

Chinese New Year

What Is Chinese New Year?

Chinese New Year is an important Chinese holiday. The celebration is also known as the Lunar New Year.

Chinese New Year is also celebrated in many other countries too; for example, in Malaysia and the Philippines.



Facts About Chinese New Year

- It is the longest festival in the Chinese calendar.
- It is a time for people to clean their houses.
- Chinese New Year is a time to let go of the past and welcome new beginnings.

How Is It Celebrated?

Chinese New Year is celebrated through different traditions.

Red envelopes: The colour red is for good luck, fortune and joy in Chinese families. Money is given in red envelopes.

Firecrackers: Firecrackers are let off during the Chinese New Year. They are thought to scare off evil spirits.

Lion and dragon dances: Many people take part in these dances. Loud music is played to frighten away bad spirits.

Food and families: Chinese families gather together for a special dinner the night before the Chinese New Year begins.

Legends

Each year is named after a different animal, based on an old story. The story goes that the Jade Emperor told the animals to have a race. The order they finished the race was the order he named the years in the Chinese calendar.

Rat won the race, with the pig strolling in last.

Chinese New Year Questions

1. Chinese New Year has got another name. What is it?

2. Name another place which celebrates Chinese New Year.

3. What do some people do to their houses at this time of year?

4. Which colour means good luck?

5. What is the name of the fireworks that are let off?

6. People perform dances at this festival. Which animals do they dance like?

7. Loud music is played to frighten away what kind of spirits?

8. What do some Chinese families do the night before the New Year festival?

9. Who asked the animals to have a race?

10. Which animal came first in the race?

Chinese New Year **Answers**

1. Chinese New Year has got another name. What is it?
The other name for the Chinese New Year is Lunar New Year.
2. Name another place which celebrates Chinese New Year.
Either of the following: Malaysia and Philippines.
3. What do some people do to their houses at this time of year?
Some people clean their houses at this time of year.
4. Which colour means good luck?
Red means good luck.
5. What is the name of the fireworks that are let off?
The name of the fireworks that are let off is firecrackers.
6. People perform dances at this festival. Which animals do they dance like?
People dance like dragons and lions.
7. Loud music is played to frighten away what kind of spirits?
Loud music is played to frighten away bad spirits.
8. What do some Chinese families do the night before the New Year festival?
Some Chinese families have a special meal together the night before the New Year festival.
9. Who asked the animals to have a race?
The Jade Emperor.
10. Which animal came first in the race?
The rat came first in the race.

