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THE ARTIFACT

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GALLOPING INTO 2026:

The Year of the Red Fiery Horse in the Chinese Horoscope

As the new year approaches, it's wise to prepare for the unique energies that each zodiac sign brings. In 2026, we'll be ushered in by the spirited Horse, according to the Eastern calendar. This vibrant creature promises both opportunities and challenges, making it a year of dynamic change and bold action.

The Year of the Red Fiery Horse: A Symbolic Overview

The Chinese zodiac is more than just decorative figures; it's an ancient system that assigns a distinct animal and element to each year. In 2026, the reigning sign will be the Horse, with the element Fire. Known as the Red Fiery Horse, the symbol is associated with energy, passion, and a relentless drive.



GALLOPING INTO 2026:

The Year of the Red Fiery Horse in the Chinese Horoscope

Characteristics of the Year

The Red Fiery Horse embodies several key traits:



Determination and change: Prepare for a year of bold decisions and transformative shifts. Whether it's a change in career, lifestyle, or personal aspirations, now is the time to act.



Unstoppable energy: Embrace the energy of the Horse. While it's exciting, remember to pace yourself to avoid burnout.



Emotionality and charisma: Your charisma will shine. Use this energy to inspire and connect with others.



Independence and leadership: Stand up for what you believe in. The Horse's spirit encourages leadership and assertiveness.

Opportunities and Challenges

The year of the Red Fiery Horse can be a time of both growth and conflict. Embrace the changes, but be prepared for moments of intensity. This could be an ideal time to pursue long-held dreams, whether it's a new career, a change in location, or a personal passion. In essence, 2026 is a year of action and ambition. Harness the energy of the Horse to make meaningful progress, but remember to balance your drive with rest and reflection.

By Girfanova E.

WHAT TO WEAR TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR

New Year 2026 will be under the auspices of the Red Fire Horse, symbolizing energy, freedom and success. To attract good luck and financial well-being in the coming year, it is important to choose the right outfit and attributes for the celebration.

The main colors relevant in 2026 are **red, orange and gold**. They symbolize warmth, joy and wealth. It is recommended to choose bright and rich outfits that will emphasize your individuality.

Favour natural fabrics such as silk, cotton or linen. They create comfort and a stylish look. As for styles, choose things with elements of dynamics and movement: dresses with skirts that sway beautifully, or costumes with interesting details.



new year

WHAT TO WEAR TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR

Don't forget about accessories! Gold jewelry, bright bags and shoes will add a twist to your look. You can also use elements with the image of horses or symbols of fire.

To attract good luck, decorate your home with symbols of wealth – coins, red candles or horse figures. It is also worth preparing a festive table with dishes that are associated with abundance, for example, fruits and sweets.



By following these recommendations, you will be able to celebrate the New Year 2026 in style and with a positive attitude, which will help attract good luck and financial well-being for the whole year!



By Khamitova D.

HOW WINTER IS CELEBRATED IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD

Winter in many countries around the world is a time of celebrations, traditions, and cultural events. Despite differences in climate, religion, and ways of life, it is during the winter period that people tend to reflect on the past year, spend time with their families, and preserve national customs. The traditions of celebrating winter in different parts of the world have their own distinctive features and reflect the cultural identity of each nation.

In Russia, the main winter holiday is New Year. It has a secular character and is widely celebrated throughout the country. Preparations for the holiday include decorating homes and New Year trees, preparing festive dishes, and exchanging gifts. **New Year is one of the most anticipated events of the year and brings together people of all ages.**

In European countries and the United States, Christmas, celebrated on December 25, holds a significant place during the winter season. This holiday is associated with family traditions, charity, and festive city decorations.



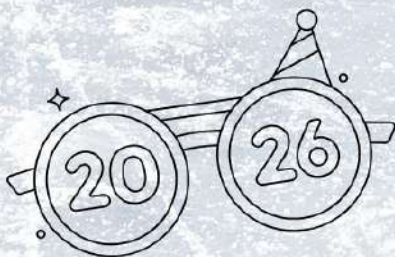
In a number of European countries, such as Germany and Austria, Christmas markets are popular, where visitors can find traditional foods, souvenirs, and handmade crafts.

HOW WINTER IS CELEBRATED IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD



In Japan, winter is associated with the celebration of the New Year, known as Shōgatsu. This holiday has great cultural significance. Japanese people prepare for it in advance by cleaning their homes, cooking traditional dishes, and observing rituals aimed at attracting good luck and prosperity in the coming year. Special attention is paid to family values and respect for tradition.

In India, the winter season includes the celebration of Diwali, known as the Festival of Lights. It symbolizes the victory of good over evil and light over darkness. During the festival, homes are decorated with lamps, candles are lit, and mass celebrations and family gatherings take place.



In Australia, winter holidays are celebrated in a warm climate, as it is summer there at this time of year. Nevertheless, holidays such as New Year remain significant. They are often celebrated outdoors, on beaches, or during family picnics.

Thus, winter is celebrated differently across the world; however, in all cultures it is associated with expectations of renewal, rest, and the strengthening of social bonds. Regardless of climate conditions and traditions, winter holidays play an important role in society, contributing to the preservation of cultural heritage and the creation of a sense of unity among people.



By Mansurova A.

STEPHEN LEACOCK

(1869 – 1944)

Can you name at least two or three famous Canadian writers? I cannot, but there is one writer who is among my favourites. Let me begin with three lines about his biography from online sources.



Stephen Leacock (1869 – 1944) was a teacher, political scientist, writer, and humourist. Between 1915 and 1925, he was the most popular humourist in the English-speaking world. He was born in England but his family immigrated to Canada in 1876

When I was a sophomore, I took from the institute's library a Soviet edition of Leacock entitled "*Perfect Lover's Guide and Other Stories*" (1958) for my individual reading. It turned out to be extremely amusing and, moreover, rather easy for a beginner. Several years later I bought that book from a second-hand bookstore, and ordered several others from abroad (I think it was Amazon or Thriftbooks).

Here are some titles of Leacock's books: *Literary Lapses*, *Nonsense Novels*, *Moonbeams from the Larger Lunacy*, *Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town*, *Arcadian Adventures With the Idle Rich* (this book is more satirical), *My Discovery of England*, *Canada: The Foundations of Its Future*.

As I was surfing the web for Leacock's quotes, I noticed that most of them come from his works that I haven't read (including non-fiction). Try to guess which two are definitely from fiction.

STEPHEN LEACOCK

(1869 – 1944)

So, if you like the quotes, first read the “*Perfect Lover’s Guide...*” (available, for instance, on Ozon for a reasonable price) or some of Leacock’s earlier books (I think printed editions are not readily available in Russia, so go online).



Humor is the great thing, the saving thing after all. The minute it crops up, all our hardnesses yield, all our irritations and resentments flit away, and a sunny spirit takes their place.



American politicians do anything for money... English politicians take the money and won’t do anything.



Advertising: the science of arresting the human intelligence long enough to get money from it.



Success is 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration.



Hockey captures the essence of Canadian experience in the New World. In a land so inescapably and inhospitably cold, hockey is the chance of life, and an affirmation that despite the deathly chill of winter we are alive.



Being a specialist is one thing, getting a job is another.



He flung himself from the room, flung himself upon his horse and rode madly off in all directions.



Writing is not hard. Just get paper and pencil, sit down, and write as it occurs to you. The writing is easy – it’s the occurring that’s hard.



I always advise people never to give advice.



With the Great Detective, to think was to act, and to act was to think. Frequently he could do both together.



DIY NEW YEAR'S GIFTS



New Year is not only about gifts, but also about magic, attention, and warmth. The most touching gift is one made by hand. It says, "I was thinking of you, I put my time and a bit of my holiday joy into this." Here we will share simple ideas that anyone can try. Let's begin!



1. Edible gifts: delicious, stylish, flawless

The perfect choice for friends and family. A gift like this will never gather dust on a shelf!

Gingerbread Man. Buy ready-made honey or gingerbread cookies (if making the dough from scratch seems daunting). The magic is in the icing! Prepare royal icing (a mixture of powdered sugar with lemon juice or egg white), pour it into pastry bags or regular sturdy plastic bags, snip off a tiny corner — and decorate! Draw funny faces, patterns, or messages. Pack it in a clear craft bag, tie it with a ribbon — and your masterpiece is ready!



Scented Salt Dough Christmas Decorations. Mix up a batch of salt dough (1 cup flour, 1/2 cup salt, 1/2 cup water), roll it out, and cut into festive shapes like stars and little trees. Don't forget to poke a hole for hanging! Bake until rock solid. Once cool, let your inner artist out and paint them. For the magic touch, add a drop or two of festive essential oil (think orange, cinnamon, or fir) on the back. These ornaments decorate your tree and fill your home with holiday spirit!





DIY NEW YEAR'S GIFTS



2. Handmade Treasures for the Home and Soul



Mug Candle. Buy pre-made candle wicks with metal holders from a craft store. Melt candle gel or paraffin wax in a double boiler. Take a beautiful, unused mug (you can find one at a thrift store), set the wick in place, and pour in the wax. For extra coziness and fragrance, add coffee beans, a cinnamon stick, or dried orange slices around the edges while the wax is still slightly warm.



3. A Gift Made with Love



A Custom Photo Calendar for 2026. It's easy to create using even a basic graphic editor or Microsoft Word. Just download a 2026 calendar template, add a special photo to each month — choose images that match the season or hold personal meaning. Then simply print it at a photo studio on high-quality cardstock — and your unique gift is ready!



Making New Year magic is easier than you think. Put on your favorite holiday movie, light a candle, arm yourself with glue, paper, and don't forget your holiday spirit. Remember, the value of such a gift is measured not in money, but in the minutes you dedicated to thinking about your dear one.



**We hope your presents bring endless smiles! Happy New Year from
"The Artifact" student magazine team!**

By Nizaeva Y., Valiullina Z.




HOW TO CREATE A COZY ATMOSPHERE IN A ROOM?

Lighting


The main enemy of comfort is harsh overhead light. Instead, you can use soft and warm options.



Inexpensive floor lamps or table lamps with yellowish light can be a good solution. One can be placed next to the bed, the other on the desktop. This light helps the eyes to rest and creates a feeling of peace.




The LED garland with a warm glow can be used not only on holidays. It can be placed around the perimeter of the room, above the headboard of the bed or on a bookshelf – this undoubtedly adds magic to the evening atmosphere.




If possible, you can try using scented candles in metal jars – they give a soft light and a pleasant smell. If an open fire is unacceptable, battery-powered electronic candles will be an excellent substitute.

Tactile comfort



Having a large soft blanket on the sofa or bed is an easy way to add comfort to the room. It's so nice to wrap yourself in it and watch TV series!



Several decorative pillows of different shapes and made of different materials – for example, knitted, made of velvet or coarse linen – help to create a layered and thoughtful interior.






HOW TO CREATE A COZY ATMOSPHERE IN A ROOM?

Walls



A cork board or fabric panel is great for putting photos, tickets, postcards, and important notes in one place. It turns out to be a lively and constantly changing picture of your interests.



Instead of expensive posters, you can find high-quality reproductions of paintings or interesting illustrations on the Internet and print them inexpensively in the right size. Masking tape is well suited for fastening – it does not leave traces on the walls.




Open shelves are not only for storage, but also an opportunity for self-expression. You can place your favorite books, small potted plants, a collection of mini-construction kits on them – in general, everything that you like!


Details that enliven the space



Even one unpretentious houseplant, such as succulent or sansevieria, makes the room livelier. They are easy to take care of, and they also benefit the microclimate and your mood.



The sense of smell is closely related to emotions: you can create a pleasant background with the help of an aroma diffuser with your favorite essential oil, bags of dried lavender, or even coffee in a beautiful jar.



The very special mug, the guitar in the corner, the antique book or the collection of shells – such things fill the space with your personal history and make it unique.

By Minilbaeva D.

NEW YEAR'S HITS

New Year Festivities — a Special Time Filled with Dearly Loved Songs. The New Year holidays are a magical time when numerous favorite songs fill the air, creating an atmosphere of coziness, joy, and anticipation of miracles. Music plays a vital role in setting the festive mood, and in this list, you'll find both timeless classics and fresh hits that have captured the hearts of listeners in recent years.

Together with the team at "The Artifact" student magazine, we've prepared for you a **TOP list of NEW YEAR HITS**, so that during these celebrations, music never leaves your home, and smiles never fade from your faces!

Many musical compositions have become an integral part of New Year festivities, passed down from generation to generation. The genre's classics include songs like:



"White Christmas" by Bing Crosby is one of the most popular Christmas songs of all time, evoking nostalgia and warmth.



"Jingle Bells" is a traditional melody heard worldwide, creating an atmosphere of fun and celebration.



The song "Last Christmas" by Wham!, despite being from 1984, has become a true symbol of New Year and Christmas festivities.



"All I Want for Christmas Is You" by Mariah Carey is a modern classic that plays in every store, radio station, and party from December onward.

NEW YEAR'S HITS

In recent years, an increasing number of new songs dedicated to the New Year and Christmas have emerged, becoming hits thanks to their bright sound and relevant lyrics. Among them are:



"Santa Tell Me" by Ariana Grande: a lively and cheerful song, perfect for holiday mood.



"Merry Christmas" by Ed Sheeran and Elton John: a modern take on a classic theme with a unique style.



"Underneath the Tree" by Kelly Clarkson: an energetic track that's ideal for festive parties.



"Like It's Christmas" by Jonas Brothers: an upbeat and positive song that quickly gained popularity among young audiences.

Modern New Year hits often blend elements of pop, electronic, and R&B music, emphasizing joyful and inspiring lyrics, and utilizing contemporary recording and production techniques.

New Year hits are an essential part of the celebration — they lift spirits and help create a magical atmosphere. From nostalgic melodies that evoke warm memories to fresh songs making their debut, music makes the New Year unforgettable for everyone. May your home be filled with your favorite hits, and may your mood be truly festive!

WINTER WARDROBE FOR 2026

With the arrival of cold weather, the issue of not only warmth, but also style becomes relevant. Winter 2025-2026 offers a harmonious combination of practicality, comfort and elegance. We have collected the key elements that will form the basis of your wardrobe for the upcoming season.



Down jacket

You can't do without a voluminous jacket in winter. The trend is for midi and maxi length models, up to the knee or mid-thigh. Options with a drawstring or removable belt for a feminine silhouette, as well as with a high collar and hood, are a good choice. The color palette ranges from classic black, milk and gray to brown, olive, terracotta and burgundy.



Eco-fur coat

The trend towards fur aesthetics continues to dominate. Artificial sheepskin and imitation mink or Arctic fox look no less impressive than natural fur, while remaining affordable and durable. You can also experiment with accessories - a stole instead of a hat, leather or fur mittens.



Knitted suit

This is one of the most reasonable investments in the winter season. The set can be worn together for a sporty-chic look with ugg boots and a down jacket, or separately, combined with shirts, jackets and coats. You should wear thermal underwear under the suit - this way you will feel comfortable even in severe frost.

WINTER WARDROBE FOR 2026



Corduroy trousers

Retro aesthetics returns in the form of cozy corduroy trousers. Loose-fitting or slightly flared models are perfectly combined with airy blouses, shirts or voluminous knitwear. This is an opportunity to add texture and warmth to your wardrobe.



Knitted vests

This wardrobe item is a vest made of thick knitwear (cardigan vest) or a knitted vest becomes a real magic wand and a key trend. This is not just a replacement for a sweater, but a more flexible and elegant tool for creating a complex texture and comfort in an image.



Fur shoes and accessories

The trend for fur aesthetics goes far beyond outerwear, creating a complete and incredibly cozy winter outfit. Fur becomes a key accent, adding tactility and luxury. Boots, fur bags and long fur mittens are in fashion.



By Zakirzyanova G.