

The Lunar New Year

(Celebrated between January 21 and February 20)

The Lunar New Year is a holiday that moves on the calendar because it is celebrated according to dates on the ancient Chinese lunar calendar. It takes place between January 21 and February 20, and the celebration may last for a week or more. Each year is named after one of the twelve animals on the Chinese zodiac.

Families who celebrate this holiday in Alabama and in other parts of the world spend a great deal of time in preparation for the new year. Everything is cleaned thoroughly, special food is prepared, new clothes are purchased, and debts are paid. Red and orange are the special colors used for decorations and scrolls with good wishes are exchanged. Some of the wishes are for good health, long life, prosperity, happiness, and luck. Oranges and apples are traditional fruits that are eaten as a part of the celebration. Eggs are also a traditional food for this celebration.

In the Chinese culture, this is a birthday celebration for everyone. Children stay up late and receive gifts of money wrapped in red paper. At midnight, firecrackers are lit to scare away bad spirits.

On New Year's Day, everyone tries to be very good and polite because it is believed that the way that they act on this day will affect the whole year. People visit friends and family members and may attend community celebrations with parades.

