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# Holidays Around The World: Celebrate Chinese New Year: With Fireworks, Dragons, And Lanterns



## Synopsis

Children have never had so many reasons to learn how Chinese people everywhere ring in the new and ring out the old. As China takes its new place on the global stage, understanding Chinese culture and values becomes ever more essential to our next generation. For two joyous weeks red is all around. The color represents luck and happiness. Children receive money wrapped in red paper, and friends and loved ones exchange poems written on red paper. The Chinese New Year is also an opportunity to remember ancestors, and to wish peace and happiness to friends and family. The holiday ends with the Festival of Lanterns, as many large communities stage the famous Dragon Dance. Fireworks, parades, lanterns, presents, and feasts: these are some of the joys experienced by all who observe Chinese New Year. Celebrate Chinese New Year is the latest, timely addition to National Geographic's popular Holidays Around the World series. With 25 colorful images and a simple, educational text, the book is a lively invitation to revel in this child-friendly, national and international holiday. Carolyn Otto brings the historical and cultural aspects of the Chinese New Year into focus, and young readers experience the full flavor of an event celebrated by over a billion people in China, and countless others worldwide. National Geographic supports K-12 educators with ELA Common Core Resources. Visit [www.natgeoed.org/commoncore](http://www.natgeoed.org/commoncore) for more information.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (17 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #212,634 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in [Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Chinese New Year](#) #104 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Asian & Asian American](#) #178 in [Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Non-religious](#)

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

## Customer Reviews

Chinese New Year, a holiday that is celebrated by "millions and millions" of people around the world begins on the first new moon of the new year. This holiday is typically celebrated for a week, but was "traditionally celebrated for 15 days," in which time the moon beame full. It's an exciting festival and everyone prepares for it long in advance. Everyone has to shop, clean house and clean up the streets. It is as if all the old will be swept away and the doors open to a happy and prosperous new year. Everyone decorates with bright colors, especially the color red because that portends good luck. Gold of course signifies wealth. On red paper people use Chinese characters to write couplets, "poems or signs, calling out happy wishes and asking for good luck." These are hung around the doorway in each home because that is "where the new year will enter" everyone's home. Lots of food is prepared for the celebration and each food has a special meaning. Once all is ready and New Year's Eve arrives, people gather and celebrate. At midnight everyone opens their "doors and windows . . . to let the old year out." Let the celebration begin! This bright, exciting and colorful book brings the Chinese New Year to life. The numerous vibrant photographs on each page combined with the text are very informative and draw the reader in very quickly. In the back of the book are more facts about the holiday, instructions on how to make a Chinese lantern, a discussion about the Chinese calender, a recipe for fortune cookies, instructions on how to play the Drum and Flower Game, a glossary, a section discussing the origins of the holiday and additional recommended books and web sites. Do you stay awake to scare the Niǎn away from your house? "Bang, clang, boom!"

I like this book but wish to have more updated information. But, it is still good book for ABC kids to learn about their culture and tradition. It come with games and information that my suitable for american born children. Because those fortune cookies only created and popular in US because of Chinatown restaurant created that as a sweet treats. I am born and raised in HK and I never have one or see one until coming to US. So, it is not traditional to Chinese culture but it is at US Chinatown only. So it is a book for american born Chinese (ABC). :)

Great photos full of color and facts about this celebration. I used this in my pre-school (as a point to look and discuss) as well as my son's kindergarten class (I skipped over some of the longer paragraphs), but my 8 year old enjoyed reading it in entirety. The kids all had their eyes glued to the

pages and were excited to learn about the interesting points of this cultural celebration.

Super compelling photographs in it that have a big wow-factor for kids and adults (including ones of Shanghai, a dinner table in Shanxi, Xi'an all lit up, children in Inner Mongolia, a parade in London, dancers in Vancouver, and fireworks in Guiyang). Includes great information without putting too many words on a page too--something that could turn the bedtime book reading into a bad scene. And, it has a great resource section in the back with facts, how to make a Chinese lantern and fortune cookies (which they do point out are an invention of either the Japanese or Chinese Americans), and where to go for more information including other books and websites. Good for real little ones if you want to just talk about the pictures and interesting enough to keep the attention of older kids (and adults). See my reviews of other CNY kids' books on my blog - [www\(dot\)myoverthinking\(dot\)com](http://www.myoverthinking.com) - look for the post dated January 25, 2012

The book illustrates really beautiful, and provide lots of information about the Chinese new year. But I really hope I can find a book that does not only use Cantonese "Gung Hay Fat Choy" for the new year wish. It is also necessary to have Mandarin "Gong Xi Fa Cai", considering there are lot more Chinese speaking Mandarin than Cantonese.

When China celebrates its new year millions of people participate. This holiday begins on the first new moon. This brings a time of hope and promise. Participants shop for presents, food and clothing and clean their homes to sweep away the bad luck. Traditionally this celebration lasted 15 days, now it is just one week. Fireworks are a big part of this celebration. Families honor the elders of their family and the ancestors. There is even a lantern celebration on the 15th day. Readers will learn so much about the Chinese New Year. Famed National Geographic photos are found throughout the pages with fun facts. Readers will also find a Chinese calendar and zodiac. A recipe for fortune cookies will help young readers get into the spirit. Maps, a glossary and plenty of other resources can be found for kids who want to know more. Parents and teachers will love this treasure trove of information about the Chinese New Year.

I'm Chinese and I think this book is very well written. It covers various aspects of the most important holiday for the Chinese. Lots of great photos too!

This book had beautiful illustrations that really show the essence of Chinese New Year and make

you want to celebrate it. The text was informative and well done.

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