

The Year of the Ox

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is often called the most important of the traditional Chinese holidays. Because the Chinese calendar is based on the Moon's phases rather than the movement of the Sun, Chinese New Year falls on a different date each year.

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

1961 1973 1985 1997 2009

Traits of the Ox

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. The ox is said to be the second of the zodiac animals and is seen as honest.

In Chinese culture, the ox is believed to be hard-working and loyal. They can be relied upon and they contribute greatly to society. Just like the real-life creature, people born in this year are also said to be dependable. Many people believe that individuals born in the Year of the Ox are determined people who believe that hard work brings success.

The Legend of the Chinese Horoscope

According to Chinese culture, each year is represented by one of 12 animals. This tradition first began with a story that dates back thousands of years. There are many different versions of the story. Some have the Jade Emperor as the main character and others have Buddha but all 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 come and see him. However, only 12 animals answered his call. To show his gratitude for their loyalty, Buddha gave each one of these animals their own year in the Chinese **zodiac cycle**.

The Year of the Ox begins on 12th February 2021. It is the 4719th year of the Chinese calendar and it will run until 1st February 2022 when the Year of the Tiger begins. Once the Year of the Tiger begins, the next Year of the Ox will not begin again until 31st January 2033.



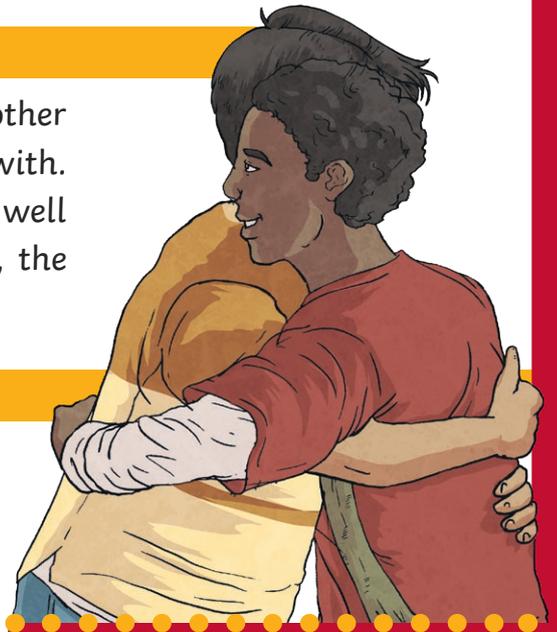
Making Friends

Each animal in the Chinese zodiac cycle has other animals that they are said to be most compatible with. People born in the Year of the Ox are said to get on well with those who were born in the Year of the Rat, the Year of the Snake and the Year of the Rooster.

Tireless Workers

People born in the Year of the Ox are believed to do well in jobs that require working alone and those which have a clear routine. They are said to prefer jobs that require a specialist skill. It is believed that other people enjoy working with individuals who were born in the Year of the Ox because they can be relied upon to see every job through to the end.

Popular careers for people born in the Year of the Ox are said to be jobs that require a keen eye for detail, such as a lawyer, a carpenter, a banker or an army officer.



Famous people born in the Year of the Ox:

Malala Yousafzai
Diana, Princess of Wales
Barack Obama
Malcolm X

Glossary

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 come and 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 Ox begins.

31st January 2033

The date that the Year of the Tiger begins.

1st February 2022

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

12th February 2021

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

- _____
- _____

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

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'making a firm decision'.

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 Chinese Horoscope**.

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

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

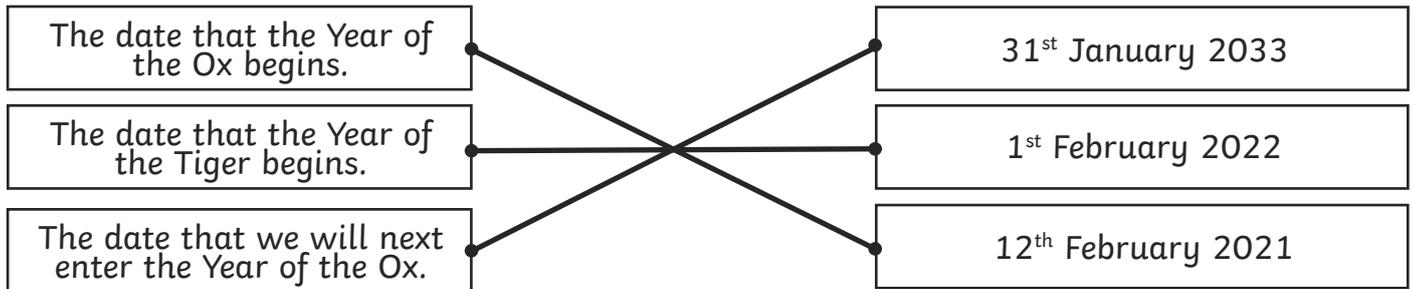
8. Discuss one other job that you think would be suited to someone born in the Year of the Ox.

Answers

1. Who did Buddha ask to come and 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 Ox.

Accept any two of the following: Malala Yousafzai; Diana, Princess of Wales; Barack Obama; Malcolm X.

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

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'making a firm decision'.

determined

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 Chinese Horoscope**.

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 horoscope and why each year is named after a different animal.

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

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