



For the most part here in the United States, we celebrate the New Year on January 1st. In Asia, however, they celebrate the Lunar New Year, which always falls on the new moon between January 21st and February 20th. The largest celebration of the Lunar New Year is in China, so it is also often called Chinese New Year: 春節.

The Chinese New Year is a 12-year cycle that assigns an animal and its characteristics to each year. Chinese New Year 2018 is **February 16th** - it marks the beginning of the Year of the Dog 狗. It is believed that the animal that is assigned to your birth year will affect your personality by giving you some of its characteristics.

The twelve animals of the Lunar calendar are all animals that are important to Chinese culture and they are often seen in artifacts, though not always in a mystical role. This jade bottle from the Qing Dynasty has carved and painted decorations of an archer, a dog, and two other men. There are also trees, shrubs, and a bird with arrow in it. The dog here is a companion that brings luck to the hunt.

In the Lunar Calendar the dog represents loyalty, bravery, diligence, sincerity, and reliability. This archer's thumb ring, also from the Qing Dynasty, is carved with two dogs, instilling the wearer with these virtues. The dog also appears in Chinese sculptures, paintings, and official state seals.



Jade Bottle
Qing Dynasty, China
Jade and Ivory

#2001-01-038



Thumb Ring
Qing Dynasty, China
Wood

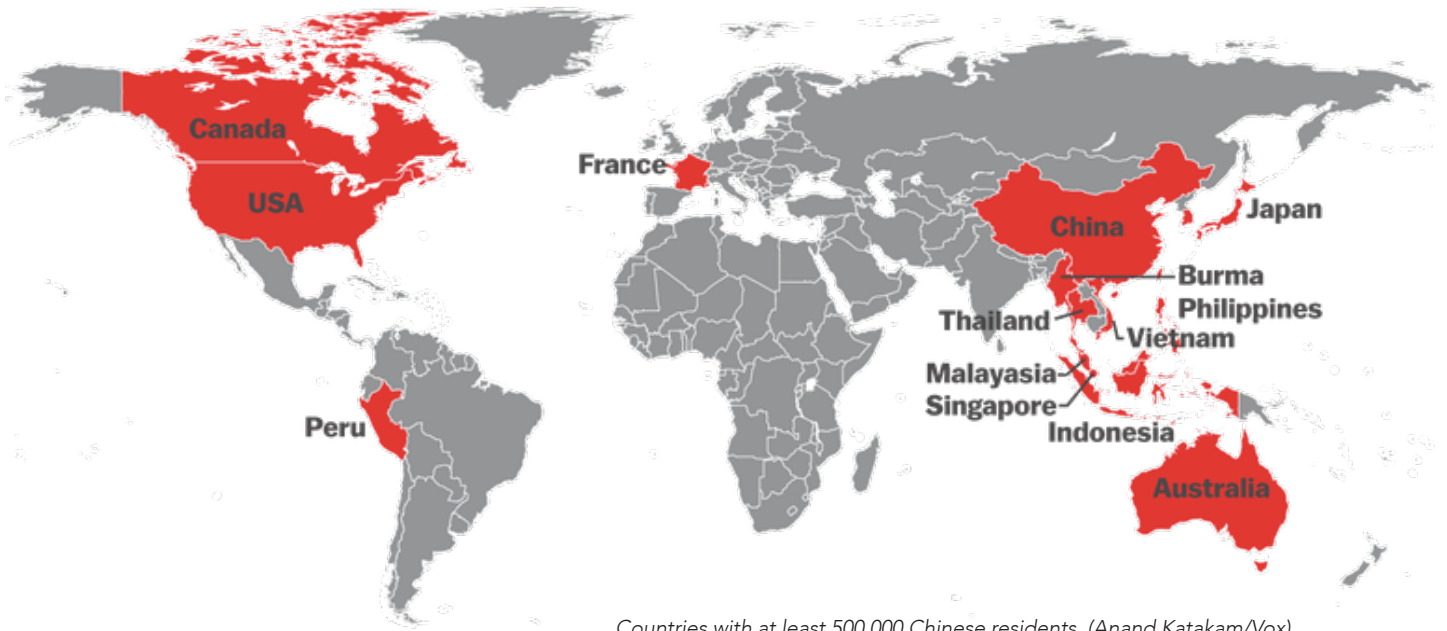
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To see more artifacts, visit the Museum of Anthropology's online databases: <https://anthromuseum.missouri.edu/?q=online-databases>

Tips for Using the Museum Databases

- Log in as a "Guest."
- Enter search terms into one or more fields and click the "Perform Find" button in the status area on the left-hand side of the screen.
- Use the book icon in the status area to move from one record to another in the found set.
- Click on the magnifying glass icon to return to find mode and perform additional searches.
- When finished working with a database, please be sure to click the "Log Out" button in the status area to close your session.



Countries with at least 500,000 Chinese residents. (Anand Katakam/Vox)