



LUNAR NEW YEAR!

Lunar New Year, also called Spring Festival or Chinese New Year, marks the beginning of the lunar calendar year and celebrates renewal, family, and prosperity. Each year is associated with one of the 12 zodiac animals, and the holiday is steeped in traditions meant to bring luck and ward off evil.

Celebrated widely across East Asia, including in China, Vietnam (Tết), South Korea (Seollal), and by people of Asian descent worldwide.

The date varies each year but typically falls between late January and mid-February, depending on the lunar calendar. The end of the Lunar New Year celebrations is marked by the Lantern Festival, which takes place on the 15th day of the Lunar New Year.

HOW IS IT CELEBRATED?

- **Family Reunions:** Families gather for meals, honoring ancestors, and spending time together.
- **Traditional Foods:** Dishes like dumplings, fish, noodles, and sticky rice cakes symbolize wealth, longevity, and unity.
- **Cleaning and Decorations:** Homes are cleaned before the holiday to sweep away bad luck, and red decorations like lanterns and couplets are hung to invite good fortune.
- **Red Envelopes:** Elders give red envelopes (hóngbāo) filled with money to children as a symbol of good luck and blessings.
- **Festive Events:** Parades with lion and dragon dances, firecrackers, and cultural performances are highlights of the celebration.

LEARN MORE

Here are some books to help kids learn more about Lunar New Year

Dragon Noodle Party by Ying Chang Compestine
Gordon & Li Li Celebrate Chinese New Year by Michele Wong McSween
Bringing in the New Year by Grace Lin
Friends are Friends Forever by Dane Liu

