Chinese New Year



Where is China?



- The country of China is in Northeast Asia.
- China is the fourth biggest country in the world. The United States is only slightly larger in size than China.
- China has the largest population in the world – around 1,306,313,812 people!
- China is divided into provinces.
- The capital city, Beijing, is in the northeast part of the country.

What is China Like?

- China has all different kinds of weather.
- The south is filled with jungles and it is very hot and humid.
- In the north are mountains, where it snows much of the year and winter seems to last longer.
- In between are mountain ranges, deserts, fields and rivers.
- Usually the weather does not become too extreme, but sometimes there are large floods, blizzards and droughts.





When is Chinese New Year?

- **Chinese New Year starts somewhere between late January and Early February.**
- **The date changes from year to year because it follows an ancient farmer calendar.**



A Festival Diary



Be Prepared!



- Everyone helps to clean the house before the new year begins.
- Lots of special food is prepared.
- Lucky red and gold decorations are hung over doors and around rooms.
- People try to pay back any debts they have (long ago people had to hide if they owed someone money!)

New Year's Eve

- Not many people go to sleep on New Year's Eve.
- Temples are full of worshippers.
- Families gather together for a special meal.
- Some families still follow old traditions. They stay in the house and shut the doors and windows tight to stop evil spirits getting in.
- Tree branches are burnt and fire crackers are set off to drive the evil spirits away.



New Year's Day



- Shout "Happy New Year!" and hope for wealth for everyone.
- Children get little red envelopes with lucky money inside them.
- Families get together and everyone wears their new clothes.

Worship



- Instead of visiting friends, people go to the temple.
- They take fortune sticks to the temple.
- The way the sticks fall shows the kind of luck the person will have.

Dancers



- **Teams of dancers dress up and dance in the street.**

The Lantern Festival



- The lantern festival is a bright and happy way to end the celebrations.
- People celebrate the end of winter and the sun getting stronger as spring gets closer.
- More than 2000 years ago people lit lanterns under the full moon in celebration of the Sun God, known as the Lord of the East.


Kung Hey
Fat Choy!