



# The Year of the Tiger



## The Story of the 12 Animals

Each Chinese New Year or **Lunar** New Year begins with a different animal. There are 12 animals altogether. This tradition is thousands of years old and is believed to have first begun with a story.

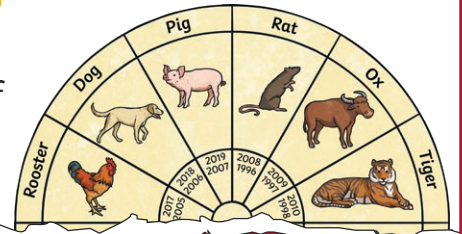
It is said that Buddha asked all of the animals on Earth to race to see him. However, only 12 animals answered his call. Buddha gave each one of these animals their own year in the Chinese **zodiac cycle** as a way of saying thank you.

## Did You Know...?

Some versions of the story have the Jade Emperor as the main character and others have Buddha. However, all of the stories are very similar and talk about the same animals.

## When Does The Year of the Tiger Start?

The Year of the Tiger begins on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022. It is the 4720<sup>th</sup> year of the Chinese calendar. Once the Year of the Tiger is over, the next will not begin again until 19<sup>th</sup> February 2034.



**You were born in the Year of the Tiger if you were born in:**  
1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010 or 2022



## What Is Special about The Year of the Tiger?

People born in the Year of the Tiger are believed to have many special qualities. If someone was born in the Year of the Tiger then many people believe that they are:

- courageous. They aren't easily afraid;
- confident. They believe in themselves;
- likeable. They are friendly;
- stubborn. They don't change their mind easily.

## Did You Know...?

People born in the Year of the Tiger are said to get on well with those who were born in the Year of the Horse and the Year of the Pig.



## What Jobs Could They Be Good At?

Many people believe that people born in the Year of the Tiger might make good:

- lawyers

- managers



- authors

- actors

### Glossary

**lunar:**

Related to the moon.

**zodiac cycle:**

A repeating cycle of 12 years with each year being represented by an animal or sign.



# Questions

1. How many animals answered Buddha's call? Tick one.

- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13

2. When does the Year of the Tiger begin in 2022?

- 1<sup>st</sup> February
- 30<sup>th</sup> January
- 1<sup>st</sup> January
- 19<sup>th</sup> February

3. Draw **three** lines and match each word with its meaning.

courageous

stubborn

likeable

They don't change their mind easily.

They are friendly.

They aren't easily afraid.

4. Which of the following years is **not** a Year of the Tiger? Tick one.

- 1998
- 1962
- 1975
- 1986

5. List two jobs that someone born in the Year of the Tiger might be good at.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

6. Fill in the missing number.

The Year of the Tiger is the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>th</sup> year of the Chinese calendar.

7. Explain why you think that the Chinese zodiac is called a 'cycle'?

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# Answers

1. How many animals answered Buddha's call? Tick one.

- 10  
 11  
 **12**  
 13

2. When does the Year of the Tiger begin in 2022?

- 1<sup>st</sup> February**  
 30<sup>th</sup> January  
 1<sup>st</sup> January  
 19<sup>th</sup> February

3. Draw **three** lines and match each word with its meaning.

courageous		They don't change their mind easily.
stubborn		They are friendly.
likeable		They aren't easily afraid.

4. Which of the following years is **not** a Year of the Tiger? Tick one.

- 1998  
 1962  
 **1975**  
 1986

5. List two jobs that someone born in the Year of the Tiger might be good at.

**Accept any two of the following: lawyer; manager; author; actor.**

6. Fill in the missing number.

The Year of the Tiger is the **4720<sup>th</sup>** year of the Chinese calendar.

7. Explain why you think that the Chinese zodiac is called a 'cycle'?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the Chinese zodiac is called a cycle because it repeats. After all 12 of the animals have passed, the cycle begins again.**

# The Year of the Tiger

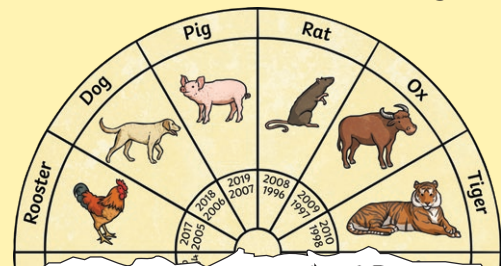


Chinese New Year or **Lunar** New Year is an important traditional holiday for lots of countries. In these countries, each year of the calendar is based on the phases of the Moon rather than the movement of the Sun. Because of this, the new year falls on a different date each year.

## The History of the 12 Animals

In Chinese culture, each new year is shown by one of 12 animals. This tradition dates back thousands of years and started with a story. Because it is an old tale, there are many different versions of the story. Some versions have the Jade Emperor as the main character and others have Buddha. However, all of the stories are very similar and contain the same 12 animals.

One version of the story tells that Buddha asked all of the animals on Earth to race to see him but only 12 animals answered his call. Buddha repaid them by giving each one of these animals their own year in the Chinese **zodiac cycle**. The tiger is the third animal in this cycle.



**You were born in the Year of the Tiger if you were born in:**  
1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010 or 2022

The Year of the Tiger begins on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022. It is the 4720<sup>th</sup> year of the Chinese calendar. Once the Year of the Tiger is over, the next will not begin again until 19<sup>th</sup> February 2034.



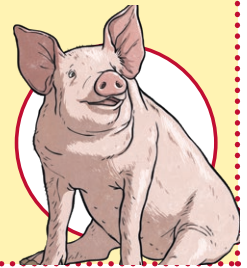
## Traits of the Tiger

People born in the different years of the Chinese zodiac cycle are believed to have particular **traits** and qualities. These characteristics are said to reflect those of the animal that the year is named after.



Tigers are believed to be confident and strong. Just like the real-life creature, people born in this year are also said to be courageous. Many people believe that individuals born in the Year of the Tiger are likeable people who are good communicators. Some people believe that they make good lawyers, managers, actors or authors.

People born in the Year of the Tiger are said to get on well with those who were born in the Year of the Horse and the Year of the Pig.



## Famous people born in the Year of the Tiger:

Queen Elizabeth II, David Attenborough,  
Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Cruise.



Glossary	
<b>lunar:</b>	Related to the moon.
<b>traits:</b>	Qualities that make a person or a group of people different from others.
<b>zodiac cycle</b>	A repeating cycle of 12 years with each year being represented by an animal or sign.





# Questions

1. How did the tradition of the Chinese horoscope begin? Tick one.

- with a song
- with a letter
- with a story
- with a poem

2. **Tigers are believed to be confident and strong.**

Which is the correct definition of 'confident' as it is used in this sentence? Tick one.

- They are loud.
- They believe in themselves.
- They don't like speaking in front of people.
- They tell the truth.

3. Draw **three** lines and complete each sentence.

Buddha...	was born in the Year of the Tiger.
David Attenborough...	asked all of the animals on Earth to race to see him.
People born in the Year of the Tiger...	are believed to have many special qualities.

4. Which of the following are said to be popular careers for people born in the Year of the Tiger? Tick **two**.

- lawyers
- actors
- dentists
- artists

5. Fill in the missing words.

Buddha repaid the animals by giving each one their own \_\_\_\_\_  
in the Chinese \_\_\_\_\_ cycle.

6. On what date does the Year of the Tiger begin in 2022?

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7. Explain why people born in the Year of the Tiger might make good actors.

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8. Would you like to be friends with someone born in the Year of the Tiger?

Explain your answer.

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# Answers

1. How did the tradition of the Chinese horoscope begin? Tick one.

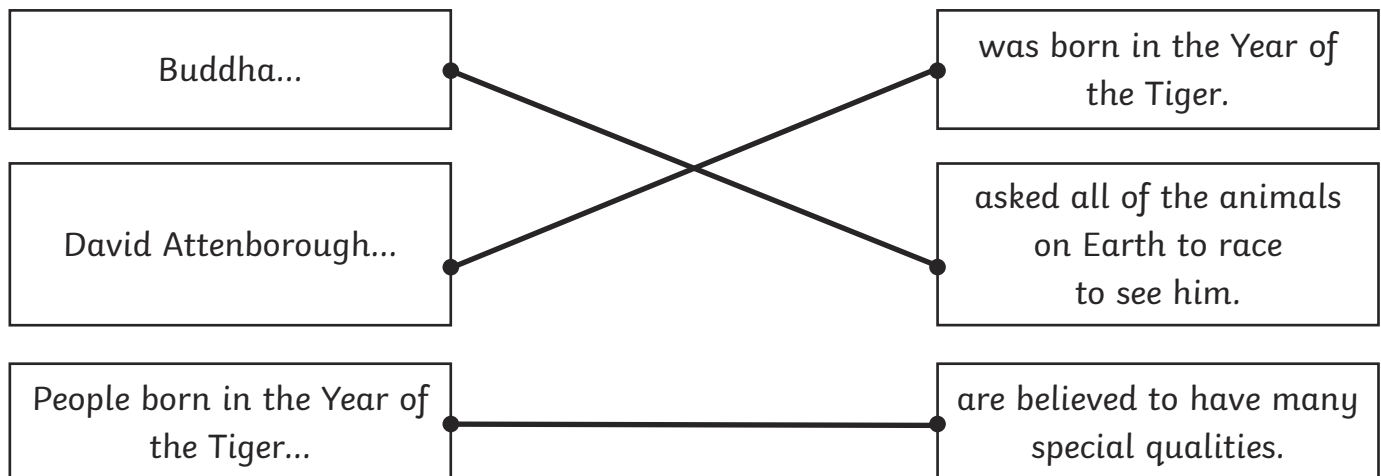
- with a song
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2. **Tigers are believed to be confident and strong.**

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- They are loud.
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4. Which of the following are said to be popular careers for people born in the Year of the Tiger? Tick **two**.

- lawyers**
- actors**
- dentists
- artists

5. Fill in the missing words.

Buddha repaid the animals by giving each one their own **year**  
in the Chinese **zodiac** cycle.

6. On what date does the Year of the Tiger begin in 2022?

**The Year of the Tiger begins on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022.**

7. Explain why people born in the Year of the Tiger might make good actors.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: People born in the Year of the Tiger might make good actors because they are said to be confident people.**

8. Would you like to be friends with someone born in the Year of the Tiger?

Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, I would like to be friends with someone born in the Year of the Tiger because they are said to be likeable and good communicators so should be easy to talk to and get along with.**

# The Year of the Tiger



Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year is an important traditional holiday for lots of countries. In these countries, each year of the calendar is based on the Moon's phases rather than the movement of the Sun. As a result, the new year falls on a different date each year.

## The Legend of the 12 Animals

According to Chinese culture, each year is represented by one of 12 animals. This tradition is thousands of years old and is said to have begun with a story. Given its age, many versions of the story exist. One version has the Jade Emperor as the main character and another has Buddha but all versions of the story are very similar and all name the same 12 animals.

One version of the story tells that Buddha called out to all of the animals on Earth and asked them to race to see him one day yet only 12 animals answered Buddha's call. To thank them for their loyalty, Buddha gave each one of these animals their own year in the Chinese **zodiac cycle**.



**You were born in the Year of the Tiger if you were born in:**  
1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010 or 2022

The Year of the Tiger begins on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022. It is the 4720<sup>th</sup> year of the Chinese calendar and it will run until 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023. The Year of the Rabbit begins the day after on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023. Once the Year of the Rabbit begins, the next Year of the Tiger will not begin again until 19<sup>th</sup> February 2034.



## Traits of the Tiger

People born in the different years of the Chinese zodiac cycle are believed to have particular traits and qualities. These characteristics are said to reflect those of the animal that the year is named after.



In Chinese culture, the tiger is believed to be confident and strong; they can be relied upon to help others. Just like the real-life creature, people born in this year are also said to be courageous. Many people believe that individuals born in the Year of the Tiger are likeable people who can sometimes be outspoken and stubborn.

Popular careers for people born in the Year of the Tiger are said to be jobs that require leadership ability and good communication skills, such as lawyers, managers, actors or authors.



## Fortunes for 2022

According to Chinese **horoscopes**, people born in the Year of the Tiger will experience a change in 2022. They are advised to:

- think carefully about their future;

- consider a change in career;

- set themselves a goal and work hard to achieve it.

## Famous people born in the Year of the Tiger:

Queen Elizabeth II, David Attenborough, Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Cruise.



## Glossary

**horoscopes:**

Predictions about what will happen in someone's future based on the positions of the stars when that person was born.

**zodiac cycle**

A repeating cycle of 12 years with each year being represented by an animal or sign.



# Questions

1. Who did Buddha ask to race to see him? Tick one.

- people  
 animals  
 gods  
 kings and queens

2. Draw **three** lines and match each event to the correct date.

The date that the Year of the Tiger begins.

19<sup>th</sup> February 2034

The date that the Year of the Rabbit begins.

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023

The date that we will next enter the Year of the Tiger.

1<sup>st</sup> February 2022

3. List **two** famous people who were born in the Year of the Tiger.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

4. Look at the section called **Traits of the Tiger**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'believing in yourself'.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Fill in the missing words.

Each animal in the Chinese zodiac cycle has other \_\_\_\_\_

that they are said to be most \_\_\_\_\_ with.

6. Look at the section called **The Legend of the 12 Animals**.

Why do you think that this has been included in the text?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. According to the legend of the Chinese zodiac, why is each year named after one of 12 animals?

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8. Discuss one other job that you think would be suited to someone born in the Year of the Tiger.

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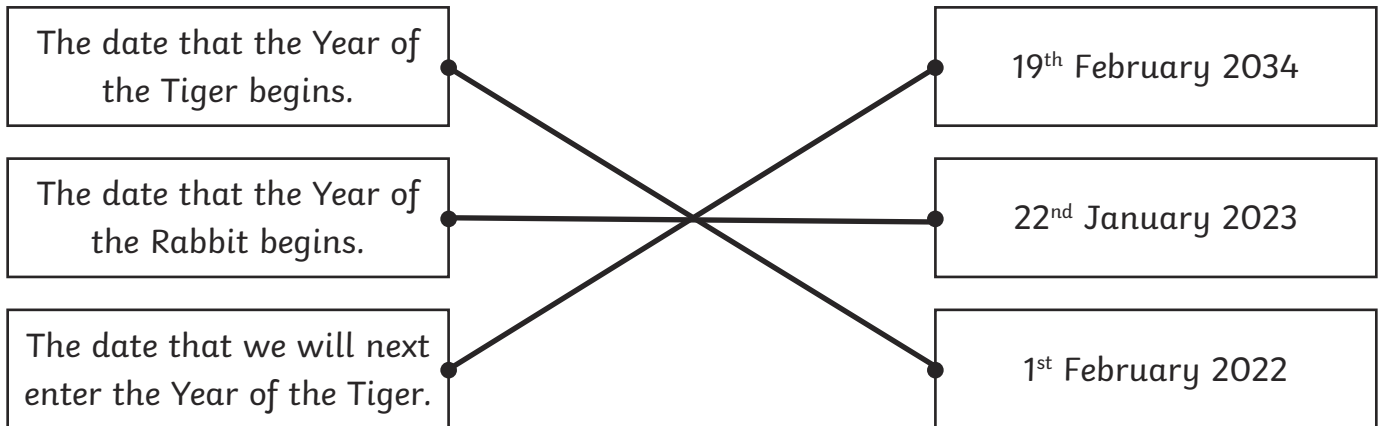


# Answers

1. Who did Buddha ask to race to see him? Tick one.

- people  
 **animals**  
 gods  
 kings and queens

2. Draw **three** lines and match each event to the correct date.



3. List **two** famous people who were born in the Year of the Tiger.

**Accept any two of the following: Queen Elizabeth II; David Attenborough; Leonardo DiCaprio; Tom Cruise.**

4. Look at the section called **Traits of the Tiger**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'believing in yourself'.

**confident**

5. Fill in the missing words.

Each animal in the Chinese zodiac cycle has other **animals** that they are said to be most **compatible** with.

6. Look at the section called **The Legend of the 12 Animals**.

Why do you think that this has been included in the text?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that this section has been included because it gives the reader useful background information on the origin of the Chinese zodiac and why each year is named after a different animal.**

7. According to the legend of the Chinese zodiac, why is each year named after one of 12 animals?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Each year of the Chinese zodiac is named after one of 12 animals because, according to the legend, these were the only animals that responded to Buddha's call.**

8. Discuss one other job that you think would be suited to someone born in the Year of the Tiger.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that someone born in the Year of the Tiger would make a good teacher. This is because they would be confident in dealing with people and also likeable to the children and parents.**