



# Lunar New Year Around the World

Celebrate the most colourful time of the year

Amanda Li • Angel Chang

Hi, I'm Mei Lin and I'm from Beijing, China. I'm so excited because it's my favourite time of year – Lunar New Year!

Lunar New Year is also called Spring Festival or Chinese New Year. It is the biggest celebration of the year for people in many East and South-East Asian countries and communities all over the world.

All the shops and markets are busy with people buying food and decorations for their houses. We hang up red lanterns and red posters called couplets to wish everyone good luck for the year ahead.

The colour red is everywhere at Lunar New Year. In China, red is the colour of happiness and good luck.

I'm Ryan and I live in Singapore. My aunts and uncles travel all the way from Canada to join us on Lunar New Year's Eve. They always give me a special red envelope, called *lai see*, as a gift. It has lucky money inside!



Everyone goes home for the celebrations if they can. Millions of people travel around the world at New Year. This is called *chunyun*.



Lunar New Year is celebrated in many different countries. The holiday always begins in January or February and lasts for fifteen days. The date changes every year depending on the first new moon.



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I'm Emily, from Toronto, Canada. For Lunar New Year we share special dishes with different meanings. My favourite is long noodles, which means a long life. My grandmother says keep your plate full or your luck will run out!



Food is very important at Lunar New Year. People like to eat 'lucky' food. A whole fish means good luck and a healthy life.

Eating dumplings and spring rolls might make you rich in the New Year, while dried fruit and candies will make your life sweeter.



Chinese legend says that a monster called Nian once terrified a village. A wise old man realised that Nian was scared of two things: the colour red and loud noises.

Everyone hung red lanterns on their houses and lit crackling bamboo. People still hang the lanterns but now they light fireworks to scare the monster away!

I'm Noah, in Sydney, Australia. I'm allowed to stay up and watch the big firework display on Lunar New Year. It's so noisy! The loud bangs are supposed to scare away monsters and bad luck.