

Chinese New Year

What Is Chinese New Year?

Chinese New Year is also known as Lunar New Year or the Spring Festival. It is celebrated in lots of countries around the world.

Chinese New Year is in January or in February.

Lunar New Year begins when there is a new Moon. A new Moon is difficult to see as it starts as a very thin shape. Each Chinese New Year is named after an animal. There are 12 different animals and they appear in a special order.



How Is Chinese New Year Celebrated?

It is celebrated in lots of different ways.

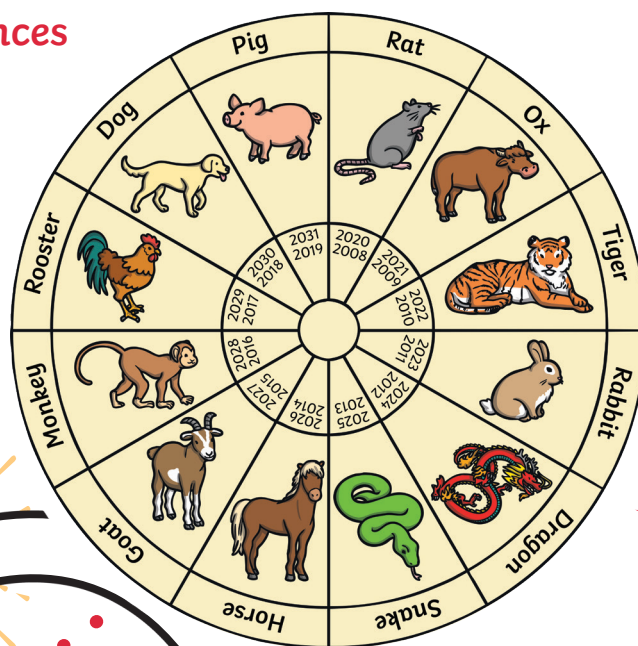
- Many people clean their homes before the festival begins.
- Families meet to celebrate, give gifts and eat special food.
- Money is given to children and other family members in red envelopes.

You Might See...

- decorations
- lanterns
- lion and dragon dances
- fireworks

You Might Hear...

- firecrackers
- loud drums and cymbals



Questions

1. When is Chinese New Year? Tick one.

- ☐ March or April
- ☐ January or February
- ☐ December or January

2. What is each new year named after? Tick one.

- ☐ a decoration
- ☐ a food
- ☐ an animal

3. How do some people receive gifts of money? Tick one.

- ☐ in red envelopes
- ☐ in yellow envelopes
- ☐ in orange envelopes

4. Which of these is **not** another name for Chinese New Year? Tick one.

- ☐ Spring Festival
- ☐ Lion Festival
- ☐ Lunar New Year

5. Where is Chinese New Year celebrated? Tick one.

- ☐ only in China
- ☐ only in the UK
- ☐ in lots of countries around the world

Answers

1. When is Chinese New Year? Tick one.

- ☐ March or April
- ☒ **January or February**
- ☐ December or January

2. What is each new year named after? Tick one.

- ☐ a decoration
- ☐ a food
- ☒ **an animal**

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- ☒ **in red envelopes**
- ☐ in yellow envelopes
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4. Which of these is **not** another name for Chinese New Year? Tick one.

- ☐ Spring Festival
- ☒ **Lion Festival**
- ☐ Lunar New Year

5. Where is Chinese New Year celebrated? Tick one.

- ☐ only in China
- ☐ only in the UK
- ☒ **in lots of countries around the world**

What Is Chinese New Year?

Chinese New Year is also known as Lunar New Year or the Spring Festival. It is celebrated in many countries around the world.

Chinese New Year is at the start of the lunar year. The lunar year follows the phases of the Moon so the date of the festival changes each year. It is always in late January or in February.

How Is Chinese New Year Celebrated?

Chinese New Year is celebrated in lots of different ways.



- Many people spring clean their homes before the festival begins.
- Families get together to celebrate, give gifts and eat a meal of special food.
- Red is an important colour as it stands for luck, joy and happiness. It is used for decorations and some people wear red clothes.
- Money is often given to children and other family members in red envelopes.
- Lion and dragon dances often take place as part of street parades. They move and dance to loud music made by drums and cymbals.
- Fireworks and firecrackers are an important part of the celebrations each year.
- The last event of Chinese New Year is called the Lantern Festival. People might hang lanterns as decorations or carry them in a parade.

Chinese New Year

Did You Know...?

The phases of the Moon are the shapes of the Moon that we can see from Earth. A new Moon is difficult to see until it becomes a thin crescent Moon shape.



Each Chinese New Year is named after a different animal. There are 12 animals in the Chinese calendar and they appear in a special order.

Questions

1. When is Chinese New Year? Tick one.

- ☐ February or March
☐ March or April
☐ January or February
☐ December or January

2. Draw **three** lines and make each fact correct.

Chinese New Year is at
the start of...

an animal.

Each Chinese New Year is
named after...

the Lantern Festival.

The last event of Chinese New
Year is called...

the lunar year.

3. Number the sentences from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

- ☐ Many people spring clean their homes before the festival begins.
☒ 1 Chinese New Year is celebrated in many countries around the world.
☐ Fireworks and firecrackers are an important part of the celebrations each year.
☐ There are 12 animals in the Chinese calendar.

4. Fill in the missing word.

The lunar year follows the _____ of the Moon
so the date of the festival changes each year.

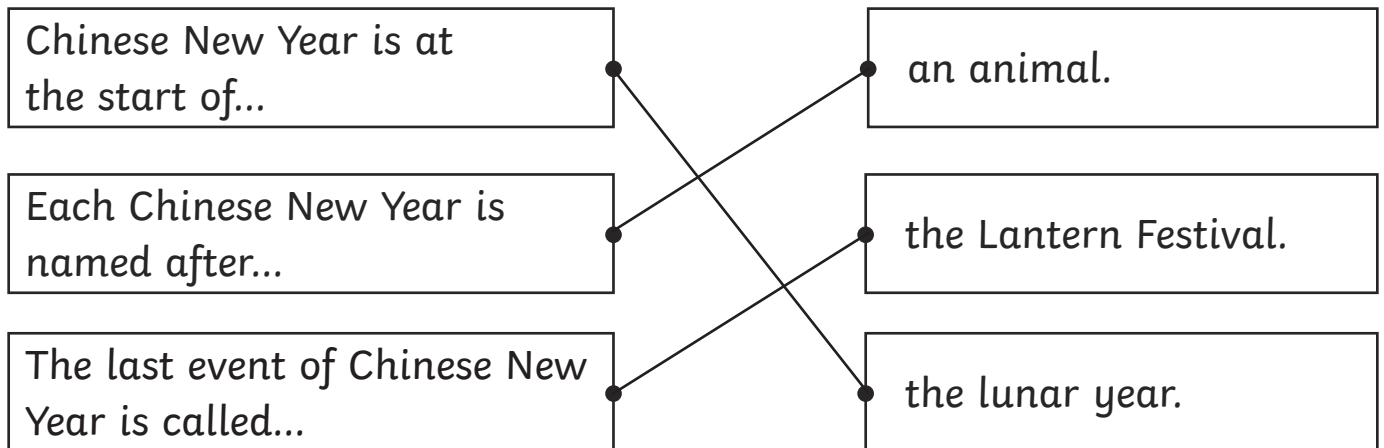
5. Why is red an important colour?

Answers

1. When is Chinese New Year? Tick one.

- ☐ February or March
☐ March or April
☒ **January or February**
☐ December or January

2. Draw **three** lines and make each fact correct.



3. Number the sentences from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

- 3** Many people spring clean their homes before the festival begins.
1 Chinese New Year is celebrated in many countries around the world.
4 Fireworks and firecrackers are an important part of the celebrations each year.
2 There are 12 animals in the Chinese calendar.

4. Fill in the missing word.

The lunar year follows the **phases** of the Moon so the date of the festival changes each year.

5. Why is red an important colour?

Red is an important colour because it stands for luck, joy and happiness.



Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is also known as Lunar New Year or the Spring Festival. It is celebrated in many countries around the world.

Chinese New Year marks the start of the lunar year. A lunar year follows the phases of the Moon. Chinese New Year begins when there is a new Moon between 21st January and 20th February so the exact date changes each year.

Legends

There are many traditional stories about Chinese New Year. Each new year is named after an animal and there is a story about how they were named. The story goes that the Jade Emperor asked the animals to have a race. This was to help him decide how to order the names of the 12 years in the calendar.

He would give each year an animal's name in the order that they finished the race. Rat won so the first year was named after him.

Did You Know...?

The phases of the Moon are the shapes of the Moon that we can see from Earth. A new Moon is difficult to see until it becomes a thin crescent Moon shape.



How Is Chinese New Year Celebrated?

There are many traditions during Chinese New Year. A tradition is something that has been done the same way for a long time.



Spring Cleaning

Many people spring clean their homes before the festival begins. This represents sweeping away bad luck.

Family

Chinese New Year is a time for families to get together to celebrate, honour their ancestors, exchange gifts and eat a meal of special foods.

Red

Red is an important colour as it represents luck, joy and happiness.

Red can be seen in many places during Chinese New Year. It is used for decorations and some people wear red clothes.

Money is often given to children and other family members in special red envelopes.

Lion and Dragon Dances

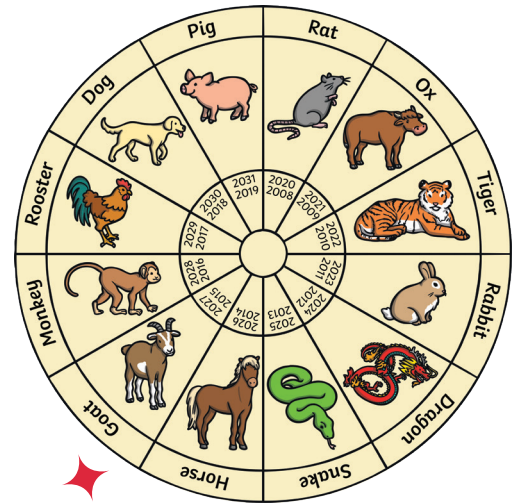
These dances are often performed as part of a street parade by highly-skilled performers under huge lion and dragon costumes. They move to loud music made by drums and cymbals.

Fireworks and Firecrackers

These are an important part of the celebrations each year.

Lantern Festival

The last event of Chinese New Year is called the Lantern Festival. People might hang lanterns as decorations or carry them in a parade.



Questions

1. What is the first fact that we learn about in the text? Tick one.

- ☐ Chinese New Year is celebrated in many countries around the world.
- ☐ Chinese New Year marks the start of the lunar year.
- ☐ Chinese New Year is also known as the Lunar New Year or the Spring Festival.
- ☐ The exact date of Chinese New Year changes each year.

2. Why does the date change each year?

3. Find and copy one word which means something that has been done the same way for a long time.

4. Fill in the missing word.

The last event of Chinese New Year is called the _____ Festival.

5. Draw **three** lines and complete each sentence.

Lion and dragon dancers move to loud music made by...

• drums and cymbals.

A lunar year follows the...

• special red envelopes.

Money is often given to children and other family members in...

• phases of the Moon.

6. What do you think the most exciting part about celebrating Chinese New Year would be?

Answers

1. What is the first fact that we learn about in the text? Tick one.

- ☐ Chinese New Year is celebrated in many countries around the world.
- ☐ Chinese New Year marks the start of the lunar year.
- ☒ **Chinese New Year is also known as the Lunar New Year or the Spring Festival.**
- ☐ The exact date of Chinese New Year changes each year.

2. Why does the date change each year?

The date changes because Chinese New Year begins when there is a new Moon between 21st January and 20th February. The exact date of the new Moon is different every year.

3. Find and copy one word which means something that has been done the same way for a long time.

tradition

4. Fill in the missing word.

The last event of Chinese New Year is called the **Lantern** Festival.

5. Draw **three** lines and complete each sentence.

Lion and dragon dancers move to loud music made by...	drums and cymbals.
A lunar year follows the...	special red envelopes.
Money is often given to children and other family members in...	phases of the Moon.

6. What do you think the most exciting part about celebrating Chinese New Year would be?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the most exciting part of celebrating Chinese New Year would be watching the lion and dragon dancers as I would love to see them close up and hear the loud music.