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

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