

Chinese New Year



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Where Is China?

- China is in northeast Asia.
- The capital city of China is Beijing.



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When Is Chinese New Year?

Chinese New Year doesn't happen on the 1st January.

This is because the date of Chinese New Year is worked out according to the first day of the Chinese lunar calendar, which depends on the movements of the Sun and the Moon.

The celebration lasts for 15 days and falls somewhere between 21st Jan and the 19th Feb, meaning it won't always be on the same date every year.



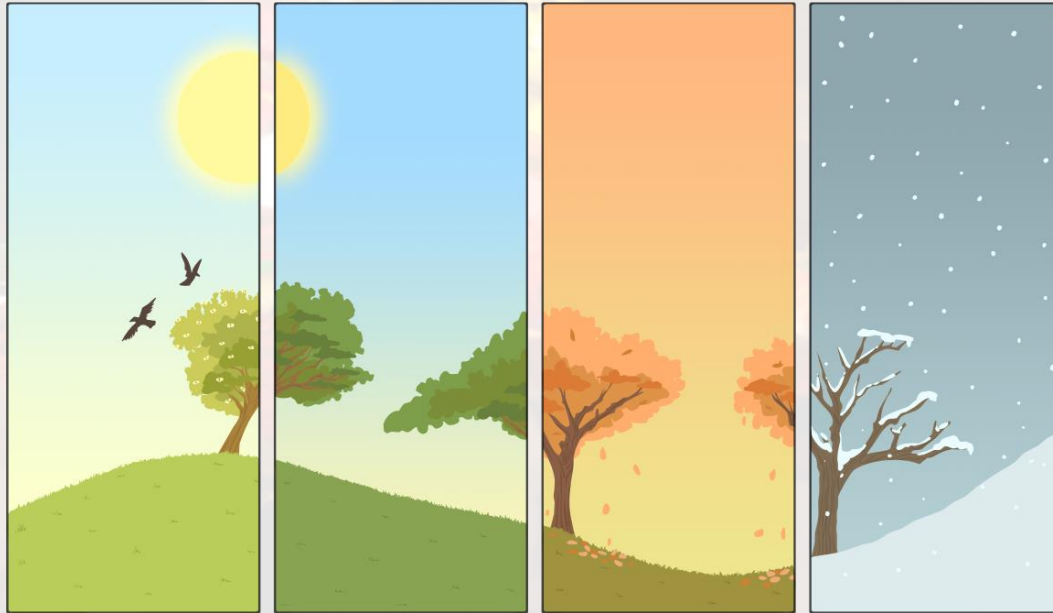
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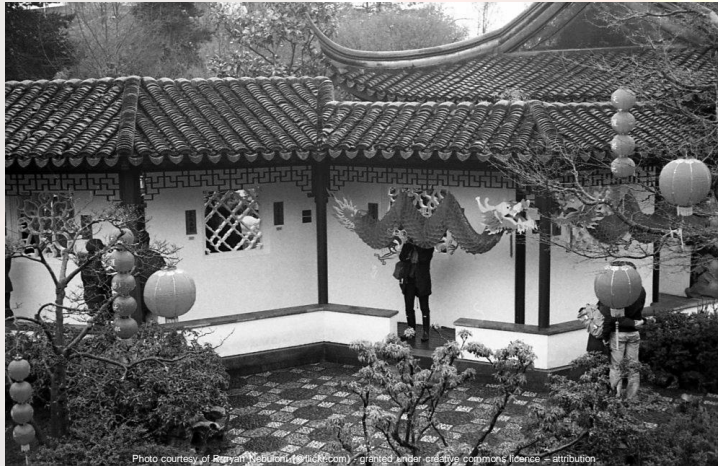
Why Is It Celebrated?

It marks the end of winter and the beginning of spring. It is also known as the Spring Festival because of this.



Preparing for Chinese New Year

People spring-clean their houses and gardens to sweep away any bad luck. Debts are paid and any work is brought up-to-date ready for a new year. Houses are decorated with many red decorations. One of these decorations is red couplets which are Chinese good luck sayings on vertical banners used to frame doorways.



New Year's Eve

This is a very special night when families gather together and have a large, traditional feast of fish and chicken.

Traditionally, people in northern provinces of China eat steamed dumplings.

In the south, people traditionally eat a sticky sweet rice pudding.



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New Year's Day

Children wake up to find red envelopes filled with money and sweets under their pillow.



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Every family member starts the day with brand new clothes from head to toe. Red is a very popular colour for clothing as it is considered lucky.

Celebrations Continue

Family and friends celebrate long after Chinese New Year's Day.

Day 2: It is believed to be the birthday of all dogs so dogs are fed special foods.

Day 3: People visit the Temple of Wealth and have their futures told.

Day 4: People go back to work and many businesses have department dinners or social events for their employees.

Celebrations Continue

Day 5: Dumplings are eaten for good luck

Day 7: This day is considered everyone's birthday

Day 8 - 10: These days involve birthday celebrations for the Jade Emperor

Day 11 and 12: More Family dinners!!

Celebrations Continue

Day 13: Everyone becomes a vegetarian on this day as so much food has been eaten.

Day 14: This day is spent resting and preparing for the Lantern Festival, the last day of the Chinese New Year.

Day 15

The 15th day is also known as the Lantern Festival. Lanterns of various shapes, sizes and colours can be seen in homes, shopping centres, streets and parks.



If you can solve one, you may win a prize from the owner.

Day 15

There are also dragon and lion dancing parades in the streets and firework displays.



Families walk the streets carrying lit lanterns. Candles are lit outside homes to guide wayward spirits home.

2019



The Chinese zodiac calendar is based on the 12-year lunar moon cycle and is represented by 12 animals. Zodiac signs are a very important part of Chinese culture and are used for guidance and to help make important decisions in many people's lives.

Chinese Zodiac



Interesting Facts

The following objects and practices are considered lucky.

- The numbers 8, 108, 128
- The colours red and gold are lucky
- The longer the dragon for the dragon dance, the luckier it is

These are considered unlucky.

- The number 4 – it sounds like the Chinese word for death
- Washing your hair - as it washes away wealth
- Crying - because it creates misfortune
- The word PEAR – sounds like the Chinese word for separation

Reflection





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