

# The Chinese New Year Story

## Symbol Book

# **The Chinese New Year Story**

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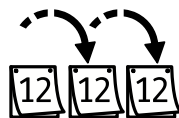
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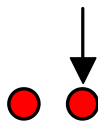
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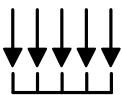
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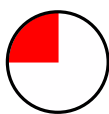
Chinese New Year is a very old tradition.



It is celebrated in China and other parts of the world.



Each year is symbolised by an animal.



The animals include a rat, an ox and a tiger.



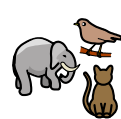
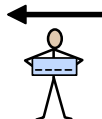
The origins of Chinese New Year are found in Chinese folklore.



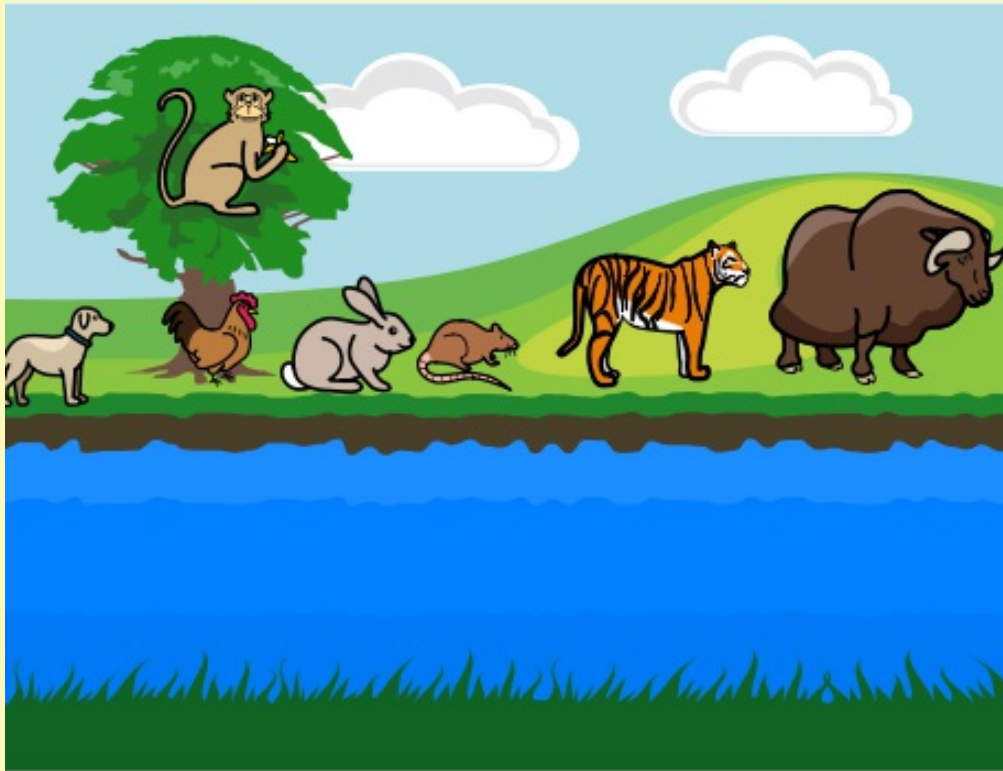
The Jade Emperor is an important God in Chinese culture.



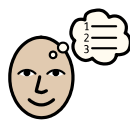
The Jade Emperor was the ruler of Heaven.



It is believed that he named the calendar year after animals.



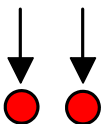
The Jade Emperor



organised



a race.



Each



year



would be named

after

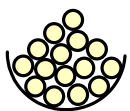


an animal

from



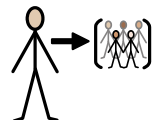
the race.



Many



animals



entered



the race.



The animals



included



a rat,

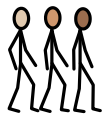


an ox

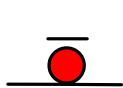
and



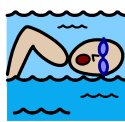
a tiger.



The animals lined up for the race.



"Ready, steady, go!" shouted The Jade Emperor.



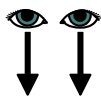
The rat was not the best swimmer.



The rat was the cleverest animal.



The rat



noticed

that



the ox

was



going



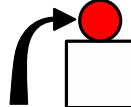
to win.



He



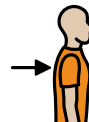
climbed



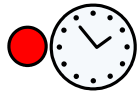
onto



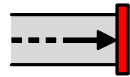
the ox's



back.



Just before



the finish line



the rat



jumped over



the ox's



head.



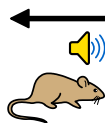
"Hooray,



I'm



the winner!"



squeaked



the rat.



"Well done,



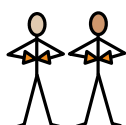
Rat,"



congratulated



The Jade Emperor.

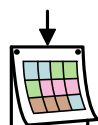


"We



will

call

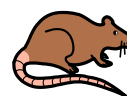


this year



the year

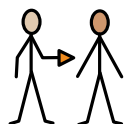
of



the rat".



"Ox,



you

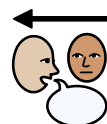
came

2<sup>nd</sup>

second,"



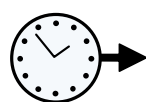
he



said.



"Next year



will be



the year

of



the ox".



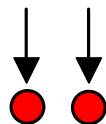
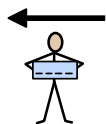


1

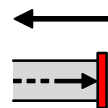
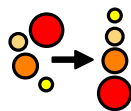
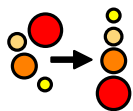
1



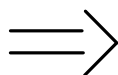
One by one, the animals finished the race.



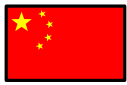
The Jade Emperor named a year after each animal.



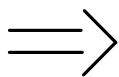
The order of the animals was the order they finished the race.



After that, each New Year was represented by an animal.



The Chinese calendar is known as the Chinese zodiac.



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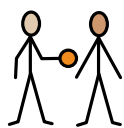


The Chinese zodiac represents 12 different animals.

2023



2023 is the year of the rabbit.



Which is your favourite animal?