

# Chinese New Year

新年

Historical Background

春节



**The 59th China Laboratory Technology and Equipment Exhibition**

(June 16-18 , 2009    Shanghai Everbright Convention & exhibition Center)

# Background Information



- Centuries old event.
- Most Significant holiday.
- Largest human migration.
- Ends on the 15th day, known as the Lantern Festival (元宵节)



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# The Zodiac

- Similar to the Western Zodiac of the 12 astrological signs.
- 12 Zodiac animals: *Mouse, Ox, Tiger, Hare, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, Boar.*
- Coming year: OX牛

鼠 牛 虎 兔 龙 蛇

马 羊 猴 鸡 狗 猪





# Purpose



- A time of reunion with family.
- Reunion dinner on New Year's Eve  
(除夕 Chu shi)
- Red envelopes (紅包 “Hong bao” or “Ang Pao”)  
containing money (压岁钱 Ya shui chian)



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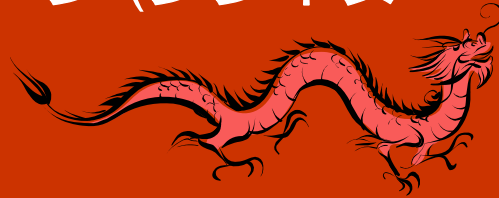
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# Superstitions and Beliefs

- Stay up all night on New Year's Eve.

It is considered very unlucky to:

- Sweep the floor on the 1<sup>st</sup> five days of New Year
- Talk of the deceased
- Getting a hair cut 剪发 vs 减发 (to cut your fortune)
- Buying books 书 vs 输 (to lose)
- Break dishes 碎 vs 岁 (岁岁平安 sui sui ping an)



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# 年 *The Story of Nien*



- A ferocious beast called Nien
- Comes out from the sea every year to eat people
- The people drove Nien away with Red, Fire and Noises.
- Greeting: *Congratulations* 恭喜 (Gong-shi),

过年 (Guo-Nien )



# “Hong Bao”

In China it is a tradition to give “Hong Bao”, or little red envelopes filled with money, for special occasions. The amount that you put in the hong bao depends on how close you are to the recipient, and what kind of occasion it is. It can range anywhere from 20 Yuan to a thousand Yuan.



# “New Year Poetry”

It's traditional to post New Year's poetry and something red on the top and sides of a home's entry-way, to keep at bay the monster named Nien ("year").



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**Happy New Year**

**新年快乐**



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