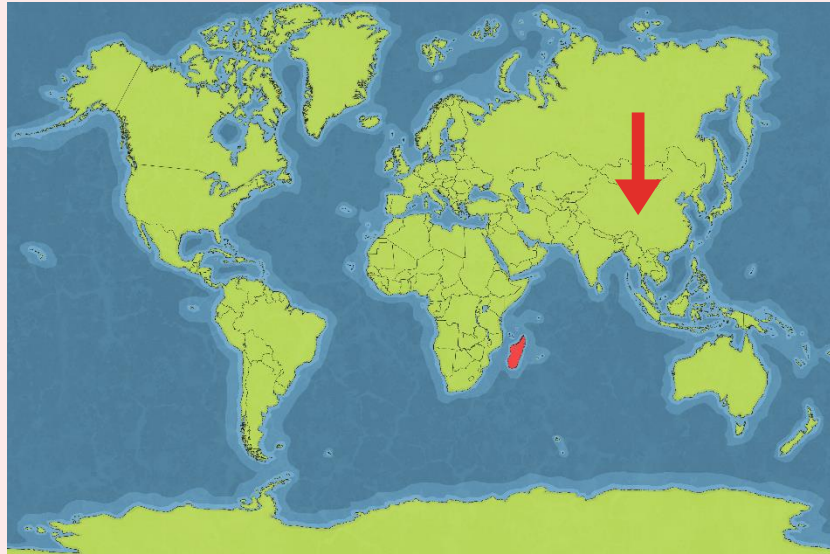


All About Chinese New Year



Where Is China?



China is in Asia.

China is the fourth biggest country in the world.

China has the largest population in the world with over 1.3 billion people!

The capital city of China is Beijing.

Chinese New Year is celebrated in China and in lots of other places around the world.

When Is Chinese New Year?

Chinese New Year starts somewhere between late January and Early February.

This year Chinese New Year is 12th February.

The date changes from year to year because it follows an ancient farming calendar which is based on phases of the moon.

There are 12 animals in the Chinese Zodiac. Each year is symbolised with a different animal.

This year it will be the year of the Ox.



Preparing for the New Year

People spring clean their homes and gardens to sweep away any bad luck.

Homes are decorated with paper scrolls and lanterns with good luck phrases such as 'happiness' and 'wealth' on them.

All unfinished business is settled so there is a fresh start for the new year. Debts are paid, quarrels are resolved, and any work is brought up to date.



New Year's Eve

Families gather together and have a large, traditional feast of fish and chicken.

In the North of China, people eat dijiaozi – a steamed dumpling.

In the South of China, people eat nian gao – a sticky sweet rice pudding.

People stay up until midnight, setting off firework to scare away evil spirits.



New Year's Day

Children wake up to find red envelopes filled with money and sweets under their pillow, left by their parents or grandparents.

Each family member starts the day with brand new clothes from head to toe. Red is a very popular color for clothing as it is considered lucky.

Lots of people visit the temple to worship the gods and to welcome the New Year.

Most Chinese families gather together for a New Year's banquet. Each family has their own special dish they prepare for this time.



Celebrations

The celebrations last for 15 days.

The 15th Day is also known as the Lantern Festival.

Crowds of people watch dragon dancing and lion dancing parades.

Families walk the streets with their glowing lanterns.

Candles are lit outside homes to guide wayward spirits home.



Activity

Follow the instructions linked in the timetable to make your own paper lantern.

Paper Lantern

You will need:

Lantern Template

Red paper (optional)

Red and gold paint/coloured pens

Scissors

Glue

Sticky tape

Stapler

