

Read the text and think of the word which best fits each gap.

## LUNAR YEAR 2023



Lunar New Year is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ important celebrations of the year among East and Southeast Asian cultures, (3) \_\_\_\_\_ Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean communities, (4) \_\_\_\_\_ others. The New Year celebration (5) \_\_\_\_\_ usually celebrated for multiple days—(6) \_\_\_\_\_ just one day as in the Gregorian calendar’s New Year. In 2023, Lunar New Year begins (7) \_\_\_\_\_ January 22.

China’s Lunar New Year is known (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the Spring Festival or *Chūnjié* in Mandarin, while Koreans call it *Seollal* and Vietnamese refer (9) \_\_\_\_\_ it as *Tết*.

Tied to the lunar calendar, the holiday began as a time (10) \_\_\_\_\_ feasting and to honour household and heavenly deities, as (11) \_\_\_\_\_ as ancestors. The New Year typically begins (12) \_\_\_\_\_ the first new moon that occurs between the end of January and spans the first 15 days of the first month of the lunar calendar—until the full moon arrives.

### Zodiac Animals

Each year in the Lunar calendar is represented (13) \_\_\_\_\_ one of 12 zodiac animals included in the cycle of 12 stations or “signs” along the apparent path of the sun through the cosmos.

The 12 zodiac animals (14) \_\_\_\_\_ the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and pig. In (15) \_\_\_\_\_ to the animals, five elements (16) \_\_\_\_\_ earth, water, fire, wood and metal are (17) \_\_\_\_\_ mapped onto the traditional lunar calendar. Each year is associated (18) \_\_\_\_\_ an animal that corresponds (19) \_\_\_\_\_ an element.

The year 2023 is slated to (20) \_\_\_\_\_ the year of the rabbit. The year of the rabbit last came (21) \_\_\_\_\_ in 2011. In Vietnam, 2023 is the year of the cat. Vietnam and China share 10 of the zodiac calendar’s 12 signs, but the Vietnamese honour the cat (22) \_\_\_\_\_ of the rabbit, and the buffalo instead of the ox.

### Lunar New Year Foods and Traditions

Each culture celebrates the Lunar New Year differently (23) \_\_\_\_\_ various foods and traditions that symbolize prosperity, abundance (24) \_\_\_\_\_ togetherness. (25) \_\_\_\_\_ preparation for the Lunar New Year, houses (26) \_\_\_\_\_ thoroughly cleaned to rid (27) \_\_\_\_\_ of inauspicious spirits, (28) \_\_\_\_\_ might have collected (29) \_\_\_\_\_ the old year. Cleaning is also meant (30) \_\_\_\_\_ open space (31) \_\_\_\_\_ good will and good luck.

Some households hold rituals (32) \_\_\_\_\_ offer food and paper icons to ancestors. (33) \_\_\_\_\_ post red paper and banners inscribed (34) \_\_\_\_\_ calligraphy messages of good health and fortune in (35) \_\_\_\_\_ of, and inside, homes. Elders give (36) \_\_\_\_\_ envelopes containing money (37) \_\_\_\_\_ children. Foods (38) \_\_\_\_\_ from glutinous rice (39) \_\_\_\_\_ commonly eaten, as (40) \_\_\_\_\_ foods represent togetherness. Other foods symbolize prosperity, abundance and good luck.

Source: <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/chinese-new-year>