

Lunar New Year: A Time of Renewal and Celebration

Lunar New Year, also known as Spring Festival, is one of the most important celebrations in Chinese culture. It has influenced similar celebrations in Tibet, Vietnam, and Korea. It marks the beginning of the lunar calendar, filled with rich traditions and symbolic meanings. The Lunar New Year is celebrated in many countries, including China, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, and the Philippines. It's also celebrated in many countries with large Chinese populations, as well as in Australia, Canada, France, Mauritius, New Zealand, Peru, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States

This festival, which can last up to two weeks, is a time for family reunions, honouring ancestors, and looking forward to prosperity and good fortune in the coming year. Each year is represented by one of the twelve animals in the zodiac cycle, adding unique characteristics to the festivities.

One of the most recognisable traditions of Lunar New Year is the lion dance, believed to bring good luck and scare away evil spirits. Red, symbolising luck and happiness, is the dominant colour in decorations. Families also prepare special meals, each dish symbolising different wishes for the new year, such as longevity, prosperity, or good health.

The custom of giving children and single adults red envelopes, or 'hongbao,' filled with money, symbolises the passing of fortune from the elders to the younger generation. Mandarin oranges are given to older relatives and friends to wish good fortune.

Firecrackers are set off to ward off evil spirits, and the Lantern Festival, featuring beautiful lantern displays, marks the end of the Lunar New Year celebrations.

Questions:

1.What is another name for Lunar New Year?

2.How long does the Lunar New Year celebration last?

3.What animal is used to represent each year in the Lunar New Year?

4.What does the lion dance symbolise?

5.Why is red an important color in Lunar New Year celebrations?

6.What is the significance of the dishes prepared during Lunar New Year?

7.What does giving 'hongbao' signify?

8.Why are firecrackers used during Lunar New Year?

9.What event marks the end of the Lunar New Year celebrations?

10.What is a common theme across all Lunar New Year celebrations?
