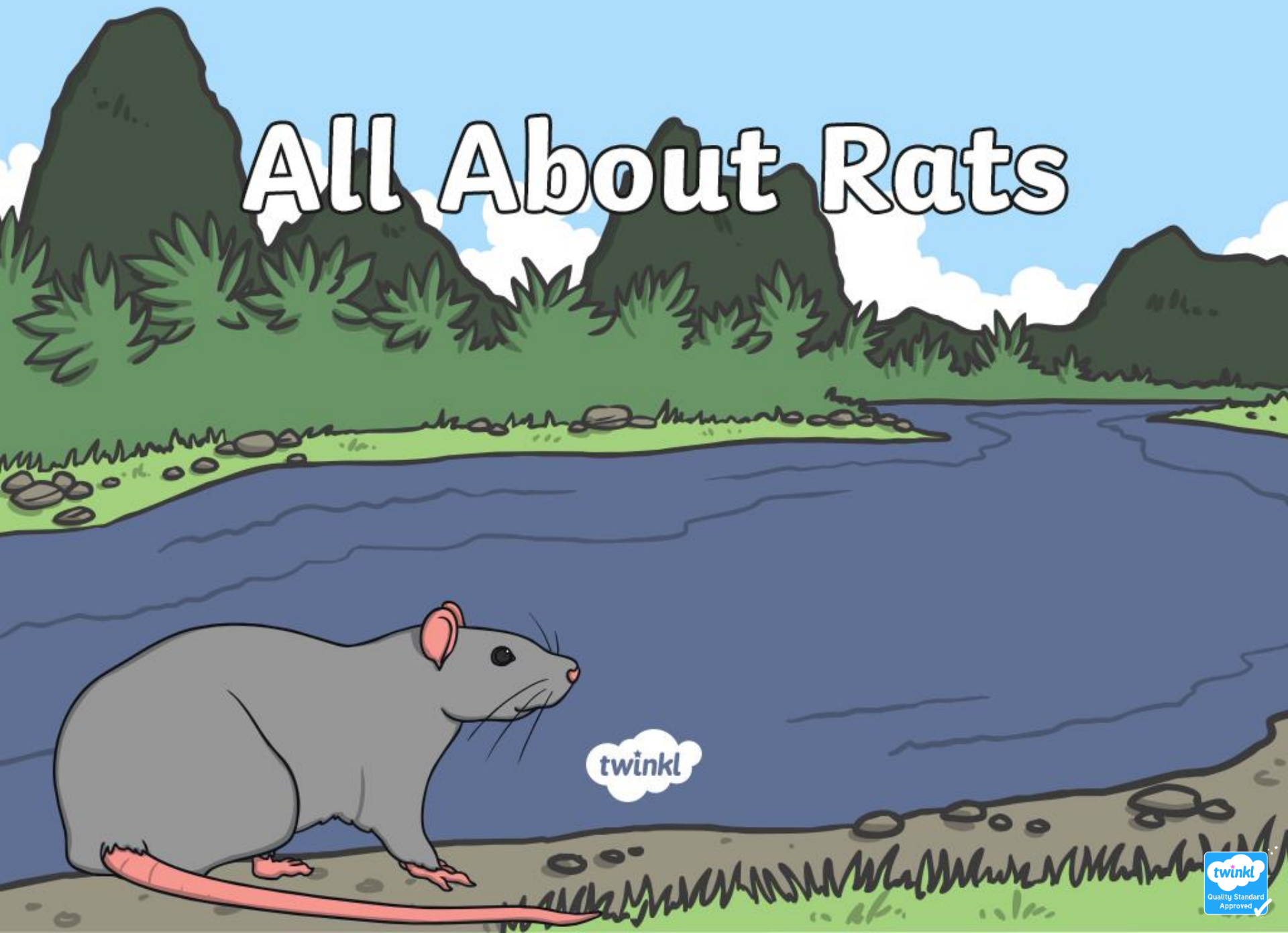


All About Rats



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What Is Chinese New Year?

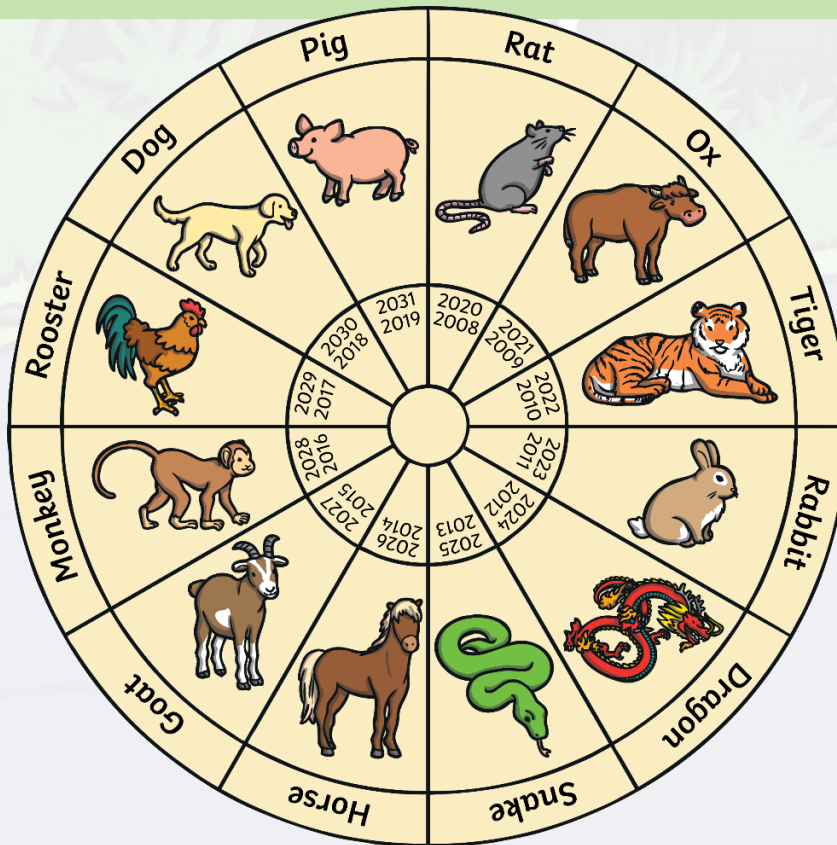
Chinese New Year is the start of the new year in the Chinese calendar. As it is celebrated by other countries too, it can sometimes be called Lunar New Year.

Chinese New Year is celebrated on a different date each year. It can be celebrated between 21st January and 20th February. This is because it starts at the beginning of the first new moon.



Chinese Zodiac

Each new year is named after an animal from the Chinese New Year story. Can you spot the year you were born?



When I was born, it was the year of the...

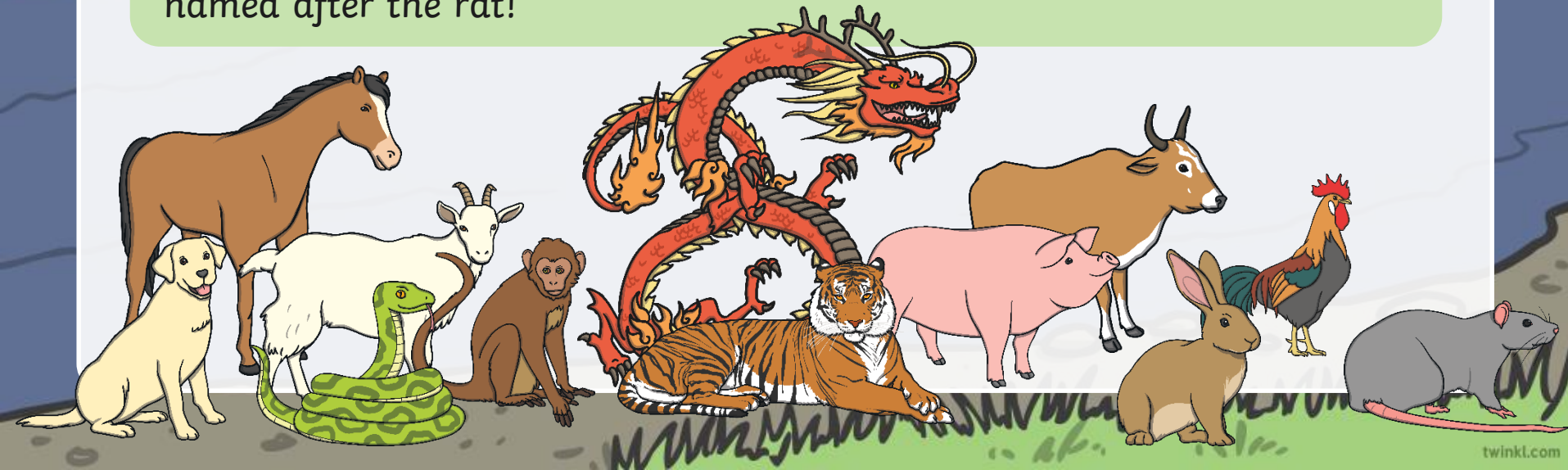
Chinese New Year Story

The Chinese New Year story tells us how the animals in the Chinese zodiac were chosen.

Many years ago, the Jade Emperor decided that he wanted to start a way of measuring time by introducing a calendar. He wanted to name each year after an animal.

He invited lots of animals to enter a race to cross the river. The first 12 animals to finish the race, would have a year named after them.

The rat was the first animal to cross the river. So, the first year was named after the rat!



Year of the Rat



Do you know any facts about rats?

Facts about Rats

Rats come from the same group of animals as mice, hamsters and squirrels. They are all rodents.



Facts about Rats

In the UK, there are two different types of rat – a black rat and a brown rat.



Black rats are not as common as brown rats. They are also usually smaller than brown rats.

Facts about Rats



Rats like chewing things. Their teeth are very strong and are always growing. They can bite through lots of materials, such as metal.

Facts about Rats

Rats use their long tails to help them balance. Sometimes, their tail can be longer than their body!



Facts about Rats

A rat can have up to 20 babies in one go.



Facts about Rats

Sometimes, people keep rats as pets.





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