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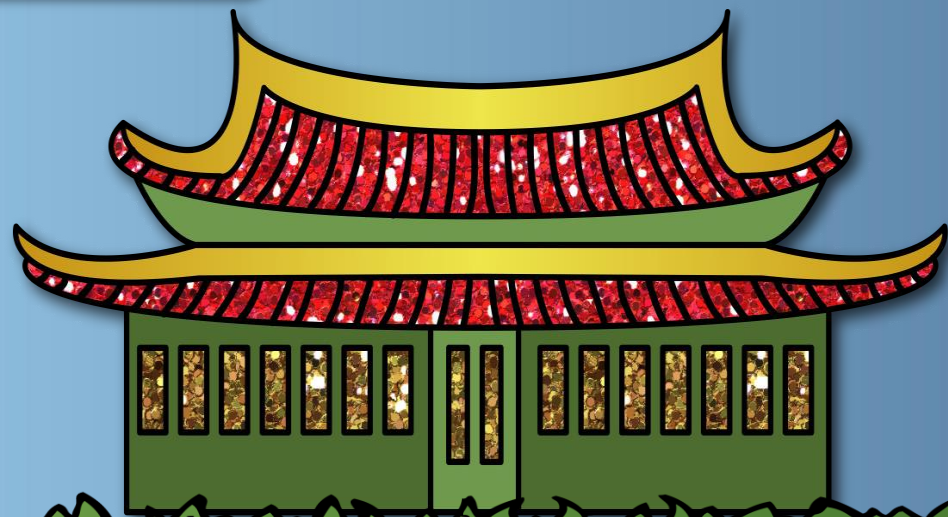
HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR

2025





Hello! I am Mei. I am going to take you on a tour of China's New Year celebrations, so that you can see what it is all about! Come along!



In 2025, Chinese New Year is on January 29. The date changes every year, depending on the Lunar New Year, but will usually be in January or February. It will last for 15 days and will end with the Lantern Festival. Not only do the Chinese celebrate it, but so do many other Asian countries such as Taiwan, Vietnam, and Singapore.



Red and gold are
the lucky colors for
the Chinese. Red
symbolizes the vitality
of life and happiness.
Gold symbolizes
wealth and
prosperity.



Before the New Year arrives, one of the customs is to completely clean the house to get rid of any bad luck from the year before. During the first few days of the New Year, you are not supposed to sweep. Otherwise, you might sweep away the good luck! Another custom is to settle all unfinished business. This means paying off bills and resolving any problems.



In China, we don't have Christmas trees. Instead, we have a mandarin tree. We decorate the mandarin tree for good luck. So, instead of Santa Claus and presents, we get lucky money! What's that, you ask? You will find out soon enough!



Beginning on New Years day and lasting for 15 days, is the Dragon Dance Parade! The dragon brings good luck and prosperity for the upcoming year. It is a cloth dragon that is held on poles by a team of a dozen or more members who make the dragon “dance” by raising and lowering the poles. There is also a Chinese Lion Dance!

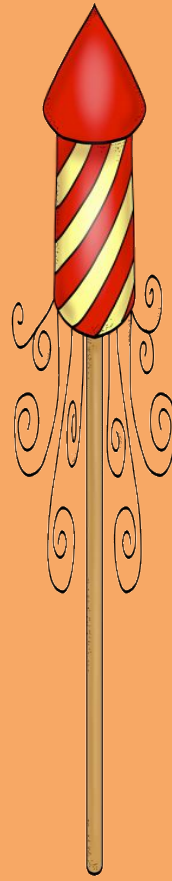


The Chinese Lion Dance is usually mixed in with the Chinese Dragon Dance. Unlike the Dragon Dance, the lion only has 2 dancers. The lions dance in front of stores and businesses, to scare off the evil spirits and to welcome good luck to everyone! They perform to the sound of the drums for the first 3 to 5 days of the New Year.



The Grand Festival

Different areas of China have different kinds of traditions and activities. If you ever get to come to China during the New Year celebrations, make sure to visit Beijing, Guangzhou, Xian or Pingyao. They all have really fun celebrations!



Did you know that the dragons are made up of materials like bamboo, grass, cloth and paper? The dragon body used for the dance is usually stored in a local “dragon king temple”. It can only be taken out on the day of the Dragon Dance, then the head and tail are connected.



One thing I always look forward to is “lucky money!” If you have started earning money, you will give out red envelopes with money inside to share your blessings. It is a gift to show respect, appreciation and a grateful heart. I get red envelopes from my parents, grandparents, and even some family friends!





Preparing for the New Year

A lot of shopping is done for the new year. Food, decorations, and new clothes will be bought. Houses are decorated with red lanterns, new year paintings, kumquat trees and peonies.



With each new year comes a new zodiac sign, based on the lunar calendar. Since the moon's cycle repeats itself every 12 years, there are 12 animals to represent them in the Chinese horoscope. 2025 is the year of the snake! Let's take a closer look.






The reunion dinner is a time when family from near and far come together and celebrate.

They will eat fish, dumpling, bamboo shoots, chicken, and much more. Each food has a special meaning.



After the reunion dinner, many people will watch The Gala on television. This is a 4 hour long show which features various performers.





On the day after the start
of the New Year
celebration, is the
fireworks display. They are
thought to drive away the
evil spirits. It is believed
that the first person to
launch the first firework
will have good luck!

The Lantern Festival marks the end of Chinese New Year. This is the 15th day of the lunar month. Some of the lanterns are works of art, and some are plain.



Here are some different things to say in Chinese

恭贺新年。

Gōnghè xīnnián

A happy New Year
to you!

心想事成

Xīn xiǎng shì chéng

May all your
wishes come true!

祝财运亨通！

Zhù cáiyùn
hēngtōng!

I want to wish you
longevity and health!

Children's Books about China

Hiss! Pop! Boom! Celebrating the Chinese
New Year,
by Tricia Morrissey

Awakening the Dragon: The Dragon Boat
Festival, by Arlene Chan

The Great Race, by Dawn Casey