

## RENREN CHINESE 人人中文



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Chinese New Year 春节 ( chūn jié 1/23/2012 ) will be here soon! Chinese people welcome the Dragon-a symbol of power. Let's wish that the year of Dragon will be peaceful and prosperous for the world. Happy Dragon Year! 拜年!



What Chinese people do before and during chūn jié 春节



1. Days before the Chunjie, people clean up their house inside out, decorate holiday pictures and paper cut arts, such as window flower on the walls, doors and windows, prepare special holiday food, such as **nián gāo** 年糕 ( kind of sticky rice cake)

2. At New Year's Eve, family members far and near all get together to have a formal dinner, called **nián yè fàn** 年夜饭 . Everyone won't go to sleep called **shǒu suì** 守岁 till New Year's arrival. Children will receive red envelopes (**hóng bāo** 红包 ) with money ( **yā suì qián** 压岁钱 ) in it. But the red envelopes have to be put under his/her pillow for best wishes called **sui sui píng ān** 岁岁平安 , that means safe and peace for the child year after year.

3. From New Year's Day and on, people would dress up themselves the best and visit relatives and friends, and say **bài nián** 拜年 to each other. It means: happy Chinese New Year .

4. The last day of the holiday is the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the New Year month. (more on page 3)

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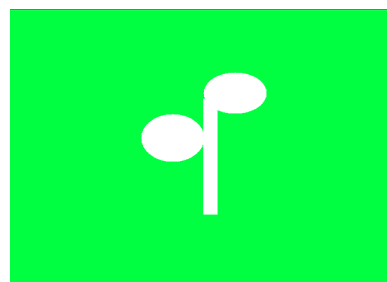
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每月一学

Word of the Month



## What's in a Chinese Character

### What's in a Chinese Character

甲

5 strokes

Written character

甲骨文: inscriptions on oracle bones

The guiding mark 甲 (meaning first) is the first of the "ten stems" – the decimal cycle of time reckoning. Originally written: 十, it was later encased in a square: 田. To differentiate it from 田 (field) the vertical line was extended downwards: 甲. A subsequent modification came to suggest "helmet". By extension, the modern form, 甲 covers a whole range of hard protective coverings.

Practice Chinese Characters (s) here:

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guò nián le

过 年 了

guò nián le, guò nián le  
过 年 了, 过 年 了,  
xīn yī xīn xié xīn mào mào  
新 衣, 新 鞋, 新 帽 帽

dēng lóng liàng biān pào xiǎng  
灯 笼 亮, 鞭 炮 响

luó gǔ dōng dōng hǎo rè nào  
锣 鼓 咚 咚 好 热 闹!

bài nián le bài nián le  
拜 年 了, 拜 年 了

chūn jié kuài lè xīn nián hǎo  
春 节 快 乐, 新 年 好

jiā rén jù xiào shēng shuǎng  
家 人 聚, 笑 声 爽

dào chù xǐ yáng yang  
到 处 喜 洋 洋!



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(continue from page 1) People will visit temple fair and enjoy Light show, called **dēng jié 灯节**. Following is one of the light-shows during holiday.

## Zi Gong Lights Show



Local time on November 10, Thanksgiving Day around the corner, known as 'the first light' of the Sichuan Zigong Lantern Festival now is located in Silicon Valley, California, USA assembled a large Dragon Light Boat here at Great America Mall, San Jose, CA. The Lantern Festival will be held Thanksgiving opening and has been extended to New Year 2012, then will move to Texas, 2012. If you are interested, please follow the news. <http://www.lantern-festival.com/about-chinese-lantern-festival/zigong-lantern-festival.html>

### RCS Calendar and Holidays

#### January 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 school start at Kennedy
15 school start at Still	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 除夕 new year eve.	23 春节 New Year!	24	25	26	27	28 last day to drop class and tuition due
29 last day to drop class and tuition due	30	31				

#### February 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 灯节 light show	7	8	9	10	11 Chun-jie celebration at Ray
12	13	14	15	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29				



There are many stories about Dragon around the world. Here is the story of **Chinese Dragon**:

A Chinese legend has it, that Buddha told all the animals in the world to come to him. When the journey was over, only twelve animals had made it to Buddha, and so they became the Zodiacs. Among these was the great dragon. Chinese dragons date back to around 5,000 BCE. The Chinese believed that they were the "descendants of the dragons," too. The goddess Nu Kua was half mortal half dragon, and she spawned dragons that could easily shift from human form to dragons, or vice versa. In addition to this, they could rise to the heavens, go to the bottom of the seas, and even change size.

Chinese emperors were said to be sons of the dragons and wore special robes. The sign of the celestial dragon could only be worn by the emperor, and it was the sign of the ultimate power.

Most Chinese dragons did not have wings. However, they would grow branch-like wings when they became one thousand years old. It is then that they are called Ying-Lung dragons. Even dragons that are not Ying-Lung can fly.

Some are also known as Chiao or Chiao-Lung. This is usually a fish that has managed to become a dragon. For most fish, the challenge is to jump through miraculous gates on the ocean floor. For some, however, they grow to a certain age and become a dragon.

There is a story of one called Hai Li Bu. He was walking one day and met a goose whom was killing a snake. Hai Li Bu felt badly for the snake, so he stopped the goose from killing it. This snake was the daughter of the Dragon King, and Hai Li Bu was rewarded with a magical gem that could help him decipher what the animals were saying. He, however, was not allowed to repeat anything the animals said, or he would turn to stone. One day, Hai Li Bu heard the animals speaking of the coming of a great flood. Unable to simply let mankind die, he warned them of the flood. This turned Hai Li Bu to stone.

There is also a story of a great flood. Tien Ti, emperor of the heavens, looked down upon the earth and saw that it must be reformed, as the wickedness of the world was too much. With that, he sent down a great flood to destroy it. The god Tu, taking pity upon man, begged for Tien Ti to stop. With that, Tien Ti created a turtle and placed magic earth upon his back so that it would soak up the water. After this was done, Tien Ti sent out a emerald-scaled Ying-Lung dragon that flew over the world, carving the valleys and rivers with its tail.

**Let's pray for the whole world that the Dragon will protect the innocent people and the world peace.**

More stories about the Dragon told in different country: <http://www.blackdrago.com/outline.htm>

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