



JIM C'S QUIZ OF THE WEEK

Monday – 02/12/2007

February 18, 2007 is the first day of the Chinese New Year 4705.

HOW DID THE “CHINESE NEW YEAR” ORIGINATE?

We know it as the “*Chinese New Year*,” but in China the oldest and most important festival is called the “Spring Festival,” which is a public 7-day New Year holiday. The traditional festival lasts till the 15th day of the lunar month and ends with the “Lantern Festival.”

Definition (Encarta): The start of the *Chinese New Year* is the second New Moon after the winter solstice. The celebration is known as the *Spring Festival* in China, *Tet* in Vietnam, and *Sol* in Korea, is the most important and the longest of all festivals in these communities.

Origin: An ancient legend told of a man-eating beast (the *Nian*) from the mountains that would prey on the villagers each New Year's Eve. The beast was sensitive to loud noises and the color red, so they scared it away with explosions, fireworks and bright red objects. The Spring Festival originated in the Shang Dynasty (c. 1600 BC).

Calendar: The Chinese Lunar New Year is the longest chronological record in history, dating from 2697 BC, when the Emperor Huang Ti introduced the first cycle of the zodiac. 2007 is known as the Year of the Pig (Boor or DingHai), which is the year 4705 on their calendar.

C W: Chinese New Year = Peace & happiness for family & friends

M of Z: Before 1st Day, clean home to sweep away all bad luck