

Chinese New Year Trivia

Chinese New Year is known by what two other names?

Spring Festival and Lunar New Year. Chinese New Year is either in January or February, depending on the year.

Tangerines are traditionally handed out, displayed, and eaten during the Chinese New Year. What do they symbolize?

Luck and prosperity. Keep the leaves on the fruit because they symbolize longevity.

What is China's official name?

People's Republic of China.

What is the name of the festival that signals the end of the Chinese New Year celebrations?

The Lantern Festival. This festival's other name is the Full Moon Festival. Lanterns and candles are ignited to light the way to the beach where friends and family admire the full moon.



How many days do the Chinese celebrate the Chinese New Year?

Fifteen.

What do people do to their homes to prepare for the holiday?

They clean them. Cleaning the home signifies cleaning away the bad spirits. Some people put a new coat of paint on doors and door frames.

What is the name of the small, stick-like kitchen utensil that has been used to eat and prepare food for thousands of years?

The Chopstick. Do you know how to use chopsticks?

What was the Chinese Zodiac animal for the year V D Q G 2012?

It was the Year of the Dragon L Q Q .

What Chinese Zodiac animal R O O R Z W H D R □ ?

It □ the Year of the Snake. There are few animals with more symbolic associations □ than the snake. Chinese mythology holds that a half-human snake was the father of □ the Chinese emperors. They are associated with beauty and wisdom, esoteric □ knowledge and spiritual discovery.

10. Red envelopes are given to the younger generation during the Chinese New Year. The envelopes are usually from their parents, grandparents, friends, and neighbors. What is in the envelopes?

Money. The money distributed during the holiday always equals an even number. Money totals that equal odd numbers would be considered bad luck if they were to be given during the Chinese New Year. These envelopes are called "hoongbow" in Chinese, which means "red pouch." If given an envelope during Chinese New Year, one should not open it in front of the giver.

11. What animal makes its home in the mountains of southwest China and is not found anywhere else in the world?

The Giant Panda. New reports indicate there may be 2,000–2,000 pandas living in the wild (up from 1,600 reported in 2004), and, depending upon the source, anywhere from 200–300 living in zoos or other facilities. Giant pandas remain on the endangered species list.



12. Why is the color red so popular during the Chinese New Year?

Red has the ability to keep away bad luck and evil spirits. It also signifies prosperity and life.

13. How many time zones are in China?

Since 1949, China is the largest country with just one time zone (followed by India). Prior to the Chinese Civil War of 1949, China had five different time zones.

14. What were firecrackers made of in ancient China?

Bamboo. When bamboo was placed on the fire, the hollow pockets of air would heat up and cause a loud explosion.

15. According to Chinese tradition, when making a noodle dish, the noodles should remain long and not be cut short. Why is this?

Long strands of noodles represent long life. Cutting them would mean that you would be cutting your life short.

16. What foods are traditionally not consumed during the Chinese New Year?

Squid and tofu. In China, eating squid during the holiday symbolizes that you will get fired from your job. Tofu is white in color, and white symbolizes death.

17. Many countries in the East recognize the Chinese New Year as a public holiday. What are three of these countries?

China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, South Korea, and Indonesia. The Chinese New Year is widely celebrated in Thailand, Japan, Cambodia, and Philippines, but is not a public holiday.

18. How many children are born every minute in China?

Thirty-five. Twenty percent of the world's population resides in China. Currently, over 400 million Chinese are under the age of 18.

19. Spring couplets are small banners, usually red in color, that are hung at the front doors of homes and businesses during the Chinese New Year. What is traditionally written on these banners?

Poems expressing hope for a fresh start in the coming year, prosperity, good fortune, and peace.



20. What is the capital city of China?

Beijing.

21. During the Chinese New Year, what is served on a Chuen-Hop or "Tray of Togetherness"?

Dried fruit, candy, and other sweets. This tray of goodies is traditionally meant to be served to relatives and guests that drop by the home during the Chinese New Year.

22. Over 400 different varieties of what fruit are grown in China?

Kiwi fruit. The word kiwi is pronounced "yangtao" in Chinese. They have been consumed in china for over 700 years.

23. What number should not be said or used during the Chinese New Year?

Four. The English word for the number "four" sounds similar to the Chinese word for "death", so it has become a superstition and is very unlucky if used during the holiday.

24. What wheeled garden tool was invented by the Chinese people?

The wheelbarrow.

25. How many years does it take the Chinese calendar to complete its cycle?

60 years.

26. One of the Seven Wonders of the World is in China. What is the name of this 1,500 mile long national monument?

The Great Wall of China.

27. What is the name of the alternative medicinal practice that involves inserting small needles into various points on the body?

Acupuncture.

28. What two colors are traditionally NOT to be worn during the Chinese New Year?

Black and white. These colors represent mourning and funerals.

29. What is the name of the calendar that the Chinese New Year is based on?

The Lunar Calendar. This calendar is based on the cycles of the moon and has been used since the 14th century B.C.



30. How many stars are on the Chinese flag?

Five
