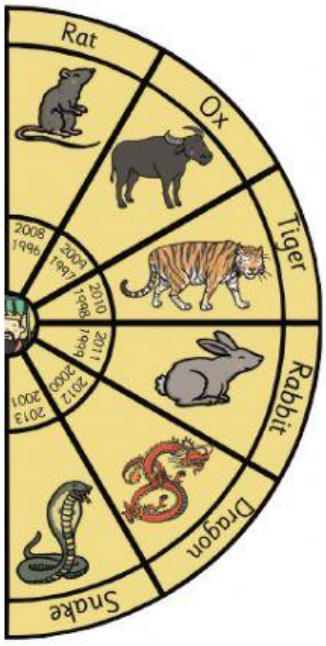
Chinese New Year

What Is Chinese New Year?

Chinese New Year is a traditional and very important Chinese holiday. It was originally a festival to honour ancestors as well as holy or sacred beings. It is also known as the Spring Festival. The celebration can be referred to as the Lunar New Year because the Chinese calendar uses the moon phases (the amount of the moon you can see from Earth depending on how much is lit by the sun), as well as the solar year.



Facts About Chinese New Year

- The date changes each year depending on the lunar calendar.
- It is the longest festival in the Chinese calendar, lasting as long as 15 days.
- Each year is named after an animal and anyone born in that year is said to have the characteristics of that animal.
- It is a popular time for people to clean their houses.
- Chinese New Year is symbolic of letting go of the past and welcoming new beginnings.

How Is It Celebrated?

Chinese New Year is celebrated through a number of traditions.

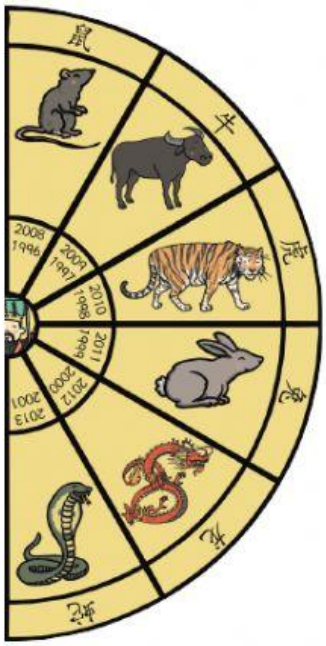
Red envelopes: Red is an important colour in Chinese culture as it symbolises good luck, fortune and joy. Money is given in red envelopes. The amount people receive is usually an even number. The amount cannot have four, as in Chinese tradition,

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中国新年(春节)

什么是中国新年(春节)?

中国新年是中国人非常重要的节日。起初，中国新年源于纪念祖先和驱赶鬼怪而产生，常被人们称为春节。同时由于在中国历法中，同时使用日相和月相(你所能看到月亮的部分取决于被太阳照射的多少)进行计时，中国新年也被人们称为农历新年。



中国新年(春节小常识)

- 基于月历，中国新年(春节)的庆祝日期每年有所不同。
- 中国新年(春节)是中国日历中庆祝时间最长的节日，长达15天。
- 每个年份都有一个动物为其命名，出生在这个动物年份的人被认为拥有这个动物的性格特征。
- 人们在中国新年(春节期间)打扫房间。
- 中国新年(春节期间)象征着辞旧迎新。

如何庆祝中国新年(春节)?

庆祝中国新年的方式源于很多传统。

红包:红色是中国文化中非常重要的颜色，它象征着好运，幸福和快乐。人们会将钱装入红包中，相互赠送。人们收到的钱通常是偶数，代表着好事成双。钱的数字不能是四，因为在中国的传统中，数字四意味着死亡。

烟花爆竹:春节期间的一项传统是燃放烟花爆竹。人们认为烟花爆竹的燃放可以驱赶鬼怪。有一些国家和地区目前已经禁止燃放烟花爆竹了，因为燃放烟花爆竹会发生危险。

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Chinese New Year

the number 4 means death.

Firecrackers: Firecrackers are popular during Chinese New Year. They are thought to scare off evil spirits. Some countries have banned the use of firecrackers as they can be dangerous.

Lion and dragon dances: These dances are performed by highly-skilled acrobats, under huge dragon and lion costumes. The dance is accompanied by cymbals and drums, to frighten away bad spirits. The dragon dance is a highlight of the festivals around the world, and enormous crowds gather to watch it.

Food and families: It's common for Chinese families to have a reunion dinner the night before Chinese New Year festivities begin. Chicken and prawns represent happiness, whilst noodles represent long life.



Legends

Each year is named after a different animal. The story goes that the Jade Emperor requested the animals have a race so that he could decide the order of the Chinese years. He would name each year depending on the order the animals finished the race.

Rat won the race, with the pig strolling in last.

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中国新年(春节)

舞龙和舞狮：参加舞龙和舞狮表演的人都是具有高技能的杂技演员，他们会穿着龙和狮子样式的戏服进行表演。表演的过程中需要演奏钹和鼓，发出的响亮声音以驱赶鬼怪。舞龙表演是世界各地庆祝中国新年的亮点，人们成群的聚在一起观看舞龙表演。
食物和家庭：在中国新年到来的前一晚，中国人的家庭会团聚在一起，共同享用丰盛的晚餐，迎接新年的到来。鸡和虾象征着幸福，面条代表着长寿。



传说

在中国的文化中，基于一个古老的生肖传说故事，用十二个不同的动物为每个年份命名。这个故事讲述了玉皇大帝组织动物们进行一场比赛，然后依据动物们完成比赛的顺序，为年份命名。

最终，鼠赢得了比赛的冠军，猪是比赛中的最后一名。

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Chinese New Year **Questions**
中国新年(春节)问题

1. Apart from celebrating the new year, what other purpose did the celebrations have?
除了迎接新年的到来，庆祝中国新年的其他目的是什么？

2. Name two other names that Chinese New Year is known as.
举例说明另外两个中国新年被人熟知的名称。

3. What does it mean when someone is born in the year of a particular animal?
当人们出生在特定动物代表的年份时，代表了什么？

4. Why do you think Chinese New Year is a popular time for people to clean their houses?
你认为人们为什么要在中国新年期间打扫房间？

5. Why is red an important colour at this time?
为什么红色在中国新年期间非常重要呢？

6. Explain why the money in envelopes should not be an amount with 4.
解释说明为什么红包中的钱数不能含有数字4.

7. Why are firecrackers not used in some countries?
为什么一些国家禁止燃放烟花爆竹？

8. The loud music is used to 'frighten' away the bad spirits. What other word could the author have used?
响亮的音乐用于“驱赶”鬼怪。作者还可以使用什么词汇表达驱赶的含义呢？

9. Explain why you think people might eat chicken and noodles at this time of year.
解释人们在中国新年期间吃鸡和面条的原因。

10. Why did the Jade Emperor ask the animals to have a race?
为什么玉皇大帝要安排动物们参加比赛？

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Chinese New Year **Answers**

1. Apart from celebrating the new year, what other purpose did the celebrations have?

   Apart from celebrating the new year, another purpose for the celebrations was to honour ancestors and holy or sacred beings.

2. Name two other names that Chinese New Year is known as.

   Two other names that Chinese New Year is known as is Spring Festival or Lunar New Year.

3. What does it mean when someone is born in the year of a particular animal?

   When a person is born in the year of a particular animal, it means they will have the characteristics of that animal.

4. Why do you think Chinese New Year is a popular time for people to clean their houses?

   Possible answers: they are getting rid of the past and welcoming the new year; they want a clean start; a fresh start.

5. Why is red an important colour at this time?

   Red is an important colour at this time because it symbolises good luck, fortune and joy and these are things people want for the coming year.

6. Explain why the money in envelopes should not be an amount with 4.

   Because number 4 means death in Chinese traditions.

7. Why are firecrackers not used in some countries?

   Firecrackers are not used in some countries because they are dangerous and have been banned.

8. The loud music is used to 'frighten' away the bad spirits. What other word could the author have used?

   Possible answers: scare, get rid of.

9. Explain why you think people might eat chicken and noodles at this time of year.

   People might eat chicken and noodles at this time of year because chicken represents happiness and noodles represent long life, and these are things people want in the new year.

10. Why did the the Jade Emperor ask the animals to have a race?

    The Jade Emperor asked the animals to have a race so that he could decide what order to name the years.

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