新年快乐

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Background behind Chinese New Year

• Chinese New Year occurs on the second new moon after the winter solstice
• Its date falls between January 21 and February 20
• It is believed that Chinese New Year began in the Shang Dynasty
• The holiday began as a time for feasting and to honor household and heavenly deities, as well as ancestors
The story of 年 (Nián)
年 Dance
Tradition of The Red Envelopes

- It is tradition on Chinese New Year for married couples to give children these envelopes with money.
- These envelopes are called 紅包 which is pronounced as Hóngbāo.
- Those who receive a red envelope are wished another safe and peaceful year.
The Evolution of Chinese New Year

• In 1912 they abolished Chinese New Year and joined the Gregorian calendar
• After 1949 they renamed Chinese New Year the Spring Festival
Common Phrase Used on Chinese New Year

• 春节快乐 (chūnjié kuàilè)
• 年年有余 (niánnián yǒuyú)
• 恭喜发财 (gōngxǐ fācái)
Comparison To The U.S. New Year

- The United States and China both celebrate the new year on January first.
- China still celebrates the old tradition of Chinese New Year on the historic date to preserve the culture but its official name is the Spring Festival.
- Chinese Spring Festival is about family and culture while U.S. New Years is just about partying.
sources

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