

Cultural News

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What date is Chinese New Year and why is this the Year of the Dog?

Chinese New Year is an amazing celebration observed by people around the world.

It marks the lunar New Year, compared to the Gregorian solar New Year, and is a chance for people to come together to wish for a future filled with prosperity and peace.

Streets and homes will be decorated, parades will be held, and presents will be given. Each year marks a new Chinese Zodiac, and 2018 is the Year of the Dog.

When is Chinese New Year 2018?

The Chinese New Year celebrations begin on Friday 16 February. The dates for Chinese New Year differ each year as it is based on the lunar calendar and normally falls between 21 January and 20 February.

The Chinese New Year has been associated with the Chinese Zodiac since the Spring Autumn Period (771 to 476 BC).

Why is this year the year of the dog?

The Chinese Zodiac runs on a cycle of 12 years, with each year denoting one of the 12 animals.

The 12 animals are rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and pig. And 2018 is the year of the dog.

This comes from an old story where the Jade Emperor ordered that animals would become part of the calendar. He stated that the first animals to arrive to him would get this honor

The cat and the rat were friends so decided to go together. The cat asked the rat to wake him up early the next day to go to the Emperor, but the next morning the rat was too excited and forgot his promise. The rat went straight there and saw all the other animals also on their way.

Since the others could run faster, the rat asked the ox if he could ride on his back in return for singing to him. He agreed, and those two made it there first (with the rat jumping in front).

The other animals arrived one by one which gave them their order in the Zodiac, but when the cat finally got there it was too late. The legend says that that's why cats and rats are enemies, and the cat chases the rat when he sees it.

Some other stories have different variations. For example, one states that the animals had to cross a river. Each one used a different trick which got them there slower or faster and gave them their places.

In this story, the Emperor was surprised the dog got there in eleventh place. The dog, despite being a good swimmer, enjoyed the clean water in the river so much that he stopped to have a bath in it.

Strengths of people born in the year of the dog are courage, loyalty, and responsibility. Weaknesses are said to be stubbornness and sensitivity.

This year is also the year of the 'Earth Dog' specifically, the qualities of which include being persistence, meticulously attentive, attractive, and with good fortune in wealth. The last earth dogs will have been born in 1958.

Celebrities born in the year of the dog are Winston Churchill, Benjamin Franklin, Jane Goodall, and Uma Thurman.



FEBRUARY 2018 CALENDAR

NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH
NORTH AMERICAN INCLUSION MONTH
NATIONAL WOMEN INVENTORS MONTH

- 1-7- African Heritage & Health Week
- 2- Imbolc- Lughnassad (Wicca/Pagan)
- 3- Setsebun Sai (Shinto)
- 4- Four Chaplains Sunday (Interfaith)
- 5-11- Children of Mental Health Week
- 8- Nirvana Day (Buddhism)
- 9-25- XXIII Winter Olympics
- 11- Transfiguration Sunday (Christian)
- 12- NAAC Day (US)
- 13- Mardi Gras (US)
- 14- Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)
- 16- Chinese New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)
- 18-24- Brotherhood/Sisterhood Week
- 19- Presidents Day (US)
- 26- March 1- Intercalary Day (Baha'i)

2018 Black History Theme, African Americans in Times of War



The 2018 theme, “African Americans in Times of War,” commemorates the centennial of the end of the First World War in 1918, and explores the complex meanings and implications of this international struggle and its aftermath. The First World War was initially termed by many as “The Great War,” “The War to End All Wars,” and the war “to make the world safe for democracy.”

Those very concepts provide a broad, useful framework for focusing on the roles of African Americans in every American war, from the Revolutionary War Era to that of the present “War against Terrorism.” Times of War inevitably provide the framework for many stories related to African American soldiers and sailors, veterans, and civilians. This is a theme filled with paradoxes of valor and defeat, of civil rights opportunities and setbacks, of struggles abroad and at home, of artistic creativity and repression, and of catastrophic loss of life and the righteous hope for peace.

The theme suggests that contemporary conditions, past and present, give us cause for critical pause in our studies and deliberations to consider the specific and unique issues faced by African Americans in times of war. These issues include opportunities for advancement and repression of opportunities during wartime; the struggle to integrate the military and experiences during segregation/apartheid and successful integration; veterans experiences once they returned home; the creation of African American Veteran of Foreign War posts; cultures and aesthetics of dissent; global/international discourse; including impact and influence of the Pan African Congresses; the impact of migration and urban development; educational opportunities; health care development; the roles of civil rights and Black liberation organizations, including the Black Power movement and the Black Panther Party; the roles of African American businesses, women, religious institutions, and the Black press; in the struggle abroad and at home; the topographies and spaces of Black military struggle, resistance and rebellion; and how Black soldiers and/veterans are documented and memorialized within public and private spaces. These diverse stories reveal war’s impact not only on men and women in uniform but on the larger African American community.

<https://asalh.org/african-americans-in-times-of-war/>

New Staff Interpreter Profile: Victoria Ayala

Victoria was born and raised in Mexico. She came to the US without knowing any English. As someone that has gone through some challenges to acclimate herself to her new life style in America, she understands the obstacles that new immigrants encountered in similar situations.

Understanding the culture of many Spanish speaking patients, at a personal level, helps her to be very sensitive to her role as a cultural clarifier and message converter. This allows her to accurately interpret the conversation between the patient and the provider without adding to or changing the meaning in any way.

Victoria earned her credential as a certified medical interpreter from American River College in 2013. She worked as a freelance interpreter for about four years before getting the full-time career job with UC Davis.

On a professional level, her biggest accomplishment was earning her credential as a certified medical interpreter. It was one of the hardest things she has ever done in her life, but it opened the door to a new and exciting opportunity.

Victoria learned the value of hard work from her earliest years. After she moved to the US, she worked in a restaurant business for about 10 years. This experience helped her developed customer service skills and she learned a lot about conflict management. This is a valuable experience, which made her the person she is today.

On a personal level, one of Victoria’s other accomplishments are her kids. Her daughter is a senior in high school and hopes to go to Stanford upon graduation. Her son is in middle school and hopes to be a veterinarian in the future.

In her spare time, Victoria loves to spend it with her kids. Sometimes they take a day trip to the mountains to play in the snow, take karate or kick boxing classes together, or go to visit family and friends in nearby cities. Last year, she had the opportunity to take her kids to her hometown in Mexico. It was the first time she’s been back, since her relocation to the US. It was very nostalgic for her. It gave her kids the opportunity to get to know their grandparents and other family members. It was an eye opening and heart warming experience for everyone.

In Victoria’s own words, “Working in the MIS department is really my dream job. Since I was a little girl, I always had the goal of working in a medical setting, maybe as a nurse or other health-related profession. When the opportunity presented itself for me to earn my credential as a certified medical interpreter, I jumped on it. After earning my certification, I worked as a freelance interpreter for about four years before being lucky enough to get this full-time career job with UCD. I am very happy to be here, and I am looking forward to a long and successful career”.

Welcome aboard, Victoria! We are happy to have you as part of the UC Davis Medical Center Interpreting Team.

