Chinese New Year



China

- China is a country in Northeast Asia.
- It has the largest population in the world, with over 1.3 billion people.



Beijing

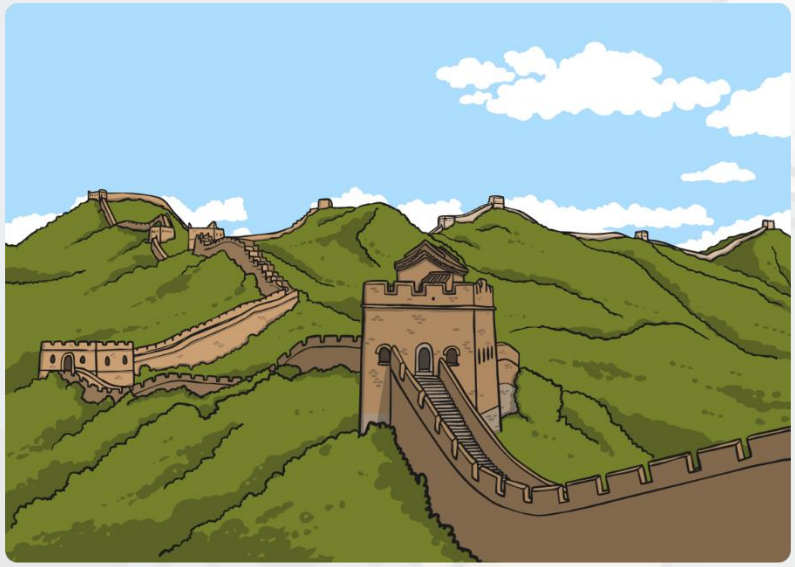
- The capital city of China is Beijing.



What Is China Like?

- In the north of China, there are mountains, where it snows for much of the year.
- The south of China is filled with jungles and it is very hot.





What Is China Like?

- China is home to people from lots of different backgrounds.
- Chinese people mainly speak Mandarin but some also speak Cantonese, Hakka or Swatow. The different languages are spoken in different parts of the country.
- The staple food in China is rice and it is eaten with nearly every meal.



When Is Chinese New Year?

- The date of Chinese New Year changes each year because it follows a very old calendar which is linked to the phases of the Moon.
- Chinese New Year is always in January or February.



Preparing for the New Year

- Chinese people spring clean their houses and gardens to sweep away any bad luck.
- Houses are decorated with paper scrolls and lanterns, with good luck messages on them.



New Year's Eve

- Families gather together and have a traditional meal 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 fireworks to scare away evil spirits.



New Year's Day

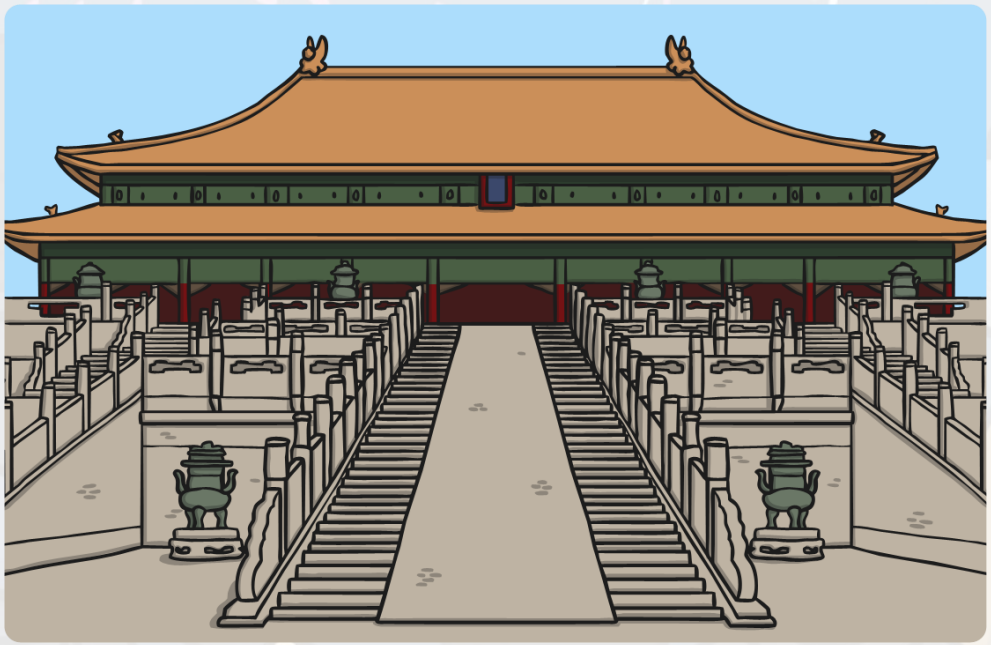
- Children wake up to find red envelopes filled with money and sweets under their pillow.
- Every family member starts the day with brand new clothes from head to toe.
- Red is a very popular colour for clothes, as it is thought to be lucky!





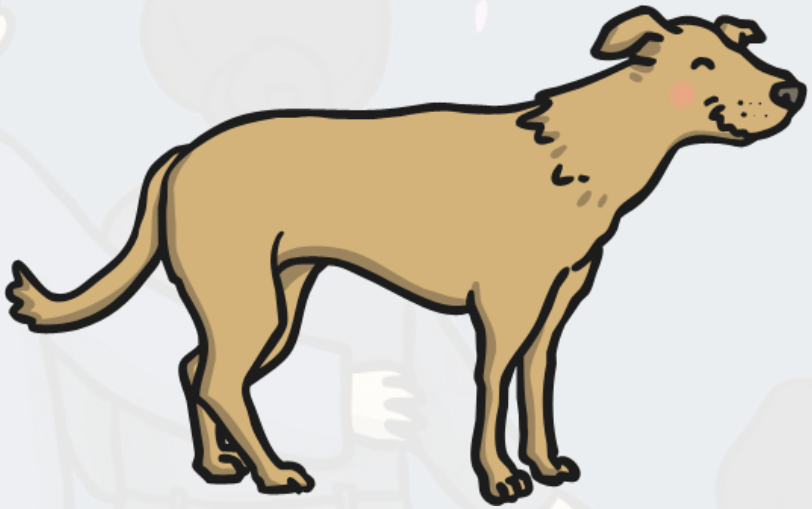
New Year's Day

- The first stop of the day is the temple, to worship Gods and to welcome the New Year.
- Most Chinese families gather together for a New Year banquet. Each family has their own special dish which they prepare for the banquet.



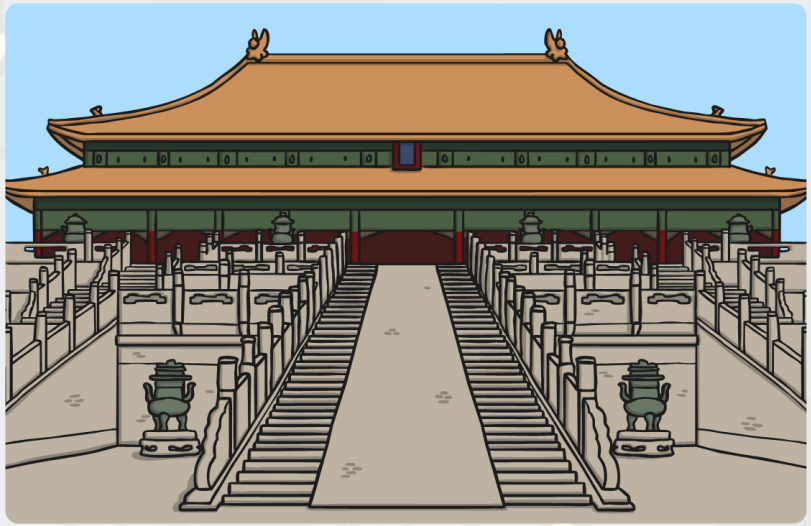
New Year Celebrations

- The New Year Celebrations last for two weeks.
- The 2nd day of the celebrations is also believed to be the birthday of all dogs, so dogs are treated with special foods.



New Year Celebrations

- During the celebrations, people visit friends and relatives.
- They visit the temple to have their futures told.





New Year Celebrations

- During the celebrations, firecrackers are thrown to keep away bad spirits.
- Dumplings are eaten for good luck



The Lantern Festival

- The 15th day of celebrations is known as the Lantern Festival.



The Lantern Festival

- Rice dumplings are eaten on this day.



The Lantern Festival

- There is dragon dancing and lion dancing parades in the streets.




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