



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.



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.

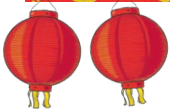
In Chinese culture, the tiger is believed to be confident and strong; they can be relied upon to help others. Just like the real-life creature, people born in this year are also said to be courageous. Many people believe that individuals born in the Year of the Tiger are likeable people who can sometimes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

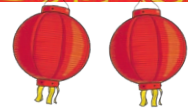


You were born in the Year of the Tiger if you were born in:

1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010 or 2022



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



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.

Questions

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

- 10
 11
 12
 13

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

The date that the Year of the Tiger begins.

The date that the Year of the Rabbit begins.

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

19th February 2034

22nd January 2023

1st February 2022

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

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'a custom or belief that is passed from generation to generation'.

4. Fill in the missing word.

To thank them for their loyalty, Buddha gave each one of these animals their own year in the Chinese _____ cycle.

5. List one of the jobs that could be a popular career for people born in the Year of the Tiger.

6. Explain why there are many versions of the story which explains the origin of the Chinese zodiac cycle.

7. **Many people believe that individuals born in the Year of the Tiger are likeable people who can sometimes be outspoken and stubborn.**

Explain what the word 'stubborn' means.

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

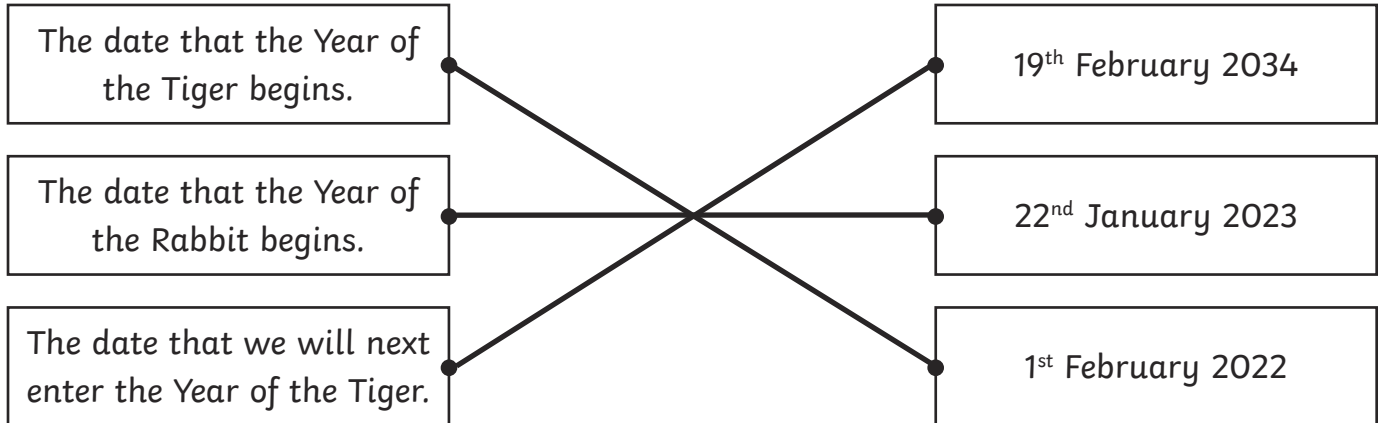
Explain your answer.

Answers

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

- 10
 11
 12
 13

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



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

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'a custom or belief that is passed from generation to generation'.

tradition

4. Fill in the missing word.

To thank them for their loyalty, Buddha gave each one of these animals their own year in the Chinese **zodiac** cycle.

5. List one of the jobs that could be a popular career for people born in the Year of the Tiger.

Accept any of the following: lawyer, politician or public service manager.

6. Explain why there are many versions of the story which explains the origin of the Chinese zodiac cycle.

Pupils' own responses, such as: There are probably lots of versions because the story is thousands of years old. It would not have been written down and was likely passed from person to person so it may have changed over time.

7. **Many people believe that individuals born in the Year of the Tiger are likeable people who can sometimes be outspoken and stubborn.**

Explain what the word 'stubborn' means.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The word 'stubborn' means when someone is determined not to change their mind about something.

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

Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I would like to be friends with someone born in the Year of the Tiger because I think that they would be reliable. They are also described as being confident and likeable so would probably be good fun to be around.



The Year of the Tiger



Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year is one of the most significant dates in the calendar of lots of different countries: it marks the beginning of the new **lunar year**. Because of this, the new year falls on a slightly different date each year.



Traits of the Tiger



People born in each year of the Chinese zodiac cycle are believed to demonstrate particular traits and qualities. These characteristics are said to reflect the animal that the year is named after; for example, the tiger is said to be a brave and confident creature.

Each zodiac sign is also linked with one of five elements: wood, fire, earth, water and metal. Depending on the year that you were born and the element that you are linked to, people born in the Year of the Tiger are said to have different traits.


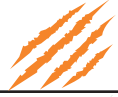

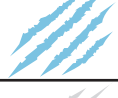



The Legend of the 12 Animals

According to Chinese culture, each lunar year is represented by one of 12 animals. This tradition dates back thousands of years and is said to have begun with a story. However, given its age, many versions of the story exist and it is unclear which version was the original tale. One story holds the main character as Buddha while another states that it was the Jade Emperor. Nevertheless, both stories are very similar and name the same 12 animals. In one version of the Chinese myth, Buddha called out to all of the animals on Earth and asked them to race to see him yet only 12 animals answered Buddha's call. To repay them for their loyalty, Buddha gave each one of these animals their own year in the Chinese zodiac cycle.



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

Year of Birth	Type of Tiger	Supposed Traits
1914 and 1974	 Wood Tiger	sociable and compassionate
1926 or 1986	 Fire Tiger	optimistic and headstrong
1938 or 1998	 Earth Tiger	ambitious and kind
1962 or 2022	 Water Tiger	confident and intelligent
1950 or 2010	 Metal Tiger	enthusiastic and indecisive

Overall, people born in the Year of the Tiger are said to be courageous and strong. They are believed to have a charming disposition and they are known for their likeable personalities. However, it can be said that they can also be outspoken and stubborn.

Predictions and Horoscopes

The Chinese culture surrounding the zodiac includes many beliefs and **horoscopes**. Just as the above traits are believed to apply to anyone born in a Year of the Tiger, the following predictions are also believed to be true for those people in 2022.

▶ People born in the Year of the Tiger are predicted to experience some change in the year 2022.

▶ It is believed to be a good year for considering a career change.

▶ They should make careful decisions about their future.

▶ They should set themselves a goal then work hard to achieve it.

Glossary

horoscope:

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

lunar year:

A year in which the months are calculated based on the Moon's phases rather than the Sun's movement.

Questions

1. Which of the following types of tiger are listed in the Chinese zodiac cycle? Tick **two**.
 - Metal Tiger
 - Stone Tiger
 - Wind Tiger
 - Wood Tiger
2. On which date does the Year of the Tiger begin? Tick one.
 - 21st January 2023
 - 1st February 2022
 - 21st February 2023
 - 21st January 2021
3. Find and copy one word which shows that it is not known which version of the story is the original tale.

4. List the **two** supposed traits of an Earth Tiger.
 - ---
 - ---
5. In which section of the text would you find the date of the next new year?

6. Why does Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year fall on a slightly different date each year?

7. **They are believed to have a charming disposition and they are known for their likeable personalities.**
What does the word 'disposition' mean?

8. **...Buddha called out to all of the animals on Earth and asked them to race to see him get only 12 animals answered Buddha's call.**

Explain why you think that the tiger was one of the 12 animals that responded to Buddha's call.

9. Summarise what you have learnt about Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year using 30 words or fewer.

Answers

1. Which of the following types of tiger are listed in the Chinese zodiac cycle? Tick **two**.

- Metal Tiger**
- Stone Tiger
- Wind Tiger
- Wood Tiger**

2. On which date does the Year of the Tiger begin? Tick one.

- 21st January 2023
- 1st February 2022**
- 21st February 2023
- 21st January 2021

3. Find and copy one word which shows that it is not known which version of the story is the original tale.

unclear

4. List the **two** supposed traits of an Earth Tiger.

- **ambitious**
- **kind**

5. In which section of the text would you find the date of the next new year?

The Legend of the 12 Animals

6. Why does Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year fall on a slightly different date each year?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Chinese New Year falls on a slightly different date each year because it marks the beginning of the lunar year whereas the other calendar that is used is based on the Sun's movements instead.

7. **They are believed to have a charming disposition and they are known for their likeable personalities.**

What does the word 'disposition' mean?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the word disposition refers to what a person's character and personality are like.

8. **...Buddha called out to all of the animals on Earth and asked them to race to see him yet only 12 animals answered Buddha's call.**

Explain why you think that the tiger was one of the 12 animals that responded to Buddha's call.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the tiger was one of the 12 animals that answered Buddha's call because the tiger is said to be a courageous and confident creature so would have felt comfortable stepping forward to help.

9. Summarise what you have learnt about Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year using 30 words or fewer.

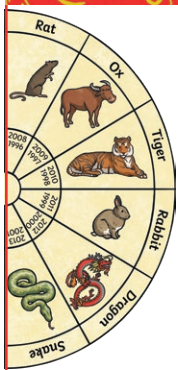
Pupils' own responses, such as: Chinese New Year is a popular, historic celebration and it is based on the lunar year. Each year is represented by one of 12 animals from a traditional story.

The Year of the Tiger



Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year is a significant event in the calendar of lots of different countries. Each new year – a lunar year in which the months are calculated based on the Moon's phases – begins on a slightly different date compared to the last and each is represented by one of 12 animals.

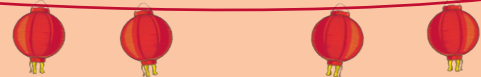
The Origin of the 12 Animals



The history of the festival is steeped in legend and dates back thousands of years. It is believed to have originated from a story but, given its age and regular retelling, many different versions of the story exist. One myth holds the main character as Buddha while another states that it was the Jade Emperor – a representation of the first god within Chinese culture. It is difficult to determine which version was the original tale but both stories bear strong similarities and involve the same 12 animals.

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






One such animal was the courageous tiger; he arrived behind the ox (who could swim across the river) and the rat (who caught a ride on the ox's back) — and thus, became the third animal of the Chinese zodiac.



The Year of the Tiger commences on 1st February 2022 and will be the 4720th year of the Chinese calendar, lasting until 21st January 2023. The Year of the Rabbit will then begin the day after on 22nd January 2023. Once this happens, 11 years will pass until the next Year of the Tiger, which will not begin again until 19th February 2034.

Traits and Characteristics

People born in each year of the Chinese zodiac cycle are believed to demonstrate particular traits and qualities. These characteristics are said to reflect the animal that the year is named after. Each zodiac sign is also linked with one of five elements: wood, fire, earth, water and metal. Depending on the year that you were born and the element that you are linked to, people born in the Year of the Tiger are said to have different traits.

Year of Birth	Type of Tiger	Supposed Traits	Famous Examples
1914 and 1974	 Wood Tiger	sociable and compassionate	Leonardo DiCaprio
1926 or 1986	 Fire Tiger	optimistic and headstrong	David Attenborough Queen Elizabeth II
1938 or 1998	 Earth Tiger	ambitious and kind	Shawn Mendes
1962 or 2022	 Water Tiger	confident and intelligent	Tom Cruise
1950 or 2010	 Metal Tiger	enthusiastic and indecisive	Richard Branson

Overall, people born in the Year of the Tiger are said to be brave and confident. They are believed to have a charming disposition and they are known for their likeable personalities. However, it can be said that they can also demonstrate outspoken and stubborn qualities.



People born in the Year of the Tiger are said to be most compatible with those born in the years named after the dragon, the horse and the pig. The horse and the pig both have personalities which are said to be compatible with the tiger whereas the dragon and the tiger are both decisive, ambitious and daring.

Predictions and Horoscopes

The culture surrounding the Chinese zodiac includes many beliefs and horoscopes – predictions about the future of a person based on the positions of the stars at the moment of their birth. Just as the above traits are believed to apply to anyone born in a Year of the Tiger, the following are also believed to be true for those people in 2022.

▶ People born in the Year of the Tiger are predicted to experience transformation and change in the year 2022.

▶ Individuals should be prepared to draw on strength and make careful decisions about their future.

▶ It is believed to be a good year for considering a change in career.

▶ They should set themselves a goal then work hard to achieve it.

Questions

1. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.

Each new lunar year...

dates back
thousands of years.

A person born in the Year
of the Tiger...

gave each one their
own year in the Chinese
zodiac cycle.

To repay the animals for
their loyalty, Buddha...

begins on a slightly
different date
than the last.

The history of the
festival...

is said to be brave and
confident.

2. **...people born in the Year of the Tiger are said to be confident...**

Which of the following words is an antonym of 'confident'? Tick one.

- unkind
 outgoing
 insecure
 boastful

3. Fill in the missing words.

Depending on the year that you were born and the _____

that you are linked to, people born in a Year of the Tiger are said to have

different_____.

4. On what date will the next Year of the Rabbit begin?

5. Which **two** animals arrived before the tiger in the story of the Chinese zodiac?

• _____

• _____

6. **The horse and the pig both have personalities which are said to be compatible with the tiger.**

What does 'compatible' mean in this sentence?

7. Explain why it may be difficult to determine which version was the original tale of the zodiac.

8. Look at the section called **The Origin of the 12 Animals**

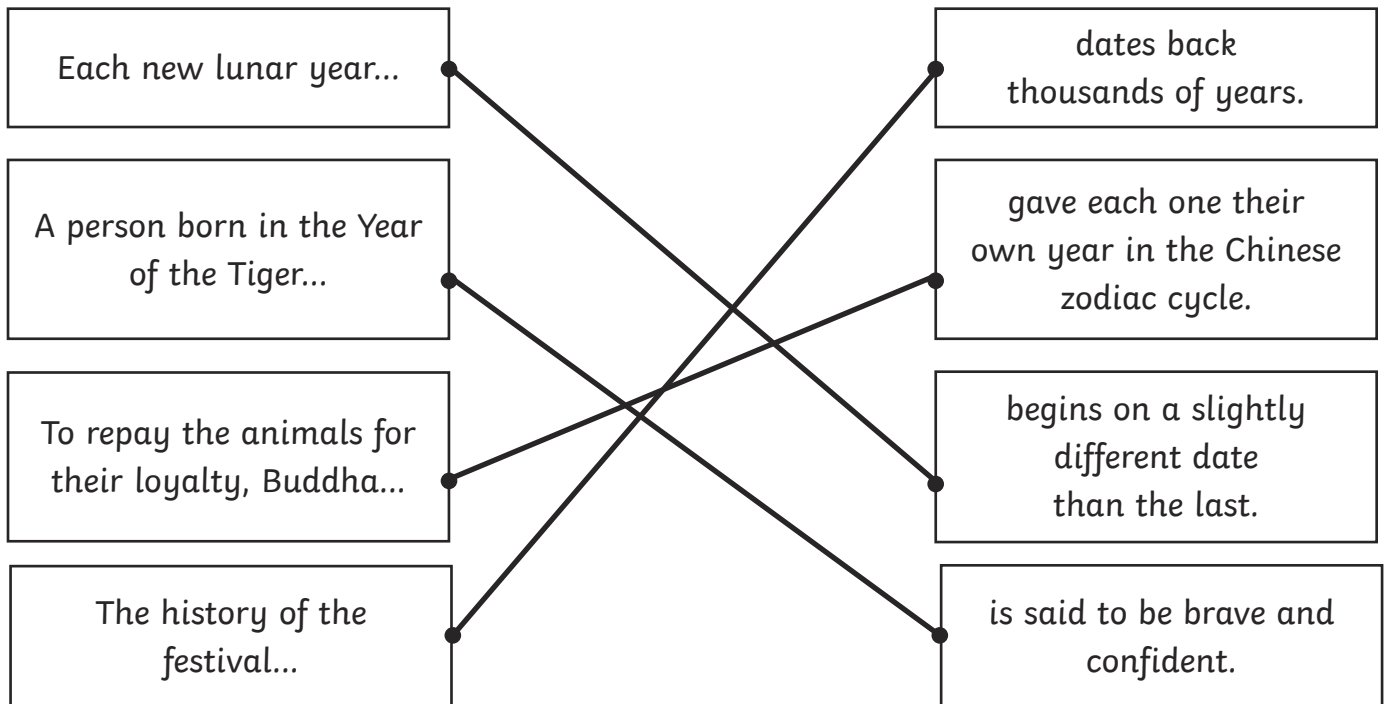
Give an alternative subtitle for this section of the text.

9. Which of the types of tiger would you most like to be friends with? Explain your answer giving reference to the text.

10. Summarise what you have learnt about the Chinese zodiac cycle using 25 words or fewer.

Answers

1. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.



2. **...people born in the Year of the Tiger are said to be confident...**

Which of the following words is an antonym of 'confident'? Tick one.

- unkind
- outgoing
- insecure**
- boastful

3. Fill in the missing words.

Depending on the year that you were born and the **element**

that you are linked to, people born in a Year of the Tiger are said to have different **traits**.

4. On what date will the next Year of the Rabbit begin?

The next Year of the Rabbit will begin on 22nd January 2023.

5. Which **two** animals arrived before the tiger in the story of the Chinese zodiac?

Accept: ox; rat.

6. **The horse and the pig both have personalities which are said to be compatible with the tiger.**

What does 'compatible' mean in this sentence?

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'Compatible' means when people have characteristics and qualities which are well-suited to one another.

7. Explain why it may be difficult to determine which version was the original tale of the zodiac.

Pupils' own responses, such as: It may be difficult to determine which version was the original tale because the story dates back thousands of years and is steeped in legend so has been changed a great deal since it was first told.

8. Look at the section called **The Origin of the 12 Animals**

Give an alternative subtitle for this section of the text.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The story of the Chinese Zodiac Cycle.

9. Which of the types of tiger would you most like to be friends with? Explain your answer giving reference to the text.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that I would like to be friends with someone who was born in the year of the Wood Tiger because they would be sociable which means they should be fun. Also, it says they are compassionate which is a nice quality in a friend.

10. Summarise what you have learnt about the Chinese zodiac cycle using 25 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Each new lunar year in the Chinese zodiac cycle is represented by one of 12 animals. The animals are based on a traditional story.