



A festival can celebrate:

- An event -- like a country's independence or war victory.
- A tradition -- like giving thanks for food, health, ancestors.
- A religious event -- such as Easter, Christmas, Passover.

Let's look at a few festivals from the Chinese culture.

We look at five festivals:

- Chinese New Year
- Harbin Ice and Snow Festival
- Buddha's Birthday
- Mid-Autumn Festival
- Grave Sweeping Days

Chinese New Year

- What is a year?
- When is Chinese New Year?
- What do Chinese people do for Chinese New Year?
- What is the Chinese calendar?

What is a Day?

– One rotation of Earth on its axis.

What is a month?

– Time for Moon to orbit Earth.
– Around 29 ½ days (more precisely 29.530 days).

What is a year?

– Western (Solar) Calendar and Chinese (Lunar) calendar answer that question differently.

Western (Solar) calendar, a year = 1 Earth orbit of the sun:

- Earth orbit of the sun, is 365 ¼ days.
- 12 months in a year.
- 7 x 31 days + 4 x 30 days + 1 x 28 days = 365 (not 365 ¼).
- We add a leap day every four years.

Chinese (Lunar) calendar, 1 year = 12 orbits of the moon around earth.

- Orbits take around 29-½ days (precisely 29.530 days).
- Lunar calendar has 6 x 30-day months + 6 x 29 day months = total 354 days.
- So Lunar calendar has a leap month 7 times in each 19 years: $(12 \times 354) + (7 \times 384) / 19 = 365$.

When does a year begin?

- Basis for starting a year in both Western and Lunar calendars is Winter Solstice - Dec 21).
- Western calendar: New Year has been January 1 for 2,700 years. So it is not religious.

Phases of the moon



But why do we see different phases of the moon?

A New Moon is the first visible crescent of the Moon after conjunction with the Sun.

Northern hemisphere

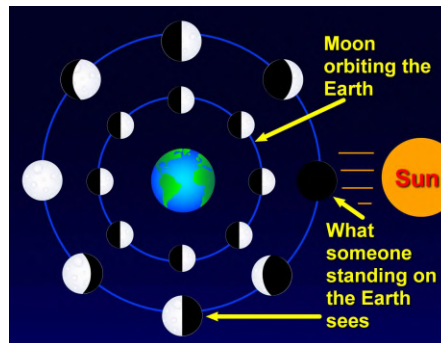
Shaped like letter D:

Southern hemisphere

Shaped like letter C:



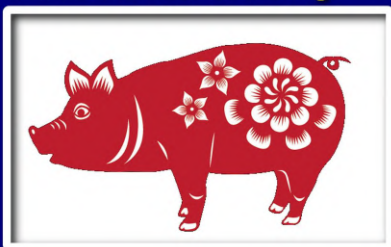
But why do we see different phases of the moon?



Chinese year begins on second new moon after Winter Solstice February 5, 2019

- The Chinese name for New Year is "Spring Festival".
- Celebrates Spring (season begins at Chinese New Year).
- Celebrates end of Winter.
- Spring = New Beginning.

Feb 5, 2019 - Jan 24, 2020 will be the Year of the Pig:



What do people do for New Year's?

- Clean your house well
- Decorate with flowers and red banners and lanterns
- Annual family reunion dinner
- Firecrackers and fireworks
- Lion dances
- Kumquat trees = good luck
- Red pockets = Lai See = gifts
- Red colored eggs = new start





Traditional children's New Year clothes



All the office buildings are decorated full height in lights



Flowers!



Chinese New Year Annual Flower Show



Orchids

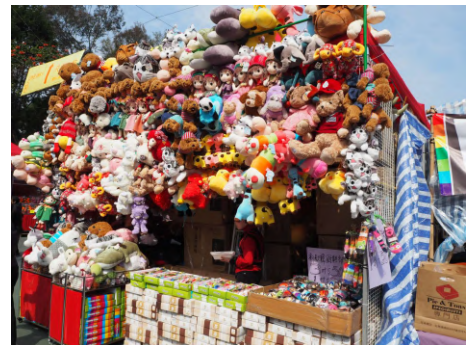


Kumquat Trees
Like a small orange.
Cantonese: Gam Gat.
Gam = Gold
Gat = Good Luck



Cow's Udder Plant.
Chinese also call it "100 sons and 500 grandsons".
Used for decorations only at Chinese New Year.
Poisonous. Cannot eat.









Lai See envelopes for sale in the market



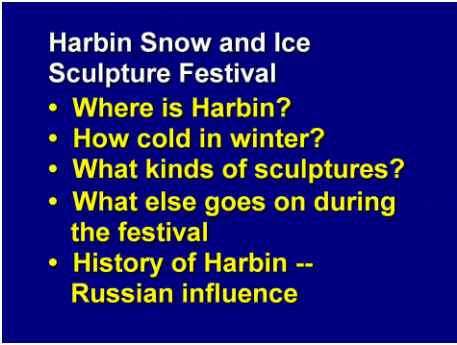
Lai See (Red Pockets)

- Gift - older to younger and boss to workers
- Money amount never has a 4 in it ("death")
- Brand new bills

Hong Kong Money



Red Eggs



Harbin Snow and Ice Sculpture Festival

- Where is Harbin?
- How cold in winter?
- What kinds of sculptures?
- What else goes on during the festival
- History of Harbin -- Russian influence



Harbin Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival



Snow Work Snow Dream

第25届中国·哈尔滨太阳岛雪博会



Festival held in January each year



Songhua River



Ice blocks cut from Songhua River



20 to 30 degrees below zero daily



Largest ice and snow festival in the world!



Even though Harbin is part of China, it was settled 1900 by Russians.

- Many were Jewish.
- So Harbin culture, architecture, and food is very Russian.
- In 1930s Japan invaded China. Very cruel to Russians and Jews. So most went back to Russia or Eastern Europe.



Pork, mushroom, and cabbage dumplings



Noodles with chicken and mushrooms



Really HOT chilli noodles



Stuffed Cabbage (Russian)



Borscht -- Russian beet soup with potatoes



Beef stroganoff (Russian dish)



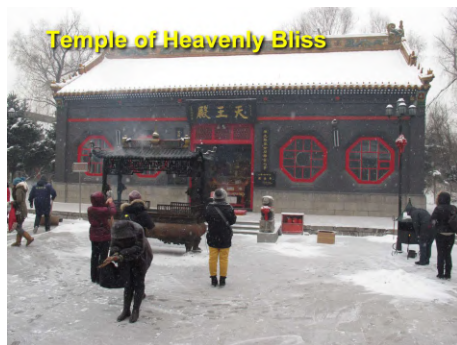
Ox Tongue



Potato dumplings (Russian and Polish -- known as Pierogi)



Central Street (Harbin Main Street)



Temple of Heavenly Bliss



Seven story pagoda

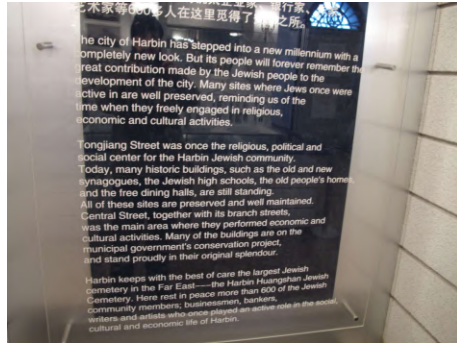




Confucius Temple

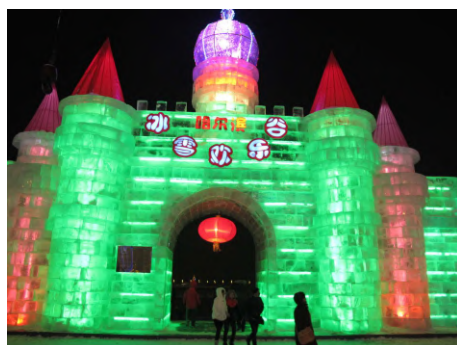
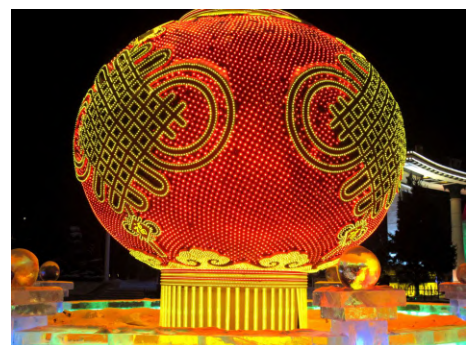


Synagogue and Jewish Museum



Ice sculptures in Zhaolin Park





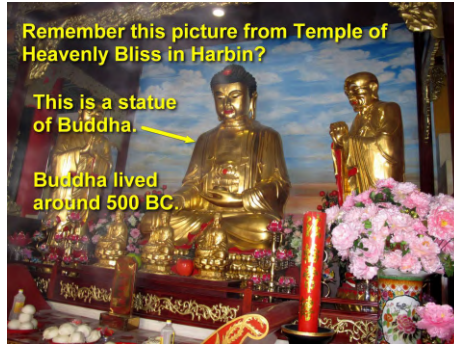
Buddha's Birthday

- Who was Buddha?
- When did he live?
- When is his birthday?
- What did he teach?

Remember this picture from Temple of Heavenly Bliss in Harbin?

This is a statue of Buddha.

Buddha lived around 500 BC.



Buddhism today

- Religion
- About 600,000,000 people
- Mainly in Asia
- 5 precepts (main rules)
 - Kill nothing that has feelings
 - Do not steal
 - Do not lie
 - Do not live for pleasure
 - No intoxicants (drugs/alcohol)

Buddhism

- A religion with no god.
- No organised worship service.
- Individual prayer and actions.
- Follow 5 precepts.
- Study with wise teachers.
- Search for peace and happiness.



Buddha's birthday is late April or May
In Hong Kong -- big parade



Offering -- whole pig



Lion Dance







Lots of drums and cymbals to scare away ghosts



Notice the tracks





Mid-Autumn Festival (also called Lantern Festival)

- What does it celebrate?
- Family Dinners
- Lanterns
- Mooncakes
- Relationship to Mongolia (which we studied in September)

Mid-Autumn Festival is Chinese Thanksgiving.

- Same for over 3000 years.
- Full moon between early September and early October (15th day of 8th month).
- Moon worship.

Was Sept 24, 2018 

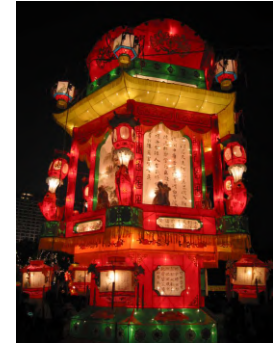
Mooncakes eaten at Mid-Autumn:

In 1400s China tried to overthrow Mongol rule. Chinese General sent messages to troops hidden in mooncakes.

"Attack at full moon!"







Grave-Sweeping Day (also called Ancestors' Day)

- Actually two times a year
 - Ching Ming Festival - April
 - Chung Yeung Festival - Oct.
- Importance of family
- Go to graves to pray, pay respects, clean, offerings

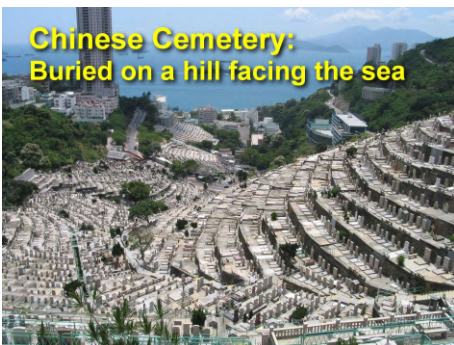
Importance of family

- 3 generations live together
- Adult children provide funds when parents get old
- Adult children care for parents when they are sick
- Many generations of family history recorded and studied
- "Clan"

Cheung Yeung is also called Double Ninth Festival because it falls on 9th day of 9th month.

1. Clean ancestral graves, repaint inscriptions, leave offerings.
2. Recently has become a Senior Citizen Day. Respect elders.
3. Personal cleansing: Climb a hill. Drink chrysanthemum tea.

It's tomorrow: Oct 17, 2018!







Chinese New Year – Jan 21 to Feb 20
Harbin Ice & Snow – Jan and Feb
Buddha Birthday – 8th day of 4th
Chinese month (late April-early May)
Mid-Autumn Festival – 15th day of 8th
Chinese month (Sept or Oct)
Ching Ming – 15th day after Spring
Equinox (4 or 5 April)
Chung Yeung Festival aka Double
Ninth Festival – ninth day of the ninth
Chinese month (October)

Hong Kong Public Holidays 2019

1 Jan	Tue	New Year's Day
5 Feb	Tue	Lunar New Year
6 Feb	Wed	Second Day of Lunar New Year
7 Feb	Thu	Third Day of Lunar New Year
5 Apr	Fri	Ching Ming Festival (Grave Sweeping)
19 Apr	Fri	Good Friday
20 Apr	Sat	Day Following Good Friday
22 Apr	Mon	Easter Monday
1 May	Wed	Labour Day
12 May	Sun	Birthday of Buddha
13 May	Mon	Birthday of Buddha Holiday
7 Jun	Fri	Tuen Ng Festival (Dragon Boat)
1 Jul	Mon	HKSAR Establishment Day
14 Sep	Sat	Day Following Mid-Autumn Festival
1 Oct	Tue	China National Day
7 Oct	Mon	Chung Yeung Festival (Grave Sweeping)
25 Dec	Wed	Christmas Day
26 Dec	Thu	First Weekday After Christmas Day

