

LUNAR NEW YEAR 2022

THE YEAR OF THE WATER TIGER BEGINS FEBRUARY 1ST

For many cultures, Lunar New Year is one of the most important celebrations of the year. Among others, celebrants include Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean communities.

The Festival known as "*Chūnjié*" in Mandarin, "*Seollal*" in Korean, and "*Tết*" in Vietnamese, is a New Year celebration. In 2022, Lunar New Year begins on February 1st. The New Year starts with the first new moon that occurs after the end of January and spans until the full moon arrives, lasting for the first fifteen days of the first month of the lunar calendar. The celebrations last throughout.

Each year in the Lunar calendar is represented by one of twelve zodiac animals. These are the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and pig. In addition to the animals, five elements of earth, water, fire, wood and metal are also part of the lunar calendar. The year 2022 is the year of the water tiger. The water tiger comes up every 60 years and represents strength, bravery and clearing away of evil.

Each culture celebrates the Lunar New year differently with various foods and traditions. China begins the celebration with what is considered the largest fireworks show in the world. According to legend, a monster named Nian (年) would come around and attack people (especially children) during the Lunar New Year. Most people hid in their homes but one boy was brave enough to fight him off using firecrackers. The next day, people celebrated their survival by setting off even more firecrackers. This became an annual part of the Spring Festival.

As it is with most holidays, sharing good food and spending time with family and friends are all part of the Lunar New Year celebration. And don't forget to wear red - it brings good luck! Enjoy the year of the Water Tiger!

Probation News



2022 is the Year of the Water Tiger



Lunar Moon celebrants wear red for good luck



The fabled monster, "Nian"