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The 12 Chinese Zodiac Animals

The Chinese zodiac, a system that has captivated generations, is a twelve-year cycle where each year is associated with a specific animal sign. These zodiac animals play a significant role in Chinese culture, influencing personalities, beliefs, and even determining one's fortune. Let's take a closer look at each of the twelve Chinese zodiac animals and their unique characteristics.

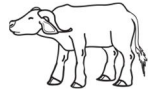
Rat (鼠 - Shu)

The Rat is the first animal in the Chinese zodiac cycle. Those born under this sign are believed to be clever, quick-witted, and resourceful. Rats are associated with wealth and abundance, symbolizing a promising start to the zodiac cycle.



Ox (牛 - Niú)

Following the Rat is the diligent Ox. Known for their hard work, perseverance, and reliability, individuals born in the Year of the Ox are thought to be strong and steadfast. The Ox symbolizes prosperity achieved through dedication and discipline.



Tiger (虎 - Hu)

The Tiger, a symbol of power and bravery, takes its place as the third animal in the Chinese zodiac. Those born under this sign are believed to be courageous, competitive, and confident. Tigers are associated with strong leadership qualities.



Rabbit (兔 - Tù)

The gentle and compassionate Rabbit is the fourth animal in the Chinese zodiac. People born in the Year of the Rabbit are believed to possess grace, kindness, and a peaceful nature. The Rabbit symbolizes good luck and happiness.



Dragon (龙 - Lóng)

As the only mythical creature in the Chinese zodiac, the Dragon holds a special place as the fifth animal. Dragons are associated with power, strength, and good fortune. Those born under this sign are believed to be ambitious and charismatic.



Snake (蛇 - Shé)

The sixth animal in the Chinese zodiac is the Snake, known for its wisdom, intuition, and charm. Snakes are associated with transformation and renewal, symbolizing both mystery and beauty.

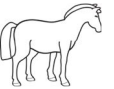




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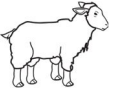
Horse (马 - Mu)

With a spirit of independence and a love for freedom, the Horse is the seventh animal in the Chinese zodiac. Individuals born under this sign are believed to be energetic, enthusiastic, and adventurous.



Goat/Sheep (羊 - Yáng)

The gentle and artistic Goat takes its place as the eighth animal. Those born in the Year of the Goat are associated with creativity, kindness, and a strong sense of empathy. The Goat symbolizes harmony and peace.



Monkey (猴 - Hóu)

The playful and clever Monkey is the ninth animal in the Chinese zodiac. Individuals born under this sign are believed to be witty, curious, and full of energy. Monkeys are associated with intelligence and resourcefulness.



Rooster (鸡 - Jī)

As the tenth animal in the Chinese zodiac, the Rooster is known for its confidence, reliability, and loyalty. Those born under this sign are believed to be hardworking and disciplined.



Dog (狗 - Gǒu)

The loyal and compassionate Dog is the eleventh animal. Individuals born in the Year of the Dog are known for their honesty, loyalty, and strong sense of justice. The Dog symbolizes protection and loyalty.



Pig (猪 - Zhū)

Completing the twelve-year cycle is the Pig, associated with kindness, generosity, and a love for life. People born under this sign are believed to be good-natured and enjoy the pleasures of life.



The Chinese zodiac animals, with their distinct qualities and symbolic meanings, continue to play a vital role in shaping cultural beliefs and traditions. As each year unfolds in the twelve-year cycle, individuals celebrate not only their birthdays but also the unique characteristics associated with their zodiac sign, creating a rich tapestry of cultural heritage that spans generations.





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1. Use the information in the text to write down two characteristics for each animal sign.

