortoises. They are Moon Moon, Lok Lok and Fast Fast. They are very funny. They always try to escape. They stack on one another in order to escape from the tank. Look at me. I am grabbing my little adorable tortoises bravely. Their nails are very sharp but I am not scared. I know they will not hurt me. My mum has raised them since she was a little girl. They have been living in my family for more than 25 years. Wow! They are much older than me!



My name is Denis. I'm in Class 4A. Let me introduce my pet. It's a female hamster named Jill. She is 12 weeks old. Jill is tiny and her fur is soft. She has big eyes, small ears, a huge mouth and long front teeth. She loves to eat nuts and sunflower seeds! Jill always sleeps during the day and plays at night. She loves to run and run on the hamster wheel. She is very cute and funny. I'm so happy I can take care of her!



My Lovely Pet
Bee Bee

My name is Haylie and I'm in Class 4A. I have a dog. Her name is Bee Bee. She is a Miniature Schnauzer. My dad and mum bought her from a pet shop in Mongkok. She is cute and her hair is mixed grey. I love her so much. Bee Bee likes to have chicken with carrots for dinner. We take her to the playground at weekends. She likes running around us. Sometimes, she is quite naughty. Bee Bee brings us a lot of happiness. We treat her as our family member.



Hi everyone. I'm Constance Lo from Class 3E and I have ten zebra fish. They are green, pink and orange. They are very beautiful. I did not name them because they almost look the same. I feed them with fish food every day. They like to swim because they are fish. I usually put my finger against the fish tank. Then they follow my finger and swim along. It is so much fun!

Can you guess which pets belong to our teachers at TYCY?

This is a fun matching game where you have to read the riddles from your teachers, look at the picture clues and guess which pets are theirs. Write your answers at the bottom of the page, cut it out and hand it in with your homework after the Chinese New Year holiday. Have fun and good luck!

1



Hi. I'm Miss Ip. My pet is a kind of reptile with soft skin and big eyes. It likes to sleep in winters. It is cold-blooded. It is awake at night and sleeps during the day. Many people think it is scary. Actually it isn't. I can hold it in my hand. It sometimes walks on my arm. I feed it and I play with it every day.

2



It's Miss Mok! My pet has a hard shell and a short tail. It is green and brown. It likes swimming and is a strong swimmer. That is why I put it in a big tank. Sometimes it likes basking in the sunshine or under a UV light-bulb.

3



Hello, children. This is Miss Shum. Monchicoo is the name of my pet. It is pretty fat. It is a white and ginger boy. He is almost twenty-one years old. Shaking hands and 'high-fiving' with me are the best tricks he can do! When he does the tricks right, he can get his favourite snacks. That makes him very happy!

4



Hello everyone. My pet has long ears and large front teeth. It likes jumping on its long back legs. That's why we like watching it hopping around the house. It likes eating hay. It is very cute and furry. Sometimes it makes a cute funny noise.

5



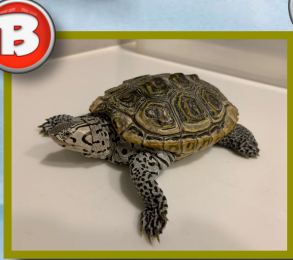
I've loved animals since I was small. I have kept different kinds of small animals like kittens, puppies, chicks, birds, hamsters, fish, rabbits and turtles as pets before. Among all of them, I love Donut the best. My friend gave it to me many years ago. It is fluffy and cute. It has short legs and a flat nose. It loves eating watermelons and chestnuts like me. In winter, it likes sleeping on my bed and sometimes it snores loudly. Isn't it cute?



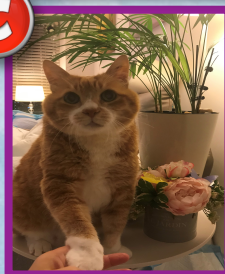
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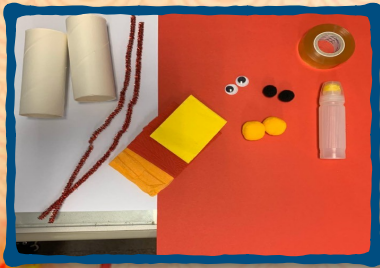
Name: _____ Class: _____



Chinese New Year is almost here! It's a very special time for us. We have prepared some fun and interesting activities that you can try with your family and friends during Chinese New Year holiday. Have fun trying these activities out!



Steps to make the 'Lion Dance' craft



Materials needed

- 2 toilet paper rolls
- 1 red construction paper
- 2 pipe cleaners
- Yellow, red and orange tissue paper
- 2 wiggly eyes
- 2 black puffs
- 2 yellow puffs
- tape / glue / scissors
- 1 long thin stick



1. Glue the red paper to the toilet paper rolls.



2. Glue the yellow puffs to the lion body.



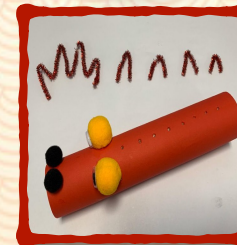
3. Glue on the black puffs and the wiggly eyes to the lion body.



4. Cut the pieces of tissue paper into long strips.



5. Poke several holes on the back of the lion.



6. Cut and bend the pipe cleaners and stick them onto the lion.



7. Glue the tissue paper on the front of the lion.



8. Poke the stick into the bottom of the lion.

Steps to make 'Glutinous Rice Balls' dessert



Ingredients needed

- Glutinous rice flour 200g
- Water 600ml
- Ginger powder - 1 tbs (Can be replaced with slices of peeled ginger)
- Date sugar 1/2 piece

Utensils needed

- 1 measuring cup
- 2 mixing bowls
- A boiling pot
- Chopsticks
- 2 big bowls



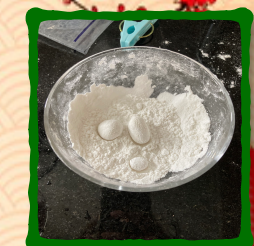
1. Pour the water into the flour and mix with chopsticks.



2. Make sure the flour and water are mixed well.



3. Roll the dough into many small balls with your hands.



4. Place the balls into another bowl with flour.



5. Boil some water. Add in the ginger powder and sugar.



6. Place the rice balls into the boiling water and cook for 5 minutes.



7. When the balls are ready, they float.



8. Pour into a bowl and eat your yummy dessert!