

Chinese Zodiac Years and Traits

CHINESE ZODIAC SIGN | YEARS

Rat	...1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008, 2020...
Ox	...1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021...
Tiger	...1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010, 2022...
Rabbit	... 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011, 2023 ...
Dragon	... 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012, 2024 ...
Snake	... 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013, 2025 ...
Horse	... 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014, 2026 ...
Goat	... 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015, 2027 ...
Monkey	... 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016, 2028 ...
Rooster	... 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017, 2029 ...
Dog	... 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018, 2030 ...
Pig	... 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019, 2031 ...

Chinese zodiac animals have astrological and cultural meanings. Chinese people associate each animal sign with certain characteristics. It's believed that people born in a given year have the personality of that year's animal.

		
鼠 RAT	牛 OX	虎 TIGER
quick-witted, resourceful, versatile, kind	diligent, dependable, strong, determined	brave, confident, competitive, unpredictable
		
兔 RABBIT	龍 DRAGON	蛇 SNAKE
quiet, elegant, kind, responsible	confident, intelligent, enthusiastic	enigmatic, intelligent, wise
		
馬 HORSE	羊 GOAT	猴 MONKEY
animated, active, energetic	calm, gentle, sympathetic	sharp, smart, curious
		
雞 ROOSTER	狗 DOG	豬 PIG
observant, hardworking, courageous	lovely, honest, prudent	compassionate, generous, diligent



LUNAR NEW YEAR Celebration! 2026

M | ECE ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER ENGINEERING UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



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What is Lunar New Year?

Lunar New Year is a celebration of the arrival of spring and the beginning of a new year on the lunisolar calendar. It is the most important holiday in China, and it is also widely celebrated in South Korea, Vietnam, and countries with a significant overseas Chinese population. While the official dates encompassing the holiday vary by culture, those celebrating consider it the time of the year to reunite with immediate and extended family.



Commonly known as the Spring Festival in China, Lunar New Year is a fifteen-day celebration marked by many traditions. At home, families decorate windows and adorn doors with couplets expressing auspicious wishes for the new year. Shopping for holiday sundries in open-air

markets and cleaning the house are also beloved traditions. The Lunar New Year's Eve reunion dinner is the highlight that kicks off the holiday, a feast with a spread of symbolic dishes, such as a whole fish representing abundance, that bring good luck and fortune. The fifteenth and final day of the holiday is the Lantern Festival, during which people have tangyuan, or sweet glutinous rice balls, and children carry lanterns around the neighborhood at night to mark the end of the celebration.

What's on the menu during the Chinese New Year?

Yuanxiao 元宵

Yuanxiao is a dumpling of glutinous rice flour, filled with sesame or peanut powder, and sugar, or sweet adzuki bean paste, eaten in a soup, during the Lantern Festival, the fifteenth day of the Chinese New Year.



Asian Inspirations



Fa gao 發糕

Fa gao is a Chinese steamed, cupcake-like pastry. Because it is often characterized by a split top when cooked, it is often referred as Chinese smiling steamed cake or blooming flowers.

<https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/food-network-kitchen/fa-gao-9858871>



<https://foodforthought.com.my>

Yusheng 鱼生

It usually consists of strips of raw fish (sometimes salmon), mixed with shredded vegetables and a variety of sauces and condiments, among other ingredients. There is also a vegetarian version of this dish, where the fish is replaced with soy "fish", which resembles salmon. Yusheng literally means "raw fish" but since "fish" is commonly conflated with its homophone "abundance", Yúshēng is interpreted as a homophone for Yúshēng meaning an increase in abundance. Therefore, yusheng is considered a symbol of abundance, prosperity and vigor.

Traditional Festivities

Each culture celebrates the Lunar New Year differently with various foods and traditions that symbolize prosperity, abundance and togetherness. In preparation for the Lunar New Year, houses are thoroughly cleaned to rid them of inauspicious spirits, which might have collected during the old year. Cleaning is also meant to open space for good will and good luck.

Approximately 10 days before the beginning of the new lunar year, houses are thoroughly cleaned to remove any bad luck that might be lingering inside, a custom called "sweeping of the grounds." Traditionally, New Year's eve and New Year's day are reserved for family celebrations, including religious ceremonies honoring ancestors. Also on New Year's day, family members receive red envelopes (lai see) containing small amounts of money. Dances and fireworks are prevalent throughout the holidays, culminating in the Lantern Festival, which is celebrated on the last day of the New Year's celebrations. On this night colourful lanterns light up the houses, and traditional foods such as yuanxiao (sticky rice balls that symbolize family unity), fagao (prosperity cake), and yusheng (raw fish and vegetable salad) are served.

The origins of the Lunar New Year festival are thousands of years old and are steeped in legends. One legend is that of Nian, a hideous beast believed to feast on human flesh on New Year's day. Because Nian feared the colour red, loud noises, and fire, red paper decorations were pasted to doors, lanterns were burned all night, and firecrackers were lit to frighten the beast away.



<https://chinesenewyear.net/myths/>