









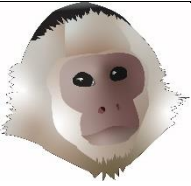


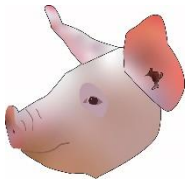

Lunarfest (At Home) 2021 Chinese New Year Bingo Call List






	<p>Rat</p>	<p>Rat was the first animal in the Chinese zodiac and the winner of the Emperor's race¹ that determined the order of the Chinese zodiac. Optimistic, kind, and energetic, people born in the Rat year are liked by all. They are sensitive to others' emotions but are stubborn in their opinions.</p>
	<p>Ox</p>	<p>Ox was the second animal to cross the finish line. Oxen are honest and earnest. They are low key and never look for praise or to be the center of attention. Although this often hides their talent, they gain recognition through their hard work. Rarely losing their temper, they think logically and make great leaders.</p>
	<p>Tiger</p>	<p>Tiger was the third-place finisher. Tigers are kind and benevolent. Tigers are drawn to creative hobbies that call for imagination. Tigers are very perseverant, and no matter how many difficulties or obstacles they face, they will never give up.</p>





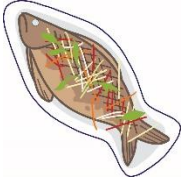
¹ Long ago, the emperor of China decided his people needed a better way to measure time. He devised a twelve-year cycle and organized a great race. The first twelve animals to cross the finish line would each get to represent one year in the cycle. The racecourse was long and arduous, passing through a dense forest and over a treacherous river.





Cat and Rat were best friends and wanted desperately to win the race together. They raced through the forest but could not figure out how to safely cross the river. While trying to figure out how to cross the river, they spotted Kind Ox and asked if they could ride across on Ox's back. Ox agreed with the idea that Cat and Rat would allow Ox to cross the finish line first. As Ox neared the other side, Rat pushed Cat into the river and hopped off scurrying across the finish line before Ox to become the first in the twelve-year cycle! Ox finished second. Tiger braved the strong currents and came in third. Lucky Rabbit found stones and logs to hop across the river to land in fourth. Noble Dragon stopped along the way to help people in need so placed sixth. To reward his noble act, the emperor told Dragon his son could be sixth after him. His son had not accompanied him, but Snake slithered forward just as Horse was about to cross and claimed Dragon as his adoptive father. Thus, Snake became sixth. Horse crossed right after in seventh. Sheep, Monkey and Rooster had found a raft and worked together to cross the river coming in eighth, ninth and tenth respectively. Playful Dog sauntered across in eleventh after frolicking in the river. Swift Pig came in twelfth after stopping for snacks along the race. And thus, became the Chinese Zodiac: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig.

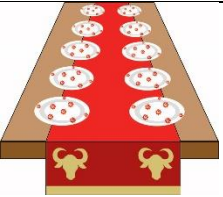
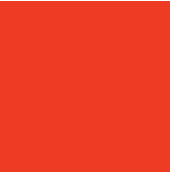


	<p>Rabbit</p>	<p>Rabbit came in fourth in the Great Race. With their good reasoning skills and attention to detail, Rabbits make great scholars. They are socializers with an attractive aura. They are move steadily towards their goal, no matter what discouragement they may receive.</p>
	<p>Dragon</p>	<p>Dragon came in fifth despite being able to fly because Dragon stopped in the middle of the race to rescue a village from fire. Unlike in Western culture, dragons in Chinese culture are considered noble and lucky. Men born in the Dragon year are steadfast in their beliefs, diligent in their responsibilities, and trustworthy. People rarely lose trust in these honest men. Women born in the Dragon year are mesmerizing and strong. If you underestimate them, they will stand up and defeat you.</p>
	<p>Snake</p>	<p>Snake finished sixth. Snakes are humorous and sophisticated. In a chaotic environment, they are the eye of the storm. Snakes calmly hold their ground and work out solutions. Do not judge a Snake by its cover. Behind their calmness, they are alert and observant.</p>
	<p>Horse</p>	<p>Horse came in seventh place. Horses are full of energy. Both studious and athletic, they are strong believers of chasing after their dreams. Rather than wealth or fame, happiness is what motivates them.</p>
	<p>Sheep/Ram</p>	<p>Sheep or ram came in eighth place. Sheep are most notably able to persevere through any difficulty. Quiet observers, Sheep consider all aspects of anything before deciding. They're also generous with their time and money.</p>

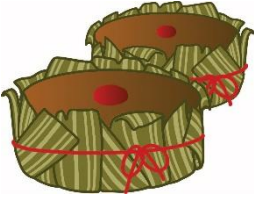


	<p>Monkey</p>	<p>Monkey followed in ninth. Monkeys' most defining trait is their intelligence. As children, they win awards and the praises of teachers. As adults, they gain professional recognition and make great leaders. As calm and logical teachers, they view everyone as teachers. Monkeys are always able to triumph and be the final winner.</p>
	<p>Rooster</p>	<p>Rooster rounded out the top ten. Roosters are serious in their work. They are straightforward and decisive in their actions. They are logical and good at managing teams. No matter how difficult something is, they won't give up. Family is a refuge and paradise for them.</p>
	<p>Dog</p>	<p>Dog trotted in to snag the second to last spot. A Dog's most defining characteristic is their loyalty. They will never abandon their friends, family or work. Honest and just, they are popular in social circles. Everyone needs a Dog friend for advice and help.</p>
	<p>Pig</p>	<p>Despite stopping for a snack along the way, Pig was able to secure the twelfth and final spot in the Zodiac. Pigs are very realistic. Though not wasteful spenders, they will let themselves enjoy life. They love entertainment and will occasionally treat themselves. They are energetic and are always enthusiastic.</p>
	<p>Lantern</p>	<p>Lanterns are a ubiquitous Chinese New Year celebration. They are most often used as decorations inside and out of businesses, homes, and streets. The most complex and beautiful lanterns are seen on the last day of Chinese New Year, Lantern Festival, when thousands of lanterns are lit. The most common form during Lantern Festival is the kongming lantern (孔明灯) which represents hope, happiness, and success.</p>

	<p>Noodles</p>	<p>Noodles are a must have at Chinese New Year. The specific noodles eaten on Chinese New Year are called longevity noodles (长寿面). With longevity noodles, the longer the noodle, the longer your life. So do not cut the noodles and chew as little as possible! Slurping is encouraged!</p>
	<p>Red Envelope</p>	<p>Red envelopes are many children's favorite part of Chinese New Year. These red envelopes are filled with money and gifted to children. The money given is called money to anchor the year (压岁钱) and is also seen as lucky money for the New Year. Envelopes are usually given by older generations to younger generations, but younger people can also give them to older generations as a wish of longevity and gratitude.</p>
	<p>Dumplings</p>	<p>Another staple of the Chinese New Year feast, dumplings are always seen on the table. In Chinese, dumplings (饺子) sounds like the word for the exchange between the old and the new year (交子). So, by eating dumplings, you are sending away the old and welcoming the new. Shaped like ancient Chinese money (gold and silver ingots), dumplings also represent wealth and prosperity.</p>
	<p>Firecrackers</p>	<p>Traditionally, firecrackers were used to ward off the evil spirits. At the Lunar New Year, legend says the noise scared away the New Year Monster (Nian). So to protect the village, firecrackers became a New Year tradition. Nowadays, a New Year celebration wouldn't be complete without lots of firecrackers (either physical or as decoration).</p>
	<p>Fireworks</p>	<p>Lunar New Year is the time of the year where the most fireworks are used worldwide. Like firecrackers, fireworks are used to ward off evil spirits, but they are also a symbol of celebration. Due to pollution issues, many cities have banned fireworks in China. However, during the Lunar New Year, you will still hear the sounds and sights of fireworks for the duration of the celebration.</p>

	<p>Couplets</p>	<p>Blessings are written on pieces of red paper and hung on the left and right sides of the door to bring goodness into the New Year. Sometimes, a shorter blessing is also placed above the door. In modern times, couplets can be seen on almost every door during the Lunar New Year. It is important that each side has the same number of characters.</p>
	<p>Lion Dance</p>	<p>Accompanied by music and firecrackers, the lion dance is one of the loudest and most festive traditions of Lunar New Year celebrations. Lions are seen as wise and powerful creatures so their appearance at New Year is meant to protect people from the evil spirits; they chase away the bad luck and bring in the good luck and wealth.</p>
	<p>Kitchen God</p>	<p>The Kitchen God or Stove God represents family unity, and as its name states, it lives in the kitchen. The Kitchen God is a paper image hung in each family's kitchen and watches over the family ensuring that they have plentiful food. Each year the Kitchen God goes to Heaven to report to Jade Emperor on the family which determines their prosperity for the next year. At Lunar New Year, before sending the Kitchen God to Heaven (burning the paper), families will put honey on the lips of the Kitchen God to ensure a sweet report.</p>
	<p>New Clothes</p>	<p>New clothes are typically worn on Lunar New Year, so that the evil spirits won't be able to recognize you and you will have good luck in the coming year. Although many people may wear traditional clothes for New Year, nowadays many people choose modern clothes to ring in the new year.</p>
	<p>Fish</p>	<p>Fish is another must have during Chinese New Year. A table without fish would be incomplete. But it must be a whole fish! Fish represent prosperity and wealth because the Chinese word for fish is pronounced the same as the word for surplus or extra. Eating fish is meant to bring on a surplus of wealth in the new year.</p>

	<p>Kumquats/Oranges</p>	<p>Like many other symbols of Chinese New Year, kumquats and oranges represent wealth and fortune. Many people will purchase or gift small orange and kumquat trees during the holiday season to bring wealth and good fortune. They are also added to New Year deserts, and of course, the juicy fruits are eaten as snacks. Gifts and decorations of orange trees are common as well.</p>
	<p>Upside-down Fu (福)</p>	<p>While calligraphy is seen everywhere during Lunar New Year, the upside-down fu (福) is likely the most used and seen. Fu means happiness or fortune. But why is it upside down? According to legend, the Emperor had instructed every family to paste a fu character on their door to bring fortune to the whole kingdom. But one illiterate family hung it upside down and was ordered to death. The kind and noble Empress stepped in to save them explaining that “upside down” (倒) was a homophone of “here” (到). So by placing the fu upside down, the family was saying that fu is here. Today, people hang their fu upside down to ensure that “fu is here” in their homes and to honor the kind Empress.</p>
	<p>Paper Cutting</p>	<p>Paper cutting is a beautifully intricate Chinese folk art that can be seen in windows year-round but especially during Chinese New Year. Traditionally, they are glued to the window using rice glue. The paper cuts are almost always made of red paper and depict auspicious symbols and words.</p>
	<p>Red Underwear</p>	<p>When the upcoming Lunar New Year is the zodiac animal that you were born under, it is believed you’re more susceptible to catching the attention of demons. The way to protect yourself is to wear red underwear. To ensure that bad luck doesn’t follow you, make sure you wear red underwear every day! In modern times, many people still follow this tradition. Although they may wear red every day in the form of shoe inserts, jewelry, belts and such, the most traditional is the wearing of red underwear.</p>

	<p>Family Reunion Dinner</p>	<p>One of the most important traditions at Chinese New Year is the family reunion dinner on New Year's eve. In fact, each year millions of people travel across China to get home for New Year's triggering a phenomenon now known as the "Great Migration." There are also certain days of the Lunar New Year season set aside for ensuring that all sides and members of the family have the opportunity to come together.</p>
	<p>Red (the color)</p>	<p>If you've ever seen anything related to Chinese New Year, it is highly likely that it was red--red envelopes, red clothes, red decorations. Why is everything red? Red is the color for good luck in China and scares away the bad fortune. Wearing red and decorating with red at Lunar New Year are crucial to ensure that you have good luck for the new year.</p>
	<p>Nian (年, New Year monster)</p>	<p>In ancient times there was a monster called Nian (年) that would come during New Year to terrorize and eat the villagers. The terrified villagers would always retreat into the mountains to hide. One year, a traveler arrived seeking shelter just as everyone was rushing into the mountains. No one would take him in except an old woman. To thank her, he vowed to protect her from Nian. He decorated the house in red, cooked a lucky meal, and shot off firecrackers when Nian came into the village. All the red and loud noises from the firecrackers drove Nian away. Realizing Nian was scared of the color red and loud noises, the villagers incorporated lots of each into their annual celebration to scare Nian away.</p>
	<p>Wishing Tree</p>	<p>The wishing tree is a Hong Kong tradition. People would write down their wishes for the new year onto pieces of paper, tie them to oranges, then throw the oranges at the tree. The higher your orange lands, the more likely your wish will come true. Nowadays, plastic oranges are used to protect the ancient tree. Wishing trees also exist in other forms around Hong Kong, like in museums or even on the Internet. If one's orange doesn't stay on a branch, it is important to keep throwing it until it does, or the wish won't come true.</p>

	<p>Nian Gao (年糕)</p>	<p>Nian gao are called rice cake or New Year's cake in English. They are a must for New Year and represent a wish to be successful and "taller" in the coming year because the Chinese words for "cake" and "tall" are homophones. Nian gao are made of sticky glutinous rice or yellow rice. In northern China, nian gao are usually served as dessert with jujube, sugar, or even deep fried. In southern China, nian gao are usually stir fried with vegetables and meat for a savory dish.</p>
	<p>Fa Gao (发糕)</p>	<p>Fa gao is a yummy, fluffy cake served at New Year's signaling wealth and fortune. The most important part of the fa gao is that it rises and splits correctly when served. Fa gao are made from a rice paste and fermented then steamed. It is said that the fluffier the cake and clearer the splits, the more luck it brings. Color can be added to fa gao using fruits, tea, or different flours.</p>
	<p>Tangyuan (汤圆)</p>	<p>In southern China, tangyuan or "soup balls" are filled with sweet fillings like red bean paste, black sesame, melted sugar, etc. These glutinous rice balls are boiled and served in either hot water or sweet soup. In the north, tangyuan are known as yuanxiao (元宵). Their round shape resembles the full moon and represent family reunions and unity. Like fa gao, tangyuan can be many different colors with different additions.</p>