

Name _____ **Chinese New Year**



The Exciting World of Chinese New Year!

Have you ever heard of a celebration that lasts 15 days? Welcome to Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival! This exciting holiday is celebrated by millions of people around the world, filled with family gatherings, delicious food, and colorful parades. Let's take a journey into the history, traditions, and fun facts about this amazing holiday!

Chinese New Year has been celebrated for more than 4,000 years! It started in ancient China, where people would hold celebrations to mark the end of winter and the start of spring. According to a popular legend, there was a monster called "Nian" that came out to scare people at the end of the year. To protect themselves, villagers would hang red lanterns and make loud noises by lighting firecrackers. Over time, these traditions became part of Chinese New Year, a time for people to leave behind the old year and welcome the new one with hope and happiness.

While Chinese New Year started in China, it's now celebrated by many people across the globe. It's an important holiday for Chinese communities everywhere, but it's also observed by other East Asian cultures, like in Vietnam, where they call it "Tet," and in South Korea, where it's known as "Seollal." Even people who don't have Chinese heritage enjoy the celebrations in cities like San Francisco, New York, and London.

Chinese New Year is celebrated in many places around the world! The biggest celebrations are held in China, where almost everyone takes part. In cities like Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong, the streets are filled with parades, dragon and lion dances, and amazing fireworks. Other countries with large Chinese communities, such as Singapore, Malaysia, and Taiwan, also celebrate in a big way. And you'll even find huge Chinese New Year parades in cities like Sydney, Vancouver, and even New York City!

Here are some cool facts about this holiday that will amaze you:

- It's all about the animals: Every Chinese New Year is connected to one of the 12 animals in the Chinese zodiac, such as the Rat, Ox, Tiger, and Rabbit. Each year is believed to take on the qualities of that animal. For example, 2024 is the Year of the Dragon, which symbolizes strength and good luck!
- It's the world's biggest human migration: During Chinese New Year, millions of people travel to visit family. This is known as the "Spring Festival travel rush." It's the largest annual human migration, with over 3 billion trips made during the holiday!
- Red is the luckiest color: You'll see lots of red decorations during Chinese New Year, like lanterns, banners, and even clothes! Red is considered a lucky color in Chinese culture because it symbolizes happiness and good fortune.

Chinese New Year is a time filled with joy, laughter, and hope for the future. Whether you're watching a dragon dance, eating delicious dumplings, or getting a lucky red envelope with money inside, there's something for everyone to enjoy!

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Chinese New Year Reading Comprehension Questions

1. What is another name for Chinese New Year?

- A) Winter Festival
- B) Dragon Festival
- C) Spring Festival
- D) New Year's Eve

2. How long has Chinese New Year been celebrated?

- A) About 100 years
- B) More than 4,000 years
- C) Around 500 years
- D) Less than 1,000 years

3. What is the legend behind Chinese New Year?

- A) A monster named Nian that scared people
- B) A dragon that protected people
- C) A bird that sang for 15 days
- D) A king who declared a holiday

4. Which animal represents the year 2024?

- A) Rabbit
- B) Dragon
- C) Snake
- D) Tiger

5. What is the most common color seen during Chinese New Year?

- A) Blue
- B) Green
- C) Red
- D) Yellow

6. Which country has the largest celebrations for Chinese New Year?

- A) Vietnam
- B) Australia
- C) United States
- D) China