

The Lunar New Year

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The date of the Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year 2022 will take place on Tuesday 1 February. The celebrations are marked not only in China and South East Asia but also across the globe- including in London. The Solar Calendars are based on the earth's passage around the sun. However, the date of the Lunar New Year is marked by the Lunar Calendar, which made the date vary from year to year. The Lunar New Year is also a time to honor ancestors and to be with family. From the first day of the Lunar New Year (the day of the new moon) to the 15th day (next full moon), each day holds a special significance that varies according to local traditions.

The year of the tiger

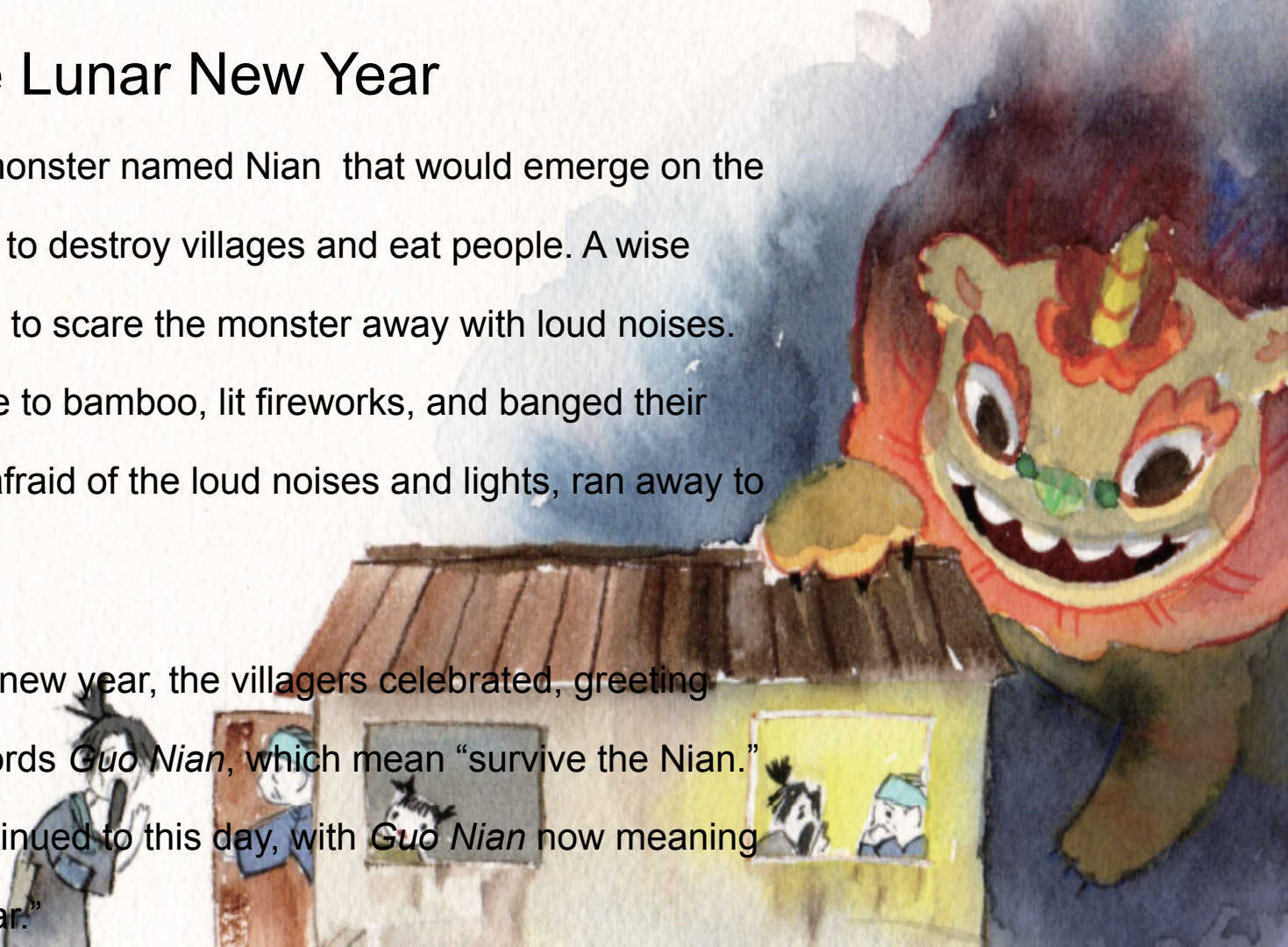
Every new year brings with it an animal from the Asian zodiac and its attributes. This system is believed to have been installed during a period in which animal worship was practiced in Asia. Tigers, considered to be brave, cruel, forceful and terrifying, are the symbol of power and lordliness in Asian culture. In ancient times, people usually compared emperors or kings with the tigers. Tigers are also considered as a patron deity for children, parents will prepare the shoes and hats with tiger designs for their babies.



Folklore of the Lunar New Year

An ugly, bloodthirsty monster named Nian that would emerge on the last night of each year to destroy villages and eat people. A wise elder advised villagers to scare the monster away with loud noises. That night, they set fire to bamboo, lit fireworks, and banged their drums. The monster, afraid of the loud noises and lights, ran away to hide in its cave.

On the first day of the new year, the villagers celebrated, greeting each other with the words *Guo Nian*, which mean “survive the Nian.” That tradition has continued to this day, with *Guo Nian* now meaning “celebrate the new year.”



Tradition

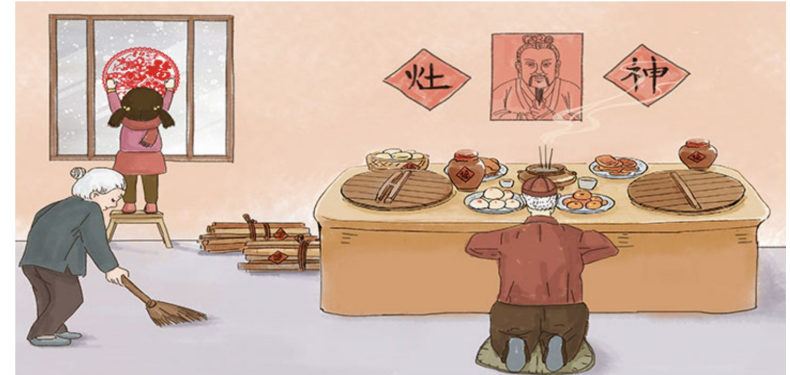
– Put up decorations

- Couplets(scrolls): red paper with blessings sentence written
- "Fu" written: means happiness and good fortune
- hang lanterns, buy flower, toy, and picture



– Offer Sacrifices to Ancestors

- Offering tribute, worship, burning paper.
- Seeking ancestral protection and bless



Tradition

– Family Reunion Dinner on the Lunar New Year's Eve

- Whole family will gather together
- Enjoy the feast, share their experiences in the past, and watch New Year's Gala



– Make and eat special food

- Chinese: dumplings
- Korean: rice cake soup
- Vietnam: sticky rice dumplings



Tradition

– Give red envelopes to young

- Cash inside envelopes
- To express the appreciation, encouragement, wishes and convey happiness to young



– Set off firecrackers and fireworks

- Popular tradition
- Light and watch fireworks together



The celebration of the Lunar New Year is also believed to be significant to ensure good fortune for the coming year. Therefore, I wish you guys all the best in the New Year!