

The Year of the Ox

What Is Chinese New Year?

Chinese New Year is a special Chinese holiday. Each year is named after a different animal. This year is the Year of the Ox!

Why Is Each Year a Different Animal?

The Chinese New Year story says that 12 animals had a race. The years were named after the order in which the animals finished the race. The ox was tricked by the rat so the ox finished in second place. This means that the second year was named after the ox.

When Does the Year of the Ox Start?

The Year of the Ox starts on 12th February 2021.

People born in the Year of the Ox might:

work hard	tell the truth
be good at waiting	be strong



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



Your lucky colours might be:



Your lucky numbers might be:



Questions

1. What is each year named after? Tick one.

- ☐ a car
- ☐ an animal
- ☐ a person

2. Which animal finished in second place? Tick one.

- ☐ the ox
- ☐ the rat
- ☐ the pig

3. When does the Year of the Ox start? Tick one.

- ☐ 12th May 2021
- ☐ 12th March 2021
- ☐ 12th February 2021

4. What might people born in the Year of the Ox be? Tick one.

- ☐ brave
- ☐ strong
- ☐ neat

5. What might be a lucky colour for you if you are born in the Year of the Ox? Tick one.

- ☐ green
- ☐ red
- ☐ yellow

Answers

1. What is each year named after? Tick one.

- ☐ a car
- ☒ **an animal**
- ☐ a person

2. Which animal finished in second place? Tick one.

- ☒ **the ox**
- ☐ the rat
- ☐ the pig

3. When does the Year of the Ox start? Tick one.

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- ☐ 12th March 2021
- ☒ **12th February 2021**

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- ☒ **strong**
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- ☐ green
- ☒ **red**
- ☐ yellow

The Year of the Ox

What Is Chinese New Year?

Chinese New Year is an important Chinese holiday. The celebration is also known as the Spring Festival or Lunar New Year. Each year is named after a different animal. This year is the Year of the Ox!

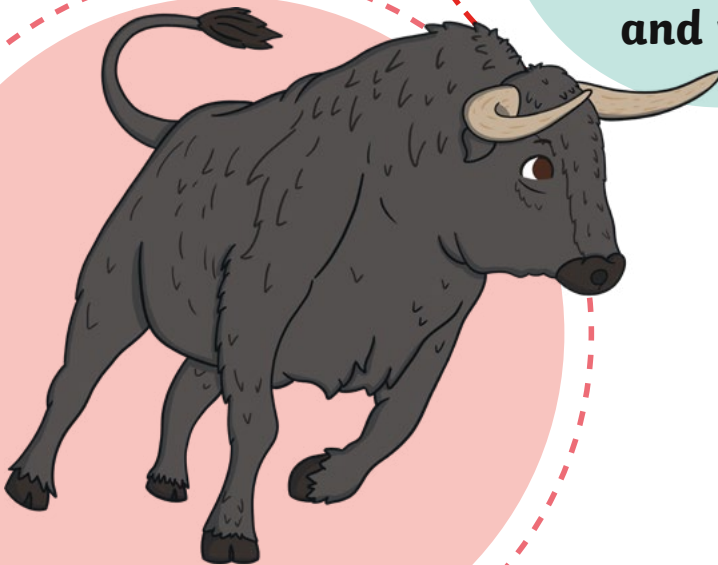
Why Is Each Year a Different Animal?

One Chinese New Year story says that the Jade Emperor told 12 animals to have a race. This was so that he could name the years and put them in order. He named each year to show the order that the animals finished the race in.



The ox helped the rat during the race but then the rat tricked the ox and won.

This meant that the ox came second so the second year was named after the ox.



When Does the Year of the Ox Start?

The Year of the Ox starts on 12th February 2021. The Year of the Ox won't happen again until 2033.



What Does It Mean If You Are Born in the Year of the Ox?

Someone born in the Year of the Ox is believed to:

**be
good at
waiting**

**work
hard**

**be
honest**

**put up
with
things**

**try
hard**

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

1937

1985

1949

1997

1961

2009

1973

2021



Did You Know...?

People believe that those born in the Year of the Ox have...

- blue, red and purple as their lucky colours.
- tulips and peach blossoms as their lucky flowers.
- one, four and nine as their lucky numbers.

Questions

1. What is Chinese New Year also known as? Tick one.

- ☐ the Winter Festival
- ☐ the Summer Festival
- ☐ the Spring Festival

2. Draw **three** lines to complete these sentences.

This year is...

2033.

The Year of the Ox
starts on the...

the Year of the Ox.

The Year of the Ox won't
happen again until...

12th February 2021.

3. Which **two** of these things are true about one Chinese New Year story? Tick **two**.

- ☐ The Jade Emperor told 12 animals to have a race.
- ☐ The ox won the race.
- ☐ The rat won the race.

4. Find and copy one word that means 'tells the truth'.

5. What might your lucky numbers be if you were born in the Year of the Ox?

Answers

1. What is Chinese New Year also known as? Tick one.

- ☐ the Winter Festival
- ☐ the Summer Festival
- ☒ **the Spring Festival**

2. Draw **three** lines to complete these sentences.

This year is...	2033.
The Year of the Ox starts on the...	the Year of the Ox.
The Year of the Ox won't happen again until...	12 th February 2021.

3. Which **two** of these things are true about one Chinese New Year story? Tick **two**.

- ☒ **The Jade Emperor told 12 animals to have a race.**
- ☐ The ox won the race.
- ☒ **The rat won the race.**

4. Find and copy one word that means 'tells the truth'.

honest

5. What might your lucky numbers be if you were born in the Year of the Ox?
People believe that those born in the Year of the Ox have one, four and nine as their lucky numbers.

The Year of the Ox

What Is Chinese New Year?

Chinese New Year is a very important Chinese holiday. In the past, it was a festival to pay respects to people in your family who lived before you.



Chinese New Year can also sometimes be called the Lunar New Year. This is because the Chinese calendar is worked out using the Moon and how much it is lit by the Sun. Each year in the Chinese calendar is named after a different animal. This year is the Year of the Ox.

Why Is Each Year a Different Animal?

One of the legends of Chinese New Year tells us that the Jade Emperor ordered 12 animals to have a race. He did this so that he could name the years and put them in order.



The Jade Emperor would name each year to show the order that the animals completed the race in. The ox helped the rat during the race. Then, the quick and cunning rat won and the ox came second. The second year was named after the ox.

When Does the Year of the Ox Start?

The Year of the Ox starts on 12th February 2021 and continues until 31st January 2022. The Year of the Ox won't happen again until the year 2033.

What Could It Mean If You Are Born in the Year of the Ox?

Many people think that someone born in the Year of the Ox will have lots of good traits. They believe that they will be:

dependable

honest

patient

determined

hard-working

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

1937

1985

1949

1997

1961

2009

1973

2021



Did You Know...?

Lots of famous people were born in the Year of the Ox, such as Barack Obama and Malala Yousafzai.

Do you know anyone who was born in the Year of the Ox?

Questions

1. What was Chinese New Year originally about? Tick one.

- ☐ caring for family who are living now
- ☐ looking after pets who lived before you
- ☐ paying respects to family who lived before you

2. Which **two** of these things are true about one Chinese New Year story? Tick **two**.

- ☐ The Jade Emperor ordered 12 animals to have a race.
- ☐ The rat helped the ox to win the race.
- ☐ The Jade Emperor named the years to show the order that the animals completed the race in.

3. Find and copy one word that describes the rat.

4. Fill in the missing word.

This is because the Chinese calendar is worked out using the _____ .

5. **Many people think that someone born in the Year of the Ox will have lots of good traits.**

What do you think the word **traits** might mean?

6. Would you like to be best friends with someone who was born in the Year of the Ox? Give a reason for your answer.

Answers

1. What was Chinese New Year originally about? Tick one.

- ☐ caring for family who are living now
- ☐ looking after pets who lived before you
- ☒ **paying respects to family who lived before you**

2. Which **two** of these things are true about one Chinese New Year story? Tick **two**.

- ☒ **The Jade Emperor ordered 12 animals to have a race.**
- ☐ The rat helped the ox to win the race.
- ☒ **The Jade Emperor named the years to show the order that the animals completed the race in.**

3. Find and copy one word that describes the rat.

Accept either of the following words: quick; cunning.

4. Fill in the missing word.

This is because the Chinese calendar is worked out using the **Moon**.

5. **Many people think that someone born in the Year of the Ox will have lots of good traits.**

What do you think the word **traits** might mean?

Accept any suitable definition, such as: I think that the word 'traits' means how someone behaves or part of their personality.

6. Would you like to be best friends with someone who was born in the Year of the Ox? Give a reason for your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I would like to have someone born in the Year of the Ox as my best friend because I believe that they would be honest and someone that I can depend on.