

Happy Lunar New Year!



TERRIFIC TIGER. The Lunar New Year, which began February 1 this year, marks the Year of the Tiger. People born under the sign of the Tiger are generally considered to be brave, confident, hardworking individuals who are lovable and optimistic. They are also known for their tendency to be aggressive, impatient, and stubborn, and can be moody and vain. (AP Photo/Mark Duncan, File)

The Tiger pounces on 2022

The Year of the Tiger arrived February 1, 2022, and its arrival was celebrated by people throughout the world — though the global coronavirus pandemic, now starting its third year, altered many traditions and celebrations. 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.

Similar to many traditions, the observation dates back to an ancient legend: China’s Jade Emperor wanted to determine the order of the calendar, so he called upon 12 animals in the kingdom to participate in a race. The order in which the animals finished determined the placement in the calendar. The Tiger finished third, after the Rat and Ox and before the Rabbit and Dragon. In 2022, we celebrate the independent and enthusiastic Tiger.

Like many celebrations observed by multiple cultures, the Lunar New Year is known by many names. In Vietnam, it is known as *Tet Nguyen Dan*, while Korea celebrates *Sol*, Cambodia commemorates *Chaul Chnam Thmey*, and Thailand enjoys *Songkran*, which occurs in April. China recognizes the Spring Festival, *Chuen Jie*, when friends and family come together to wish one another happiness and pay respects to ancestors in a celebration that begins on the New Year and continues for 15 days.

Different lunar zodiac animals

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

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 Water Tiger, which was last celebrated 60 years ago in 1962. After exiting on January 21, 2023, the Water Tiger will not return until 2082.

According to Chinese astrology, people born in the Year of the Tiger (1914, 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010, and 2022) are generally considered to be brave, confident, hardworking individuals who are lovable and optimistic. They are also known for their tendency to be aggressive, impatient, and stubborn, and can be moody and vain. Water Tigers — including those born between February 1, 2022 and January 21, 2023 — are open-minded, thoughtful, dynamic, and wise, but can also be demanding, impatient, and critical.

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 usually ushers in China’s busiest travel season, a time when families journey great distances to celebrate with loved ones. During the continuing coronavirus pandemic, however, people have once again been asked to scale back travel and to gather in smaller groups. In Thailand, revellers would typically 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. Chinese traditionally eat rice cakes and dumplings, Vietnamese dine on a kind of rice cake called *banh trung*, and people in Korea prepare 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 usually 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 Rabbit, from January 22, 2023 to February 9, 2024. Have a safe and prosperous Year of the Tiger!

What sign are you?

Find the year you were born. Those born in January or February should consult page 12.

- 1900, 1912, 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008, 2020 — Rat
- 1901, 1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021 — Ox
- 1902, 1914, 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010, 2022 — Tiger
- 1903, 1915, 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011, 2023 — Rabbit
- 1904, 1916, 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012, 2024 — Dragon
- 1905, 1917, 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013, 2025 — Snake
- 1906, 1918, 1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014, 2026 — Horse
- 1907, 1919, 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015, 2027 — Sheep
- 1908, 1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016, 2028 — Monkey
- 1909, 1921, 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017, 2029 — Rooster
- 1910, 1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018, 2030 — Dog
- 1911, 1923, 1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019, 2031 — Pig

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The Gregorian and Chinese lunar calendars

Animal	Gregorian	Chinese
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
Rooster	February 13, 2029	Year 4727
Dog	February 3, 2030	Year 4728
Pig	January 23, 2031	Year 4729
Rat	February 11, 2032	Year 4730
Ox	January 31, 2033	Year 4731

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 Tiger!
Horoscopes by Madame Mingmei begin on page 14.

The Year of the Tiger

The Tiger is the third animal of the lunar zodiac. Those born under the Tiger sign are generally considered to be respectful, idealistic, thoughtful individuals who are generous and warmhearted. They are also known for their tendency to be suspicious and at times can be reckless and hot-headed. Tigers born between February 1, 2022 and January 21, 2023 are Water Tigers. The water element makes for Tigers who see things clearly due to their mostly calm nature and ability to view situations objectively. Water Tigers tend to be sensitive and try to be aware of the feelings of others. They are open-minded and always attempt to interpret situations in a fair manner.

Tiger facts

- Year of the Tiger:** February 1, 2022 to January 21, 2023
- Chinese Calendar Year:** 4720
- Tiger Years:** 1902, 1914, 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010, 2022
- Characteristics:** Those born in the Year of the Tiger are honorable and independent. They have magnetic personalities and are sometimes hard to resist. “Born leader” is often a term used to describe Tigers and people tend to have confidence in their abilities. Tiger people are daring, hate to be ignored, and often take risks even if they don’t need to.
- Best careers:** Tigers tend to be good athletes, entrepreneurs, designers, actors, musicians, police officers, teachers, stockbrokers, writers, and politicians.
- Born in the Year of the Tiger:** Thich Nhat Hanh, Sun Yat-sen, Michelle Yeoh, Timothy Mo, Jiang Zemin, Ho Chi Minh, Queen Elizabeth II, Stevie Wonder, Marilyn Monroe, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Karl Marx, Beatrix Potter, Kofi Annan.