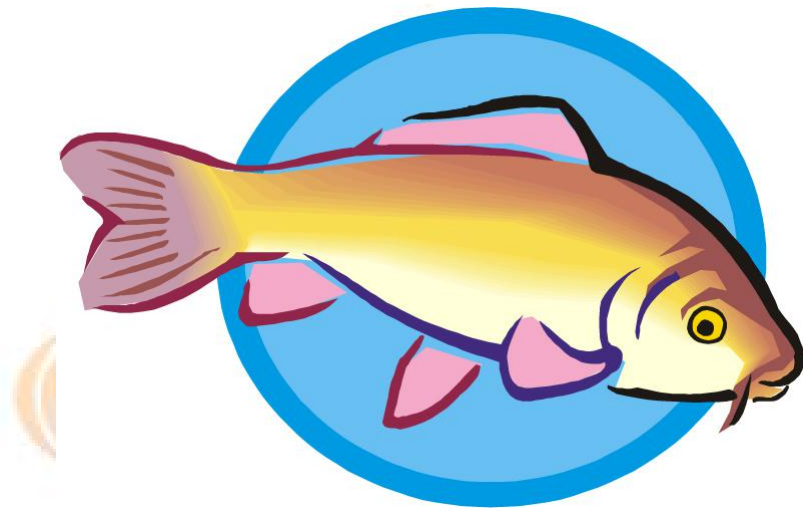


“有文化”的食物



Symbolic Food in China

yǒu wén huà de shí wù

生词 Key Words

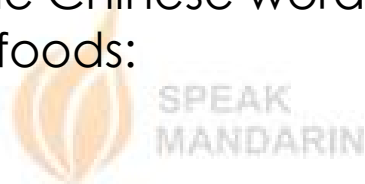


1. 扮演	bàn yǎn	v.	act
2. 角色	jué sè	n.	role
3. 象征	xiàng zhēng	n./adj.	symbol
4. 鸡蛋	jī dàn	n.	egg
5. 意味	yì wèi	v.	imply
6. 繁殖	fán zhí	v.	breed
7. 面条	miàn tiáo	n.	noodle
8. 长寿	cháng shòu	n.	long life
9. 鱼	yú	n.	fish
10. 余	yú	n./adj.	surplus
11. 繁荣	fán róng	n./adj.	prosperity
12. 种子	zhǒngzi	n.	seed

yǒu wén huà de shí wù



Is there any major holiday that isn't celebrated with a special festival food? Given the important role food plays in Chinese culture, it is not surprising that many foods have symbolic meaning. The symbolic significance of a food may be based on its appearance or on how the Chinese word for it sounds. Here are several symbolic Chinese foods:



Yìxiē shíwù zài Zhōngguó wénhuà zhōng bǎnyǎn le zhòngyào juésè.
一些食物在中国文化中扮演了重要角色。
Tā men fēicháng jùyǒu xiàngzhēng yì yì .
它们非常具有象征意义。



1) Eggs

Eggs hold a special symbolic significance in many cultures, and China is no exception. The Chinese believe eggs symbolize fertility. After a baby is born, parents may hold a "red egg and ginger party," where they pass out hard boiled eggs to announce the birth. (In some regions of China the number of eggs presented depends on the sex of the child: an even number for a girl, and an odd number if a boy has been born)



Jīdàn zài zhōngguó wénhuà zhōng yì wèi zhe fánzhí, duō zǐ duō sūn.
鸡蛋在中国文化中意味着繁殖，多子多孙。

2) Noodles

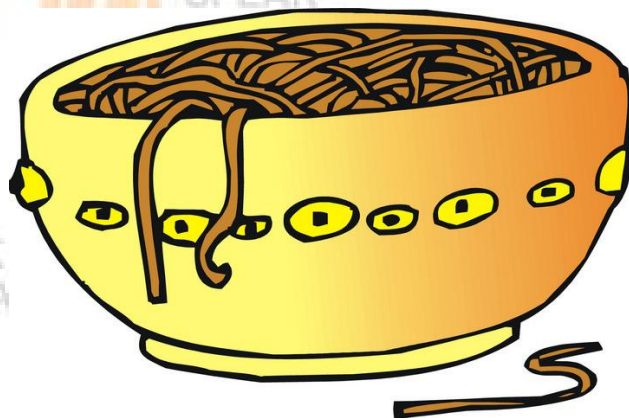
Noodles are a symbol of longevity in Chinese culture. They are as much a part of a Chinese birthday celebration as a birthday cake with lit candles is in many countries. Since noodles do symbolize long life, it is considered very unlucky to cut up a strand.

Miàntiáo zài zhōngguó wénhuà zhōng yìwèi zhe chángshòu.

面条 在 中国 文化 中 意味着 长寿。

Yīncǐ, zhōngguó rén guòshēngrì de shíhòu huìchī chángshòumiàn.

因此， 中国人 过生日的时候 会吃 长寿面。



yǒu wén huà de shí wù



3) Fish

Although westerners sometimes balk at the sight of a entire fish lying on a plate, in China a fish served whole is a symbol of prosperity. In fact, at a banquet it is customary to serve the whole fish last, pointed toward the guest of honor. Fish also has symbolic significance because the Chinese word for fish--yú, sounds like the word for riches or abundance, and it is believed that eating fish will help your wishes come true in the year to come.

“YÚ” hé “yú” tóng yīn, hòuzhě yìwèi zhe fù zú.

“鱼”和“余”同音，后者意味着富足。

Yīncǐ, yú zài zhōngguó wénhuà zhōng yìwèi zhe fánróng.

因此，鱼在中国文化中意味着繁荣。



4) Seeds (lotus seeds, watermelon seeds, etc)
Visit an Asian bakery during the Chinese New Year, and you're likely to find a wide assortment of snacks with different types of seeds in them. The seed-filled treats represent bearing many children in Chinese culture.

Zhǒngzi, zài zhōngguó wénhuà zhōng, yě yìwèi zhe duōzǐduōsūn.
种子，在中国文化中，也意味着多子多孙。



yǒu wén huà de shí wù

1. Zhōngguó rén guò shēng rì de shí hòu huì chī

中 国 人 过 生 日 的 时 候 会 吃
chángshòumiàn.

长 寿 面。

Noodles are a part of Chinese birthday celebration in China.

2. Yú zài zhōngguó wénhuà zhōng yìwèi zhe

鱼 在 中 国 文 化 中 意 味 着
fánróng.

繁 荣。

In China, fish is a symbol of prosperity.

幸运与倒霉



Lucky and
unlucky

xìng yùn yǔ dǎo méi

生词 Key Words



1. 幸运	xìng yùn	adj.	lucky
2. 倒霉	dǎo méi	adj.	unlucky
3. 顺利	shùn lì	adv.	smoothly; sleek
4. 发财	fā cái	phrase.	get rich
5. 开幕式	kāi mù shì	n.	opening ceremony
6. 死	sǐ	v./n.	die; death
7. 吉祥	jí xiáng	adj./n.	lucky, auspicious
8. 厄运	è yùn	adj./n.	adversity; misfortune
9. 罪恶	zuì' è	adj./n.	evil; crime



xìng yùn yǔ dǎo méi

The number **2** (二, pronounced as “èr”) is a good number in Chinese culture. There is a Chinese saying "good things come in pairs". It is common to use double symbols in product brand names, e.g. double happiness, double coin, double elephants etc. The number **6**, (六, pronounced as “liù”) in Mandarin is pronounced the same as sleek, or fluent in Mandarin, and is therefore considered good for business. The number 6 also represents happiness.

幸 lucky 运

Èr shì xìngyùn shùzì, Zhōngguó rén rènwéi “hǎo shì chéng shuāng” .
2 是 幸运 数字， 中 国 人 认为 “好 事 成 双” 。

Liù de fāyīn hé “liū” , “liú” yīyàng, yì wèi zhe shùn lì .
6 的 发音 和 “溜” , “流” 一 样 ， 意 味 着 顺 利 。

The word for 8 (八, pronounced as “bā”) in Mandarin sounds similar to the word which means “prosper” or “wealth” (发 - short for "发财"). The opening ceremony of the Summer Olympics began on 8/8/08 at 8 seconds and 8 minutes past 8 pm (local time).

Bā yì wèi zhe “fā” , “fā cái” ,
8 意味着 “发” , “发财” ,
Èrlínglíngbā nián běi jīng ào yùn huì kāi mù shì yú 08 nián 8 yuè 8 rì
8diǎn 8fēn kāi shǐ.

2008 年 北京 奥运会 开幕式 于 08年8月8日 8 点 8分 开
始。



Number **4** (四, pronounced as “sì”) is considered an unlucky number in Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Japanese cultures because it is a homonym with the word "death" (死 pronounced as “sǐ”). Due to that, many numbered product lines skip the “4” .

Number **14**(十四, pronounced as “shí sì”) is considered to be one of the unluckiest numbers in Chinese culture. 14 is usually said as “shí sǐ,” which sounds like “ten die” , it can also be said as “yī sì” or “yāo sì” , literally “one four” . Thus, 14 can also be said as “yào sǐ,” literally “one four,” but it also means “want to die” (要死, pronounced as “yào sǐ”).

Sì héshí sì dōu shì bùhǎo de shùzì, tāmen hé “sǐ” , “yào sǐ” , tóngyīn.

4 和 14 都是 不好 的 数字, 他们 和 “死” , “要死” , 同音。

Red is the color of blood or life and will bring happiness, wealth, fame, and good luck.

Black is the color of feces and is associated with evil, disaster and bad fortune.



SPEAK
MANDARIN



Hóngsè xiàngzhēng zhe hǎoyùn hé jíxiáng,
红色 象征着 好运 和 吉祥，

hēi sè què xiàngzhēng zhe è yùn hé zuì ' è .
黑色 却 象征着 厄运 和 罪恶。



1. 2008 nián běi jīng àoyùnhuì kāimùshì yú 08 nián
2008 年 北京 奥运会 开幕式 于 08 年
8 yuè 8rì 8diǎn8fēn kāishǐ.
8 月 8 日 8 点 8 分 开始。

2. Hóng sè xiàng zhēng zhe hǎo yùn hé jí xiáng ,
红 色 象 征 着 好 运 和 吉 祥 ,
hēi sè què xiàng zhēng zhe è yùn hé zuì è 。
黑 色 却 象 征 着 厄 运 和 罪 恶 。

