

Happy Lunar New Year!



FUN FOWLS. The Lunar New Year, which begins January 28, 2017, marks the Year of the Rooster. The Rooster symbolizes confidence, courage, and trustworthiness. Those born under the Rooster sign are generally considered to be thinking and observant individuals who have colorful personalities and like to be noticed. To learn what animal corresponds with your birthday, look at the chart on page 20. (AR Photo/Jan Landis, File)

The Rooster struts in

The Year of the Rooster comes strutting in January 28, 2017, and its arrival will be celebrated by people throughout the world — not only in Asian nations such as China, Korea, Nepal, India, Vietnam, and Iran, but also in western cultures and beyond. Considered by many to be the oldest calendar system in the world, the Chinese lunar calendar traces its origin back as far as 2637 B.C.E. Each year is represented by one of the 12 animals of the zodiac: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig.

As with many traditions, the observation dates back to an ancient legend: In an effort to determine the order of the calendar, China's Jade Emperor called upon 12 animals in his kingdom to participate in a race, with the calendar organized in the order in which they finished. The Rooster came in tenth behind the Monkey, and was trailed only by the Dog and the Pig. In 2017 we celebrate the adventurous and capable Rooster.

As with many traditions celebrated by multiple nations, the Lunar New Year has many names. In Vietnam, it is known as *Tet Nguyen Dan*. In Thailand the celebration — taking place in April — is known as *Songkran*. Korea celebrates *Sol* and Cambodia commemorates *Chaul Chnam Thmey*. China recognizes *Chuen Jie* (the Spring Festival), a time when families and friends come together to wish one another happiness and pay respects to their ancestors in a celebration that begins on the New Year and continues for 15 days.

Each culture has different traditions, and in the case of the lunar calendar, the animals that populate the yearly cycles sometime differ. For example, in the Vietnamese tradition, the Rabbit is referred to as the Cat, the Sheep as Ram, and the Rooster as Cock. In the Tibetan cycle, the Rat is referred to as the Mouse, the Rabbit as Hare, and the Rooster as the Bird.

Each animal recurs every 12 years, but in a different incarnation based on one of five elements — metal, water, wood, fire, and earth. For example, this year is the Year of the Fire Rooster, which was last celebrated 60 years ago in 1957. After this year, the Fire Rooster will not return until

2077. According to Chinese astrology, people born in a Year of the Rooster (1909, 1921, 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, and 2017) are known for their passion, loyalty, humor, and sincerity. They are hardworking and honest, but may also tend to be self-absorbed and vain. Fire Roosters — including those born between January 28, 2017 and February 15, 2018 — are exceptional people who are often natural leaders and great role models. They have the drive and focus to pursue their chosen goals to success.

New Year traditions

For many cultures, the arrival of the New Year marks a spiritual time in which celebrants give thanks at temples and pray for a year's good luck. Another widely practiced tradition involves sweeping homes clean of evil spirits by literally cleaning and sweeping dwellings of dirt. In addition, new clothing is often purchased in commemoration of the New Year.

The Spring Festival ushers in China's busiest travel season, a time when families journey great distances to celebrate with loved ones. In Thailand, revellers get wet and wild during *Rohd Nam Songkran*, a festival in which celebrants douse one another with water to bring rain in the coming year.

Worldwide celebrations also bring out many culinary traditions. The Chinese traditionally eat dumplings and rice cakes in celebration of the Lunar New Year, while Vietnamese dine on a kind of rice cake called *banh trung*. Many in Korea spend their day preparing traditional foods — including *duk-kuk*, a rice cake soup.

Children celebrating the arrival of the Lunar New Year are greeted with many treats. In China and Vietnam, youngsters receive special red envelopes containing New Year's money (in China, the envelopes are called *hong bao*). Korean children bow to their parents and grandparents and, in return, receive freshly minted money (though not in red envelopes).

The next Lunar New Year will bring the Year of the Dog, from February 16, 2018 to February 4, 2019.

Have a safe and prosperous Year of the Rooster!

What sign are you?

Find the year you were born. Those born in January or February should consult page 20.

1900, 1912, 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008 — Rat
 1901, 1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009 — Ox
 1902, 1914, 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010 — Tiger
 1903, 1915, 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011 — Rabbit
 1904, 1916, 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012 — Dragon
 1905, 1917, 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013 — Snake
 1906, 1918, 1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014 — Horse
 1907, 1919, 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015 — Sheep
 1908, 1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016 — Monkey
 1909, 1921, 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017 — Rooster
 1910, 1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018 — Dog
 1911, 1923, 1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019 — Pig

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The Gregorian and Chinese lunar calendars

Animal	Gregorian	Chinese
Rooster	January 28, 2017	Year 4715
Dog	February 16, 2018	Year 4716
Pig	February 5, 2019	Year 4717
Rat	January 25, 2020	Year 4718
Ox	February 12, 2021	Year 4719
Tiger	February 1, 2022	Year 4720
Rabbit	January 22, 2023	Year 4721
Dragon	February 10, 2024	Year 4722
Snake	January 29, 2025	Year 4723
Horse	February 17, 2026	Year 4724
Sheep	February 6, 2027	Year 4725
Monkey	January 26, 2028	Year 4726

A few animal characteristics

Rat: Honest, idealistic, practical, sentimental, argumentative, greedy
Ox: Careful, diligent, eloquent, patient, eccentric, stubborn
Tiger: Ambitious, dynamic, honorable, loyal, critical, impatient
Rabbit: Artistic, considerate, intelligent, peaceful, hesitant, judgemental
Dragon: Energetic, faithful, generous, sincere, defensive, opinionated
Snake: Charitable, elegant, organized, reflective, anxious, possessive
Horse: Calm, confident, independent, talented, contradictory, moody
Sheep: Adaptive, creative, empathetic, polite, impractical, pessimistic
Monkey: Charming, sensitive, vivacious, wise, cunning, selfish
Rooster: Adventurous, courageous, funny, hardworking, cynical, vain
Dog: Brave, devoted, knowledgeable, trustworthy, disagreeable, strict
Pig: Affectionate, cheerful, obliging, optimistic, naïve, snobbish

Read your forecast for the Year of the Rooster!
 Horoscopes by Madame Mingmei begin on page 14.

The Year of the Rooster

The Rooster is the tenth animal of the lunar zodiac. The Rooster symbolizes confidence, courage, and trustworthiness. Those born under the Rooster sign are generally considered to be thinking and observant individuals who have colorful personalities and like to be noticed.

Roosters born between January 28, 2017 and February 15, 2018 are Fire Roosters. The fire element makes for Roosters who are people of action. They are highly motivated, focused, strongly principled, and persuasive, but should be wary of being too inflexible to compromise.

Rooster facts

Year of the Rooster: January 28, 2017 through February 15, 2018

Chinese Calendar Year: 4715

Rooster Years: 1909, 1921, 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017

Characteristics: Those born in the Year of the Rooster are active, thoughtful, great with people, and love to entertain. Roosters will flock to a good debate and their arguments are often quite persuasive.

Best careers: Rooster people make good teachers, politicians, soldiers, and athletes.

Compatible signs: Ox and Snake

Lucky numbers: 5, 7, 8

Born in the Year of the Rooster: Confucius, Benjamin Franklin, Yoko Ono, Suharto, Akihito, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Spike Lee, Amber Chia, Birendra Bir Bikram Shah, Choi In-ho, Rodrigo Duterte.