

Chinese New Year customs

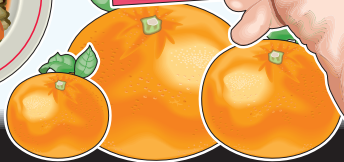
Chinese homes decorated with flowers such as **plum blossom**, to symbolise prosperity



Gifts to friends and family include **tangerines** and **oranges**, representing happiness, and **lai see** – decorative red envelope containing money

Food plays important role.

Traditional dishes include **whole fish**, for togetherness and abundance, and **uncut noodles**, symbolising long life



Lion dance believed to bring luck and happiness. All doors and windows must be open at midnight to allow old year out – firecrackers also see out old year and welcome new one. All debts to be settled and houses cleaned before new year