



# Let's Explore!: Lunar New Year

*Activity Booklet*





# Happy Lunar New Year!

## 新年快樂

*Xīn Nián Kuài Lè!*

Lunar New Year is one of the most celebrated holidays in the world. It's a magical time filled with lion dances, firecrackers, and delicious food. This activity booklet is a glimpse into the rich culture of this festive tradition.

Have fun and let's explore!

*This booklet belongs to:*















Color the scene with your favorite art supplies!



# Get To Know Your Zodiac Animal

The Chinese zodiac is not only an important legend told during the Lunar New Year holiday, it is important to general Chinese culture. There are 12 zodiac animals, or signs, each representing specific years in the 12-year cycle of the Chinese calendar. Each zodiac animal represents unique personality traits. These traits and characteristics are still used today in various ways, such as building relationships with people and understanding them in a new way. Some people might use the zodiac animal traits to see whom they would get along with and work best with, or even who they want to date.

Use the chart below and the journal space to learn about your family members' zodiac animals and characteristics, and get to know each other even better than you already do!

<b>RAT</b> <b>1972, 1984, 1996, 2008, 2020</b>  Creative, likeable, giving, optimistic, energetic	<b>DRAGON</b> <b>1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012</b>  Energetic, brave, trusting, ambitious, relentless, generous	<b>MONKEY</b> <b>1980, 1992, 2004, 2016</b>  Smart, sly, good memory, leader, arrogant, competitive
<b>OX</b> <b>1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021</b>  Leader, patient, inspiring, honest, healthy	<b>SNAKE</b> <b>1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013</b>  Smart, charming, kind, humorous, calm	<b>ROOSTER</b> <b>1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017</b>  Hardworking, courageous, sharp, decisive, family-oriented
<b>TIGER</b> <b>1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010, 2022</b>  Respected, brave, caring, kind, never gives up	<b>HORSE</b> <b>1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014</b>  Well-liked, happy, thrifty, funny, energetic, short-tempered	<b>DOG</b> <b>1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018</b>  Honest, loyal, pays attention, popular, anxious
<b>RABBIT</b> <b>1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011, 2023</b>  Talented, driven, trusted, confident, steadfast, social	<b>RAM</b> <b>1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015</b>  Creative, calm, caring, strong and resilient, gentle, tidy	<b>BOAR/PIG</b> <b>1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019</b>  Brave, sweet, strong, realistic, materialistic, enthusiastic



Use the space below to write down your family members'  
(and your own) zodiac animals and characteristics.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTH YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

ZODIAC ANIMAL \_\_\_\_\_

HOW ARE THEY LIKE THEIR ZODIAC ANIMAL? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTH YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

ZODIAC ANIMAL \_\_\_\_\_

HOW ARE THEY LIKE THEIR ZODIAC ANIMAL? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTH YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

ZODIAC ANIMAL \_\_\_\_\_

HOW ARE THEY LIKE THEIR ZODIAC ANIMAL? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

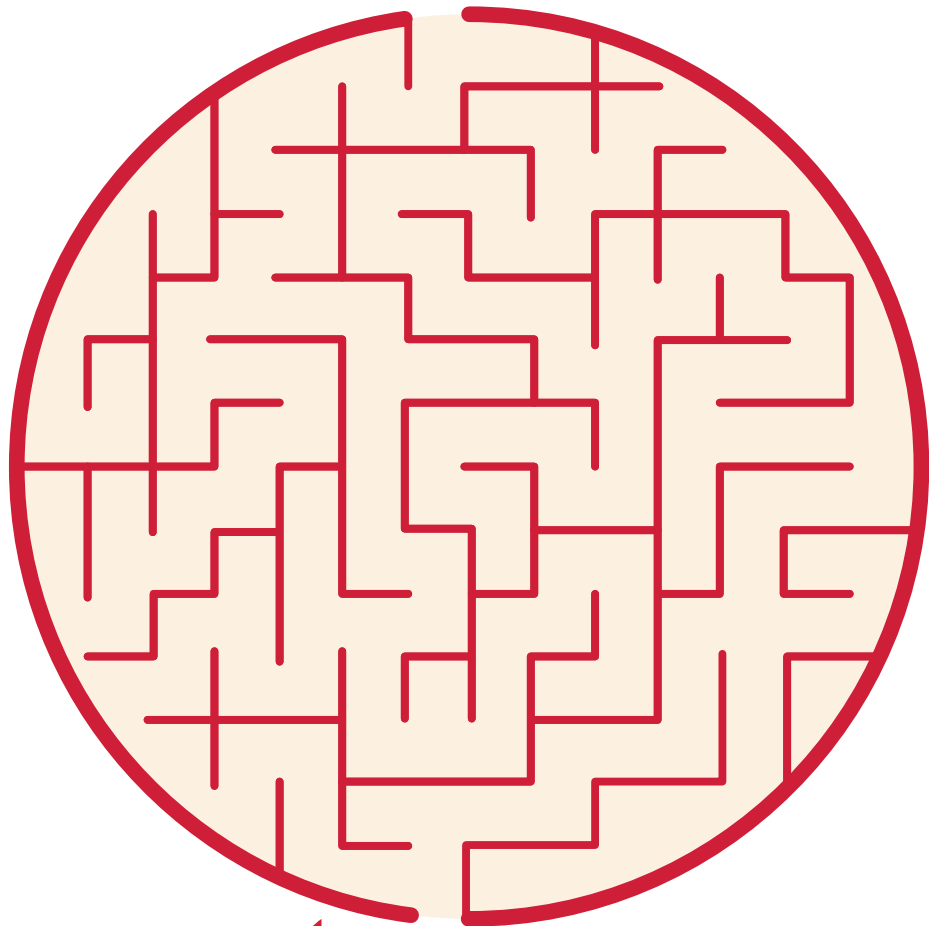
NAME \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTH YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

ZODIAC ANIMAL \_\_\_\_\_

HOW ARE THEY LIKE THEIR ZODIAC ANIMAL? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**START**

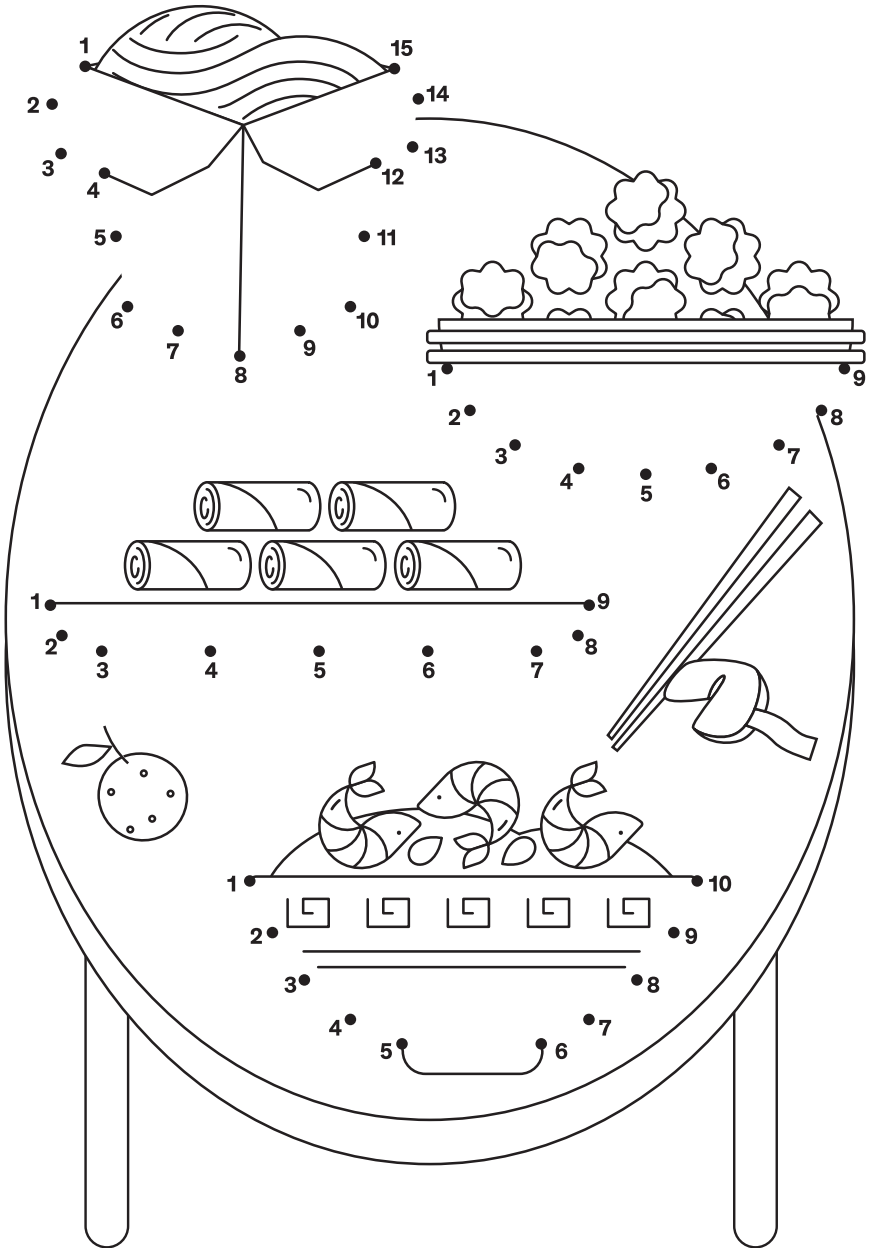


Help the rabbit complete The Great Race and make its way onto the Zodiac cycle!





The Lunar New Year table is set but each food needs a pail, plate or bowl!  
Connect the dots to complete the picture.



# Lucky Foods Matching Game

In the Lunar New Year tradition, food has symbolic meanings. For example, the word for shrimp sounds like “smile” in Cantonese Chinese, so it symbolizes happiness. In this activity, you can test your memory to match Panda’s delicious lucky foods and welcome good fortune in the new year!

## How to Set Up:

- 1 Carefully cut out all the cards on the next two pages.
- 2 Shuffle the 16 cards thoroughly, with the plain red side facing up.
- 3 Lay the cards out on the table, keeping the plain red side facing up.

## Two Ways to Play:

### Level 1: Match the Lucky Food

Match the Lucky Food to the same Lucky Food. Once you make a match, take the pair out.

### Level 2: Match Lucky Food to its Meaning

Match the Lucky Food to the Meaning of that Lucky Food. Once you make a match, take the pair out.

## Partner Play

If you’ve invited someone to play with you, take turns trying to make a match. Once a player makes a match, that player gets to keep the pair of cards. Once all the cards have been matched, the round is over. The person with the most pairs at the end, wins the round. Play as many rounds as you please!

## Answer Key

### Orange Chicken – Prosperity

In Mandarin Chinese, the word “orange” sounds like the word “luck.” Oranges symbolize luck and prosperity, while whole chicken represents togetherness.

### Egg Rolls – Wealth

Egg rolls symbolize wealth because they look like gold bars.

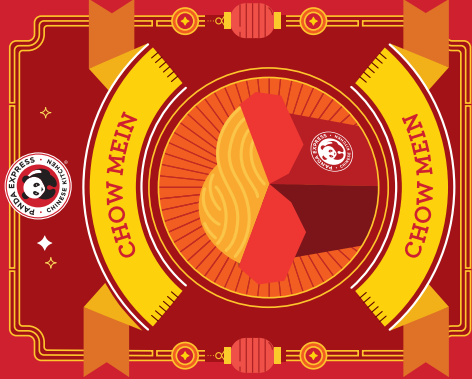
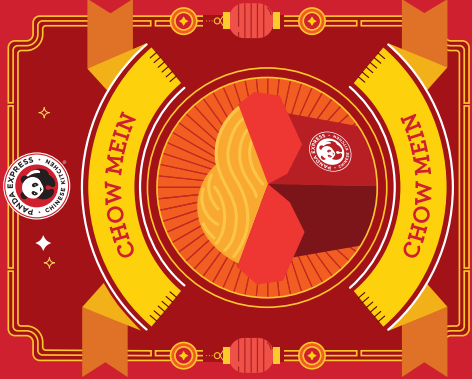
### Honey Walnut Shrimp – Happiness

Shrimp symbolize happiness because the word “shrimp” in Cantonese Chinese sounds like “smile.”

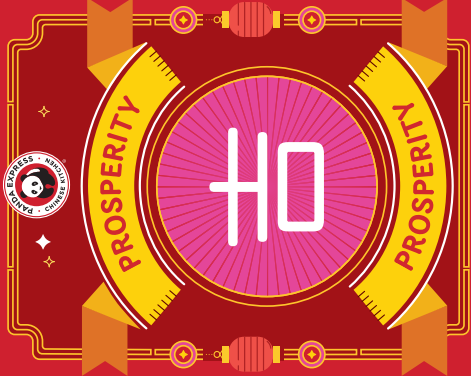
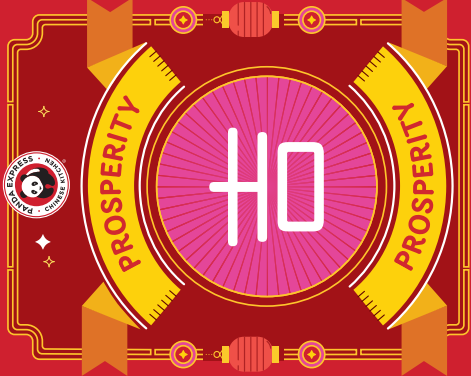
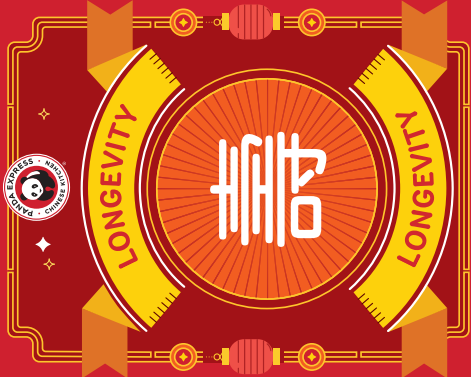
### Chow Mein – Longevity

Long noodles symbolize longevity, or living a long and healthy life.











# Learn Chinese Lunar New Year Phrases

Did you know that Mandarin Chinese is spoken by over 915 million people all over the world? That's almost 3 times as many people that live in the U.S. Learn some of the popular Chinese phrases spoken during Lunar New Year!

**Happy Lunar New Year**

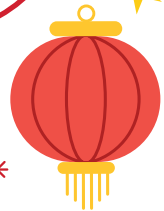
Xīn Nián Kuài Lè  
(Sshin-Nyen Kwhy-Ler)



**Red Envelope**

Hóng Bāo  
(Hoong Bow)

**Hello**  
Nǐ Hǎo  
(Nee How)



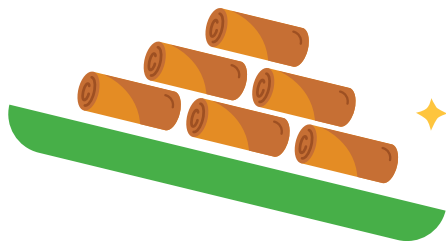
**Goodbye**

Zài Jiàn  
(Zhai-Jian)



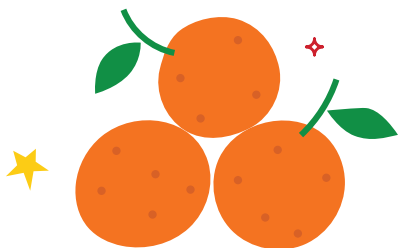
**Delicious**

Hǎo Chī  
(How Chir)



**Wishing You Happiness  
and Prosperity**

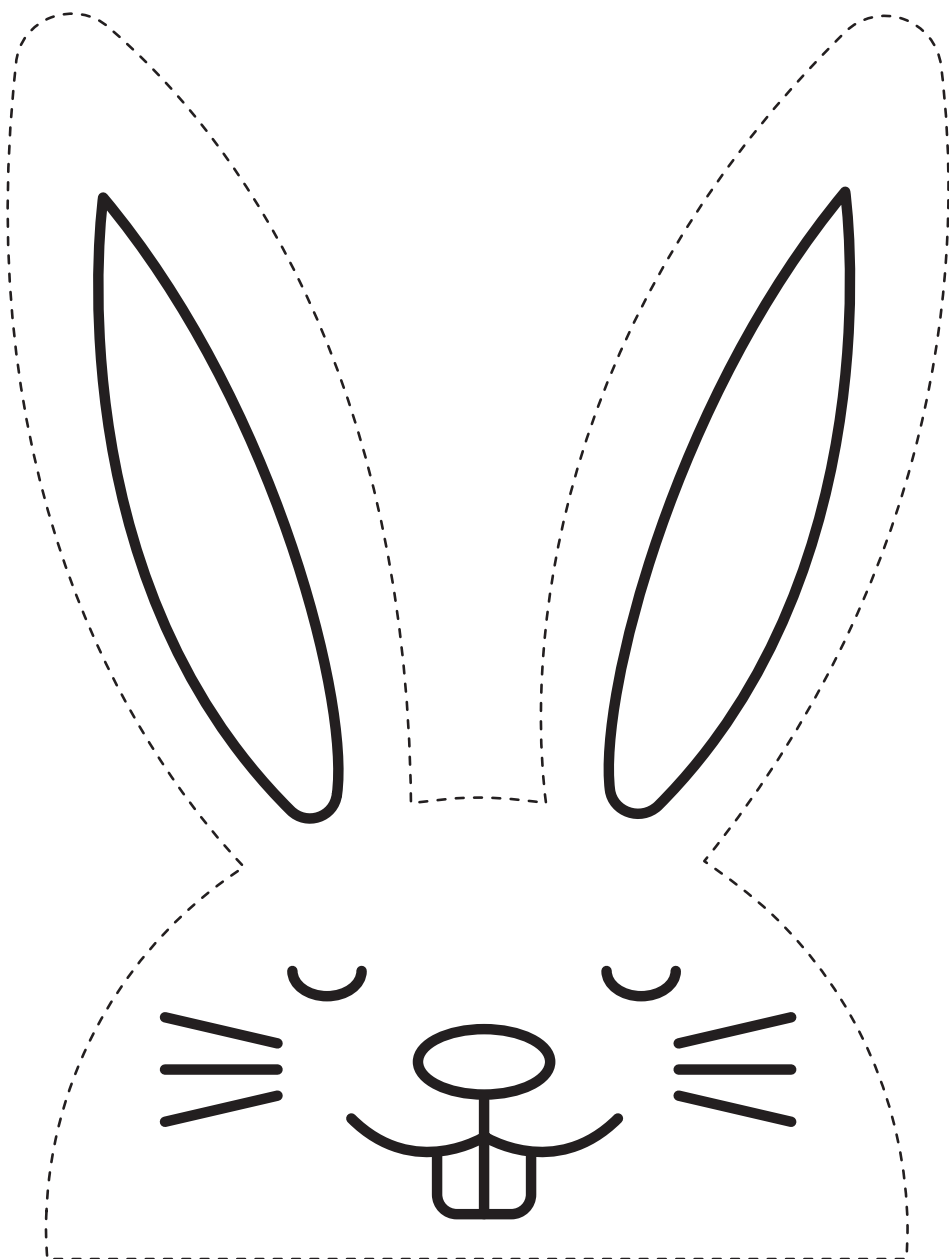
Gōng Xǐ Fā Cái  
(Gong-Sshee Faa-Tseye)



**Thank You**

Xiè Xiè  
(Shieh-Shieh)

**2023 is the year of the rabbit.  
Color and cut out your own  
rabbit headband!**



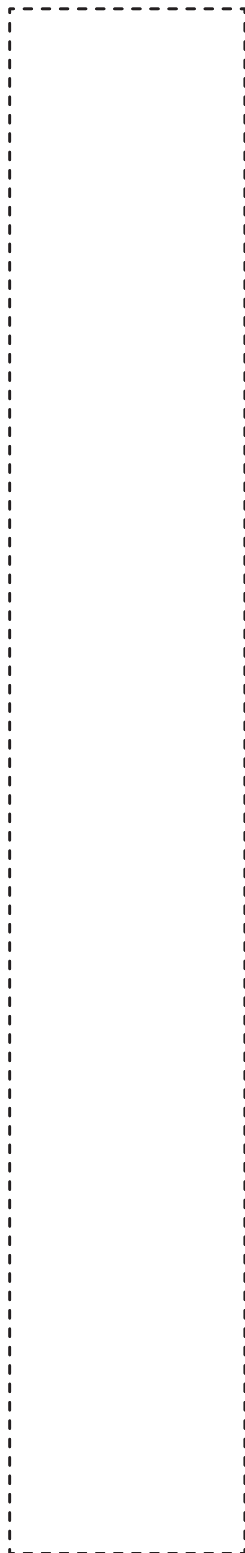





**Make a band to wear your rabbit headband!**

**Decorate the strap if you'd like. Then attach the end of each strip to the sides of the rabbit headband with glue or tape.**




**Next, adjust the strips so they fit your head and tape or glue in place.**







*Wishing you and your  
family good fortune and a  
Happy Lunar New Year!*





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