



# Chinese New Year & Lunar Festival



# Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is based on the **lunar** calendar and the changes of nature in the spring.

It **never** falls on the same day. The first day of the lunar New Year can be anywhere between **January 20** and **February 19**.

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February

Sun	Mon	Tu	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

Chinese New Year falls on February  
10<sup>th</sup> this year in America.

February

Sun	Mon	Tu	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

# The Chinese Lunar Cycle

Chinese Lunar cycle is based on a 12 year repeating cycle. Each astrological animal symbol represents not a month, but a year.



Unlike the Western calendar that is based upon the movements of the sun,



the Chinese astrological calendar has its deep and ancient roots in the movement of the moon.

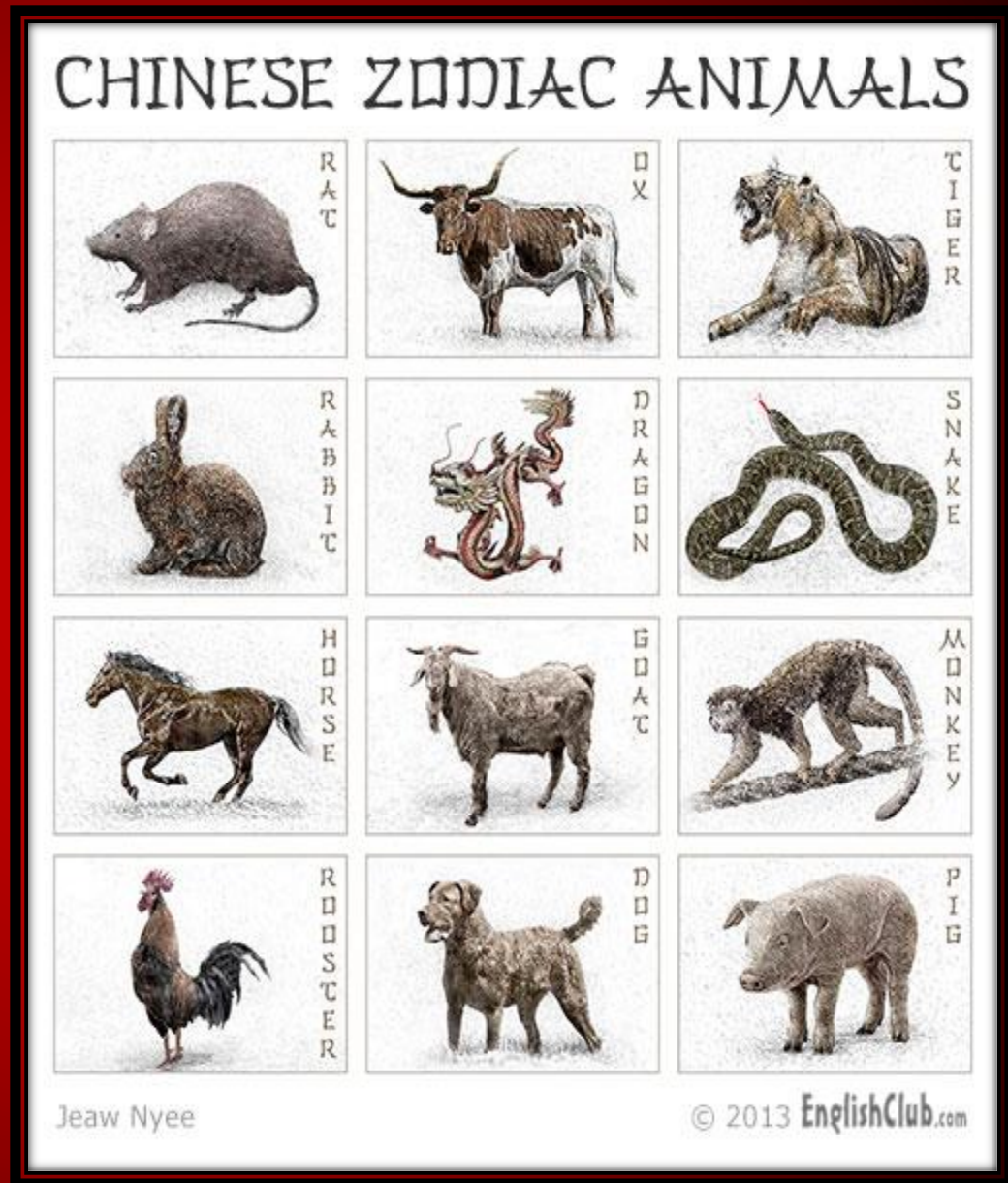


# About Lunar New Year


- While Lunar New Year is usually celebrated on the same day as Chinese New Year, it does fall on a different day for some countries. For example, many cultures celebrate on the *first* instead of the *second* new moon after the winter solstice. Moreover, although many other Asian countries celebrate Lunar New Year, these countries do not endorse the Chinese cultural elements but honor each nation's customs and history. Below are how some countries celebrate Lunar New Year differently:
  - Korea: Individuals dress in traditional garments. Children bow to the elders and receive money for next year's health and wisdom. Korean dumplings, rice cakes, and glass noodles are often found on the dinner table.
  - Vietnam: Besides dressing up in traditional garments, many families pray at temples for good fortune. Featured dishes include pickled scallions and candied fruits.
  - Philippines: Wear polka dots on Lunar New Year because the round shape stands for prosperity and good fortune! For similar reasons, you'd find tons of round fruits on the dining table too.



Legend has it that in ancient times, Buddha asked all the animals to meet him on Chinese New Year. Twelve came, and Buddha named a year after each one in the order they arrived.









The first twelve animals to make it across this raging river will have a year on my Calendar


The race for the years began.




First, the ox let the rat and cat ride on his back, but the rat pushed the cat off while they were nearing the finish and one the first year in the calendar and the Ox got second.




The tiger pushed hard through the waters and the emperor was proud of him for pushing for his third place.



The rabbit surprisingly did not swim, he floated on a log. The emperor was happy to have him take fourth place.



The kind dragon flew over to them and the emperer asked, "Why did you not fly to get first." He said that he say the rabbit and gave him a boost and he had to make it rain for the people that were thirsty.



The cat could not make it back off and the boar got last place.



# YEAR OF THE DRAGON

## 2024

\*\*Buddha says each person born in each animal year shares the animal's personality



Those born in dragon years are often charismatic, intelligent, confident, powerful, and are naturally lucky and gifted. It is considered the most powerful sign in the Chinese zodiac.



# CHINESE NEW YEAR PREPARATION

Houses are cleaned inside and out to "sweep away any traces of bad luck."

Doors and windows are decorated with paper cutouts and Spring Couplets which are short poems written in Chinese expressing words of:

Happiness,  
Wealth,  
Longevity.





In China, the New Year is a time of family reunion. Family members gather at each other's homes for visits and shared meals, most significantly a feast on New Year's Eve.



# Chinese New Year's Eve

Chinese New Year's Eve is celebrated like Thanksgiving in the US. One of the best part of the Chinese New Year celebration is a big dinner for the entire family. The New Year's feast take many days to prepare.

Some New Year's snacks are prepared before New Year.



Preparing New Year's Eve dinner is fun.



Eating a meal together on New Year's Eve shows the importance of family unity.



# Chinese New Year Celebration

Chinese New Year is the most important holiday to Chinese.



Cleaned and decorated house



Yummy food



Bright new clothes



Families get together

At Chinese New Year celebrations people wear red clothes, decorate with poems on red paper, and give children "lucky money" in red envelopes.





## Red Envelopes (Chinese New Year)

There are moments in life that  
don't happen too often  
& there are moments in life we  
treasure more than anything.  
We've taken these moments & they've joined  
my every waking thought,  
You may notice it as the smile wrapped around my lips  
multiplied & filled in my heart, everlasting  
more than anything of monetary value.  
Each of these thoughts are folded &  
put into the center of my heart with the sincerest  
of gratitude.  
I am inspired by the way that you walk &  
influenced by the way that you talk.  
You've given me so much to look forward to  
optimistically given by the tender caress of your hand,  
the problem with most envelopes is that there is  
almost never enough room.  
Most times I feel that this isn't acknowledged  
nearly enough as it should.  
Those eyes, that smile, & the compliment of your kiss  
I've licked the seals of my heart & closed it  
shut with the thought of you.  
I've dressed myself in all red with the hope  
you'll accept me with both hands.  
Open me in private & accept the abundance of me  
Stamped to you

Kewayne Wadley





There will be a variety of clowns, stilt walkers, acrobats, floats and parades, music and drums, and of course the Chinese Lion and Dragon Dances and firecrackers.

In many areas the highlight of the lantern festival is the dragon dance. The dragon—which might stretch a hundred feet long—is typically made of silk, paper, and bamboo.





# The Lantern Festival marks the end of the Chinese New Year Festivities





Some of the lanterns may be works of art, painted with birds, animals, flowers, zodiac signs, and scenes from legend and history.



People hang glowing lanterns in temples, and carry lanterns to an evening parade under the light of the full moon.





Children carry their lanterns around the village and families come together to eat sweet rice balls for good fortune and family unity.

Chinese Lanterns were traditionally made of silk, paper and even glass.







There are lanterns in shapes of boxes, lotus flowers, dragons, butterflies and all sorts of animals.





During the night of lantern festival, Some people will fly the sky lantern by writing their wishes on the paper lantern and pray their wishes come true.