Spotlight Asia: Year of the Rooster

Today | Noon–4 pm | Cullman Hall of the Universe

Lunar New Year

Based on the cycles of the moon, the Lunar New Year is observed by diverse cultures around the world.

Rooster Fun Facts

How do dinosaurs sound? Well, one dinosaur says “cock-a-doodle-do!” Yes, the familiar farmyard rooster, like all modern birds, is actually a dinosaur.

Rooster, or cock, is the name given to the male of the chicken, a domesticated form of the Red Junglefowl found in the wild in Asia. The oldest known domestic fowl remains were found in China and are over 7,000 years old.

More to Explore

To learn more about birds, explore the Hall of Birds of the World and the Leonard C. Sanford Hall of North American Birds, located on the Museum’s second and third floors.

Support for Spotlight Asia is provided, in part, by the May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation, Inc.; the Sidney, Milton and Leoma Simon Foundation; and the family of Frederick H. Leonhardt.

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Lunar New Year image © Rabkar Wangchuk
More to Explore image Chinese shadow figure (ca 1930’s) from the Pauline Benton collection, courtesy of Chinese Theatre Works

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#SPOTLIGHTASIA
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MORE TO EXPLORE IMAGE CHINESE SHADOW FIGURE (CA 1930’S) FROM THE PAULINE BENTON COLLECTION, COURTESY OF CHINESE THEATRE WORKS
**ACTIVITIES Noon–4 pm**

**JAPANESE POSTCARD MAKING**
Color your own rooster nengajo, or New Year postcard, and have your name written in Japanese katakana characters with Japan Society.

**KOREAN BRUSH-PAINTING**
Try brush-painting and calligraphy with artist Sungsook Hong Setton and The Korea Society.

**MONGOLIAN CALLIGRAPHY**
Sketch the word rooster and your name in the Mongolian calligraphy style with artist Naranbaatar Khuvsgul and Mongolia Connections.

**VIETNAMESE WOOD CUT**
Explore a Vietnamese rooster lantern display and try your hand at Đồng Ho bird woodcut painting with the Institute for Vietnamese Culture and Education.

**CHINESE SHADOW PUPPETS**
Design a rooster shadow puppet with Chinese Theatre Works.

**MEET THE SCIENTISTS**
Learn more about current research and bring your questions about roosters, chickens, pheasants, and other birds.

**ORIGAMI**
Create an assortment of rooster and bird models with volunteers from OrigamiUSA.

**INFORMATION**
Sign up to win giveaways.

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