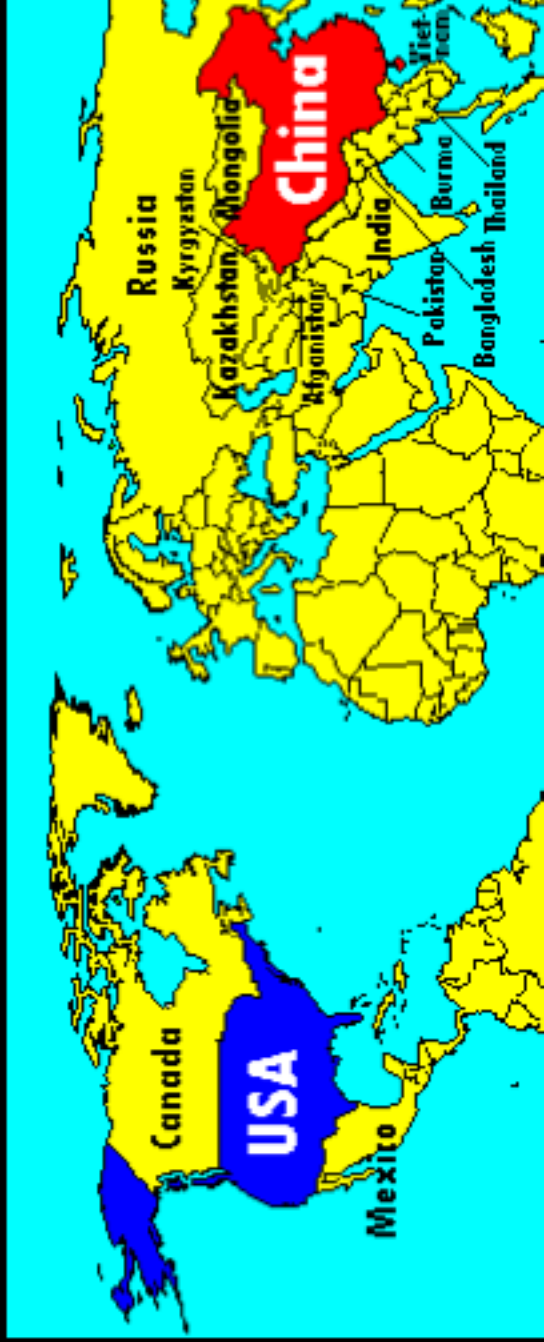


Guardian Lions





CHINESE HISTORY

- The Chinese have a rich and long history. They were one of the first civilizations. A lot of what you see in China today comes from myths and legends that began long ago.
- The lion was introduced to China by the Buddhist Religion. Their God is called Buddha. Buddha was said to be a lion among men and spoke with the voice of a lion. Buddha's throne is guarded by two lions.
- Buddhism is made up of a lot of symbolism. Symbolism is the use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities



The lion has come to be known as a symbol of power. Lions are also believed to offer protection from evil spirits.

The first sculpted lions appeared over 2000 years ago.

Lions are sculpted from a variety of materials including marble, stone, granite, or cast in bronze or iron.



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Lions can be seen through out China. Pairs of lions can often be seen as gate guards in front of many buildings in China.

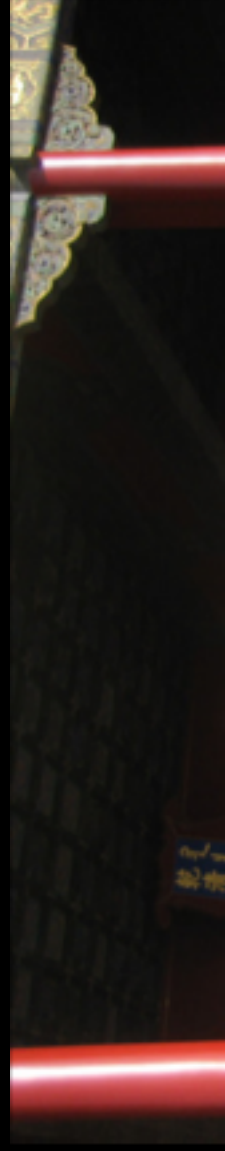
Some of the most famous carved lions are the lions that guard Tian-anmen Square, the main entrance to the Forbidden City.



Usually a male lion is on the right with the right paw on a ball or globe, representing his feeling the pulse of the earth- and a female lion on the left

with a cub under the left paw, a symbol of the cycle of life.

Another explanation is that the male is guarding the structure and the female protects those dwelling inside the building.



Chinese lions are often shown looking away from each other. Their mouths may be closed to keep in good spirits or their mouths may be open to scare off demons.



Chinese lions are also known as “Fo dogs’ or Fu Lions.

Fu is a Chinese word for luck or prosperity.

These lions are often created with more doggish features. The lions look more friendly than fierce.

This may be why they are also referred to or as Fo Dogs or “Luck dogs” because they symbolize “Good Luck” .



The **Chinese New Year** is an important traditional Chinese holiday celebrated at the turn of the Chinese calendar.

This year the Chinese New Year, Thursday February 15th

Lion dances take place during the first few days of the Chinese New Year. The

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