

Lunar New Year	<p data-bbox="379 696 1374 763">On the 12th of February 2021 it was the Chinese New Year otherwise known as the Lunar New Year.</p> <p data-bbox="379 801 1366 981">Unlike our calendar each year is represented by an animal. 2021 is the Year of the Ox. Which year are you? Research the years that your family members were born. You could also create some fantastic artwork around this topic. The Chinese New Year is not on the same day each year, like easter it changes date. If you are a Januarys/ early February just check which year you belong to.</p>
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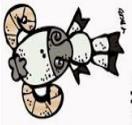
The Chinese Zodiac



Horse

2014, 2002, 1990,
1978, 1966, 1954,
1942, 1930, 1918 and 1906

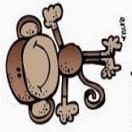
Horses are energetic, optimistic and independent. They are sometimes impatient, and need to practice finishing what they start.



Goat (Sheep)

2003, 1991, 1979,
1967, 1955, 1943,
1931, 1919 and 1907

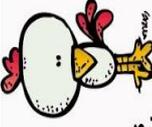
Goats are loving, gentle and creative. They are sometimes shy and need to practice finding the courage to try new and different things.



Monkey

2004, 1992, 1980,
1968, 1956, 1944,
1932, 1920 and 1908

Monkeys are very smart, energetic, happy and curious. Sometimes monkeys can be too confident and get ahead of themselves. They need to practice slowing down.



Rooster

2005, 1993, 1981,
1969, 1957, 1945,
1933, 1921 and 1909

Roosters are always on time, reliable and independent. They like to be the center of attention, but need to be careful they do not seem conceited.



Dog

2006, 1994, 1982,
1970, 1958, 1946,
1934, 1922 and 1910.

Dogs are outgoing, honest and fun loving. They are great team-players. They often worry, and need to practice feeling confident in their abilities.



Pig

2007, 1995, 1983,
1971, 1959, 1947,
1935, 1923 and 1911

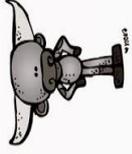
Pigs are polite and physically strong. They will do anything for their family and friends. Sometimes they need practice being careful and thinking before they act.



Rat

2008, 1996, 1984,
1972, 1960, 1948,
1936, 1924 and 1912

Rats love to collect and organize things. They are also inventive and great thinkers. They need to practice staying calm and not losing their temper.



Ox (Buffalo)

2009, 1997, 1985,
1973, 1961, 1949,
1937, 1925 and 1913

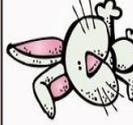
Oxen are honest, patient and dependable. They may be slow starters, but they always finish what they begin. They need to practice compromising with people.



Tiger

2010, 1998, 1986,
1974, 1962, 1950,
1938, 1926 and 1914

Tigers are brave, powerful and risk-takers. They make great leaders. Like Pigs, Tigers need to practice thinking before they act.



Rabbit

2011, 1999, 1987,
1975, 1963, 1951,
1939, 1927 and 1915

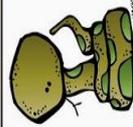
Rabbits are very lucky. They are also gentle, talented and friendly. They are great problem solvers. Rabbits need to practice trying new things.



Dragon

2012, 2000, 1988,
1976, 1964, 1952,
1940, 1928 and 1916

Dragons are very imaginative, energetic and dramatic. They can also be perfectionists. Rabbits need to practice not getting upset by mistakes.



Snake

2013, 2001, 1989,
1977, 1965, 1953,
1941, 1929 and 1917

Snakes are wise, sensitive and perceptive. They love reading, music and plays. They need to practice sharing with others.

A long time ago, in China, the Jade Emperor decided there should be a way to measure time. He told the animals that they were to compete in a race. The first twelve animals would be rewarded by having a year named after them.

On the day of the race, all the animals lined up beside the river. The rat and the cat, who were good friends, were worried as they were not very good at swimming. They asked the ox if he would carry them across on his back.

The ox agreed and they jumped on his back. When the race started, the rat and the cat were very pleased that the ox had taken the lead. They were almost across at the other side when the rat pushed the cat into the water and jumped on the bank to finish first!

“Well done!” said the Jade Emperor to the rat. “The first year of the Zodiac will be named after you.” The poor ox was tricked into second place and so the second year of the Zodiac was named after him.

Shortly after, the exhausted tiger arrived on the river bank. Swimming the river had been very difficult, as he had to fight strong currents.

The next to arrive was the rabbit, who hadn’t swum across but hopped across on some stepping stones and then onto a floating log which carried him to the river bank. “I shall call the fourth year after you,” the surprised Jade Emperor said.

Fifth place was the dragon. “How come you didn’t win the race, when you could fly across?” the Emperor asked.

“I stopped to help some animals,” the dragon explained.

Heading towards the line was the horse. Just as the Emperor thought the horse would cross, the sly snake wriggled around one of the horse’s hooves. The horse was so surprised that he jumped backwards, giving the snake a chance to slither forward and take sixth place. The horse made it for seventh place.

Not long afterwards, a raft arrived carrying the monkey, the rooster and the goat. They explained how they had worked as a team to get across. The Emperor was very pleased. He said the goat would be the eighth year, the monkey the ninth and the rooster the tenth.

The next animal to arrive was the dog. “What took you so long, when you’re such a good swimmer?” asked the Emperor.

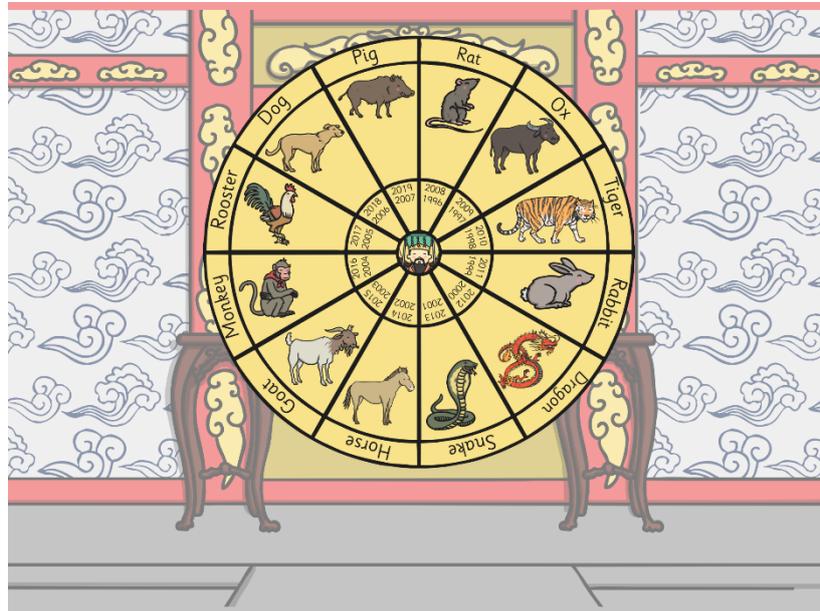
“The river was so clean that I decided to have a bath along the way,” the dog explained. He was rewarded with the eleventh year.

There was one place left in the Zodiac and the Emperor wondered who the last winner would be. All of a sudden, the pig turned up. “You took a long time. What happened?” the Emperor asked.

“I was hungry and stopped to eat, then I fell asleep,” said the pig. The twelfth year was given to the pig.



As for the cat, he finally crawled out of the river, but was too late to have a year named after him. He was very angry with the rat for pushing him in and since then, cats have never been friends with rats!



This is the beginning of our version of the Zodiac race. Please write what happened in your own words.

Many moons ago, the Jade Emperor decided that he wanted a way of measuring time. So he concocted a plan to make a race. Each animal would take a year depending on the place that they came. The cunning rat and cat asked the kind Ox to take them across the river, the ox was a lovely, kind fellow so he agreed. Just as they were about to cross the line the cheeky little rat pushed the poor cat into the river. This meant that the rat snuck into first place, whilst the poor little cat struggled in the river. The ox, meanwhile, was happy to take second place.

A little while later, the tiger came up to the bank of the river, and although he was exhausted, he claimed third place. With a hop skip and a jump, the plucky little rabbit managed to claim fourth place by floating on a log.

Please continue the story of the Zodiac.



[The myth behind the Chinese zodiac - Megan Campisi and Pen-Pen Chen - YouTube](#)

– this is a link to help you with the order.

Use the grid below and fill in which animal you think is being described. The clues are above in the worksheet. Explain why you think that animal is being represented.

Challenge yourself to create poems about the different animals and their personality

Rooster:

Punctual little creatures,

You can always depend on them.

Reliable to the end,

They will never let you down.

Going it alone,

Is fine by the Rooster.

Independent soles through and through.

Clucking and crowing to get everyone's attention.

They seek a response from all around.

Careful little rooster,

Not to be conceited.

Goat:

Loving and caring,

With a soft gentle touch,

These creatures are kind but shy.

Open your eyes,

And bleat really loud.

Your voice should be heard by all.

Lacking courage, they are cautious.

Bravery is in you somewhere.

Creativity flows through you like a river.

Learn from the rooster,

And let it all out.

Rat:

Little rats scurry to find interesting gems,
Collecting as they go.
They move elegantly with their little legs,
But beware of their bite!
Calm yourself little rat,
Don't lose your temper.
Light-bulb moments,
Creating light in the dark.
They think with care,
Creating new things.
Organising and inventing,
They love to be prepared.

Tiger:

Courageous fighters,
Brave leaders,
You will follow this majestic creature,
'Till the end of time.
Slow down little tiger,
Don't get too fierce.
Think!
You have people following you.
Brave like a lion,
Your fellow big cat,
Powerful as a giant,
You protect us oh striped one.

Clues in the style of a "Kenning Poem"	Zodiac animal	Reasons for my choice
Truth teller. Fun lover. Confidence seeker.		
Friend lover. Strong builder. Polite talker. Hasty maker.		
Rage giver. Great thinker. Organised collector.		
Truth teller. Slow starter. Finish maker.		
Melodramatic actor. Organised producer. Mistake maker.		
Page turner. Knowledgeable thinker. Theatre attender.		
Courageous fighter. Bold leader. Hasty starter.		

Challenge trier, Friendly helper, Gifted character		
Positive thinker, Energy giver, Dynamo achiever.		
Love giver, Soft nature, Shy supporter.		
Smile giver, Big laughter, Fast mover		
Attention seeker, Reliable creature, Timely explorer.		