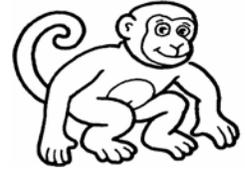


Name _____



The Chinese New Year



Read about some of the traditions of the Chinese New Year and answer the questions below.

Chinese New Year is the most important of the Chinese holidays. It is a time of celebration! It is a time of family, feasting, fireworks and gift-giving. The celebration usually lasts for 15 days. It begins on the first day of a new moon and ends with the full moon on the day of the Lantern Festival. Since the Chinese calendar is based on the lunar year, the date of the Chinese New Year changes every year. The Chinese calendar follows a 12-year pattern and each year is named after a different animal. Those being the Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat (or Sheep), Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig. 2016 will mark the Year of the Monkey and will begin on February 8, 2016.

Chinese New Year is a time when families get together to celebrate. It is also a special time to remember members of the family who have passed. In the days coming up to the New Year every family buys presents, decorations, food and new clothing. Houses are cleaned from top to bottom. The belief is that this sweeps out bad luck from the previous year and clears the way for good luck. However, they believe it is bad luck to clean on New Year's Day itself.

Families put lights up outside their homes much like Christmas lights. Doors and windows are often newly painted in red. They believe red is a lucky color. On New Year's Eve both narrow strips of red paper, called Chunlian, and bunches of firecracker decorations are hung on doors to bring good luck. Families also decorate their homes with lanterns and stickers. In the first three days of Chinese New Year celebrations, people living outside of the cities can light the bunches of firecrackers. They make a series of loud bangs. The idea is that the bangs scare away bad luck.

Questions

1. When does the Chinese New Year start in 2016? What will it be the year of? _____

2. Name four things that people do to celebrate The Chinese New Year?

3. Do you celebrate The Chinese New Year? If so describe some of the things that your family does to celebrate? If not, does the Chinese New Year sound fun to you? What sounds like the most fun? _____
