

Chinese New Year



There was...



the rat...



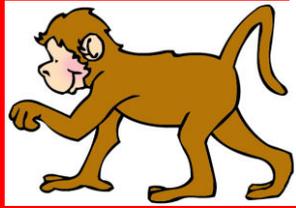
the tiger...



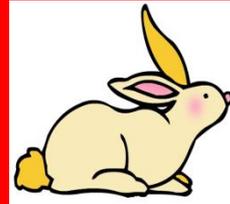
the snake...



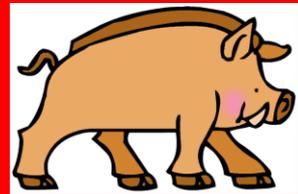
the dog...



...the monkey



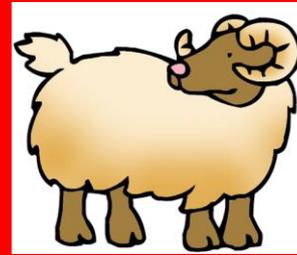
the rabbit...



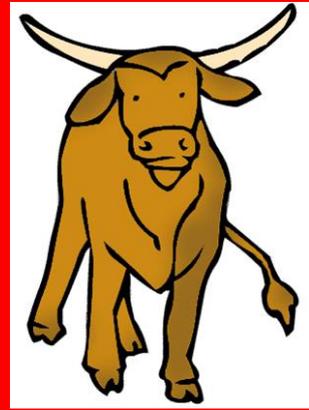
the pig...



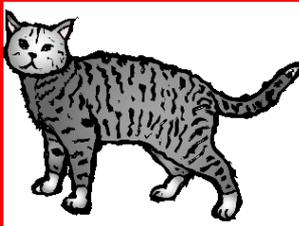
...the rooster



the goat...



the ox...



the cat...



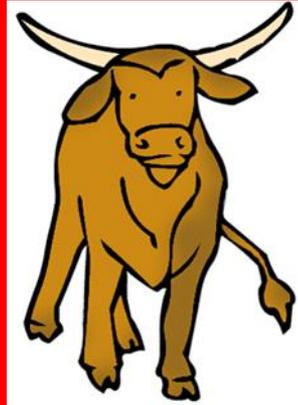
...the horse



...and the dragon.

2021 is the year of the.....

Ox





Chinese New Year is a holiday celebrating the beginning of a New Year. It lasts for more than 2 weeks.

大掃除

Housecleaning, sweeping

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Before the first day of Chinese New Year, families clean their homes from top to bottom to clear out any bad luck from the last year and to get the house ready for good luck in the new year.



Also, before **New Year's Day**, you're supposed to buy new clothes or cut your hair in order to have a fresh start. And never, ever wear black during Chinese New Year - it's bad luck. Red is the colour of good luck, so wearing lots of red is encouraged.



Families decorate their houses with lights outside their homes- a bit like our Christmas lights.

On New Year's Eve, decorations (hui chun) made from red and gold paper are hung on the doors. They are to bring good luck, happiness and long life for the coming year.



On New Year's Day, grown ups give children lucky red envelopes called **Hong Bow** containing money or sweets and everyone says "Kung Hei Fat Choy!" **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
Remember- don't open the envelope until the grown up has left the house ! It's bad luck!



On New Year's Day, there are parades, with music and dancing.

Children get little presents, like dragon puppets and lanterns.





There are long lines of dancers who carry dragons on long sticks. They leap and twist so that the dragon looks like it is moving.



The most exciting bit is when the lion dancers come on.

Lettuce heads with money in are hidden in hard to reach places along the parade route and the dancers must climb and jump to reach them.



On New Year's Day, families come together and have a huge meal.



There are eight or nine dishes because those are lucky numbers. The meal includes dumplings (because they look like gold nuggets), oranges, and long noodles (for long life).



After dinner the family plays cards with all the lights turned on until midnight. At midnight, fireworks and crackers are set off.



On the last day of the Festival, the family make wishes and light lanterns. They hope that the wind will carry them up to the Jade Emperor, who will grant their wishes.

Kung Hey Fat Choy!

