

# The Year of the Ox

## What Is the Chinese Horoscope?

Each new lunar year in Chinese **culture** is shown by an animal. There are 12 animals altogether. This tradition is thousands of years old and is believed to have first begun with a story.

It is said that Buddha asked all of the animals on Earth to come and see him. However, only 12 animals answered his call. Buddha gave each one of these animals their own year in the Chinese **zodiac cycle** as a way of saying thank you.

### Did You Know...?

Some versions of the story have the Jade Emperor as the main character and others have Buddha. However, all of the stories are very similar and talk about the same animals.

## When Does the Year of the Ox Start?

The Year of the Ox begins on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021. It is the 4719<sup>th</sup> year of the Chinese calendar. Once the Year of the Ox is over, the next will not begin again until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2033.

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

**1961 1973 1985 1997 2009**



## What Is Special about the Year of the Ox?

People born in the Year of the Ox are believed to have many special qualities. If someone was born in the Year of the Ox then many people believe that they are:

- hard-working. They work tirelessly;
- reliable. They can be trusted;
- determined. They don't give up easily;
- thorough. They will do things properly;
- loyal. They always show support.

### Did You Know...?

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.

## What Jobs Could They Be Good At?

Many people believe that people born in the Year of the Ox might make good:

- lawyers;
- carpenters;
- bankers;
- army officers.

### Glossary

**culture:** The ideas and traditions of a group of people.

**zodiac cycle:** A repeating cycle of 12 years with each year being represented by an animal or sign.

# Questions

1. How many animals answered Buddha's call? Tick one.

- 10  
 11  
 12  
 13

2. When does the Year of the Ox begin in 2021?

- 12<sup>th</sup> February  
 31<sup>st</sup> January  
 31<sup>st</sup> February  
 12<sup>th</sup> January

3. Draw **three** lines and match each word with its meaning.

reliable

thorough

determined

They don't give up easily.

They can be trusted.

They will do things properly.

4. Which of the following years is not a Year of the Ox? Tick one.

- 2009  
 1961  
 1975  
 1985

5. List **two** jobs that someone born in the Year of the Ox might be good at.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

6. Fill in the missing number.

The Year of the Ox is the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>th</sup> year of the Chinese calendar.

7. Explain why you think that the Chinese zodiac is called a 'cycle'?

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# Answers

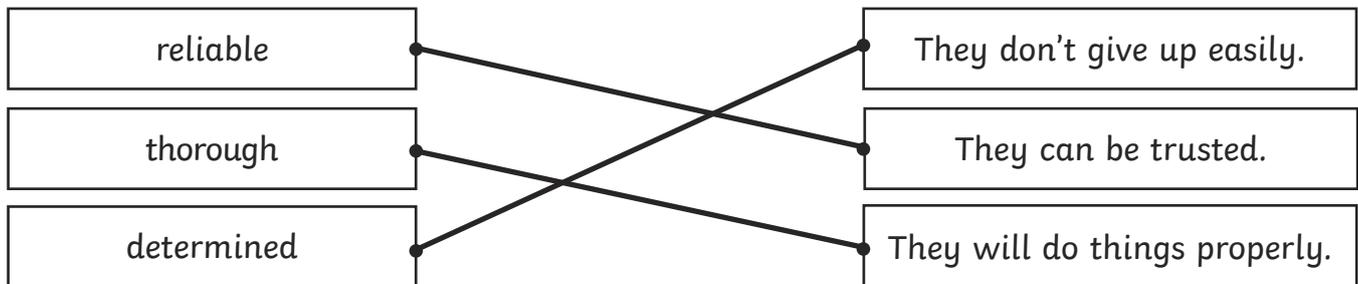
1. How many animals answered Buddha's call? Tick one.

- 10  
 11  
 **12**  
 13

2. When does the Year of the Ox begin in 2021?

- 12<sup>th</sup> February**  
 31<sup>st</sup> January  
 31<sup>st</sup> February  
 12<sup>th</sup> January

3. Draw **three** lines and match each word with its meaning.



4. Which of the following years is not a Year of the Ox? Tick one.

- 2009  
 1961  
 **1975**  
 1985

5. List two jobs that someone born in the Year of the Ox might be good at.

**Accept any two of the following: lawyer; carpenter; banker; army officer.**

6. Fill in the missing number.

The Year of the Ox is the **4719<sup>th</sup>** year of the Chinese calendar.

7. Explain why you think that the Chinese zodiac is called a 'cycle'?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the Chinese zodiac is called a cycle because it repeats. After all 12 of the animals have passed, the cycle begins again.**

# The Year of the Ox

## The Chinese Horoscope

In Chinese culture, each new year is shown by one of 12 animals. This tradition dates back thousands of years and started with a story. Because it is an old tale, there are many different versions of the story. Some versions have the Jade Emperor as the main character and others have Buddha. However, all of the stories are very similar and contain the same 12 animals. One version of the story tells that Buddha asked all of the animals on Earth to come and see him but only 12 animals answered his call. Buddha repaid them by giving each one of these animals their own year in the Chinese **zodiac cycle**.

The Year of the Ox begins on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021. It is the 4719<sup>th</sup> year of the Chinese calendar. Once the Year of the Ox is over, the next will not begin again until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2033.

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

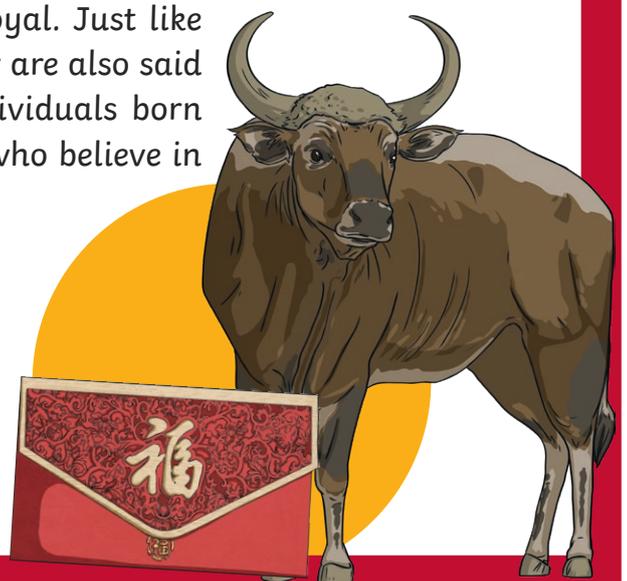
**1961 1973 1985 1997 2009**

## Traits of the Ox

People born in the different years of the Chinese zodiac cycle are believed to have particular **traits** and qualities. These traits are said to link to 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.

Oxen are believed to be hard-working and loyal. Just like the real-life creature, people born in this year are also said to be reliable. Many people believe that individuals born in the Year of the Ox are determined people who believe in the importance of hard work.

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

It is said that people born in the Year of the Ox do well in jobs that require a clear routine. They are said to prefer working alone and in jobs that require a specialist skill. It is believed that other people enjoy working with people who were born in the Year of the Ox because they can be relied upon to finish jobs thoroughly.

Popular careers for people born in the Year of the Ox are said to include:

- 📌 lawyers;
- 📌 carpenters;
- 📌 bankers;
- 📌 army officers.

### Did You Know...?

Barack Obama, Malala Yousafzai and Diana, Princess of Wales were all born in the Year of the Ox.

### Glossary

**trait:** A quality that makes a person or a group of people different from others.

**zodiac cycle:** A repeating cycle of 12 years with each year being represented by an animal or sign.

# Questions

1. How did the tradition of the Chinese horoscope begin? Tick one.

- with a song
- with a letter
- with a story
- with a poem

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

Which word means the same as 'honest'? Tick one.

- brave
- polite
- kind
- truthful

3. Draw **three** lines and complete each sentence.

Buddha...	was born in the Year of the Ox.
Barack Obama...	asked all of the animals on Earth to come and see him.
Oxen...	are believed to be hard-working and loyal.

4. Which of the following are said to be popular careers for people born in the Year of the Ox? Tick **two**.

- lawyers
- actors
- army officers
- artists

5. Fill in the missing words.

Buddha repaid the animals by giving each one their own \_\_\_\_\_ in the Chinese \_\_\_\_\_ cycle.

6. On what date does the Year of the Ox begin in 2021?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Explain why people born in the Year of the Ox might make good army officers.

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8. Would you like to be friends with someone born in the Year of the Ox?  
Explain your answer.

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# Answers

1. How did the tradition of the Chinese horoscope begin? Tick one.

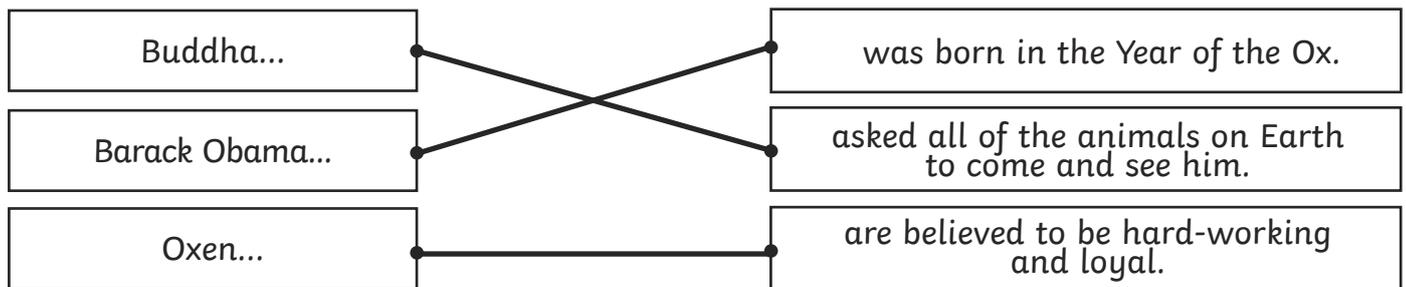
- with a song
- with a letter
- with a story**
- with a poem

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

Which word means the same as 'honest'? Tick one.

- brave
- polite
- kind
- truthful**

3. Draw **three** lines and complete each sentence.



4. Which of the following are said to be popular careers for people born in the Year of the Ox? Tick **two**.

- lawyers**
- actors
- army officers**
- artists

5. Fill in the missing words.

Buddha repaid the animals by giving each one their own **year** in the Chinese **zodiac** cycle.

6. On what date does the Year of the Ox begin in 2021?

**The Year of the Ox begins on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021.**

7. Explain why people born in the Year of the Ox might make good army officers.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: People born in the Year of the Ox might make good army officers because the job requires a great deal of hard work. Being an army officer also requires loyalty and honesty. These are all qualities that people born in the Year of the Ox are believed to possess.**

8. Would you like to be friends with someone born in the Year of the Ox?

Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, I would like to be friends with someone born in the Year of the Ox because I think they would be a loyal friend. I also think that they would work hard at school and be a good role model for me.**

# 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 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021. It is the 4719<sup>th</sup> year of the Chinese calendar and it will run until 1<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> January 2033.



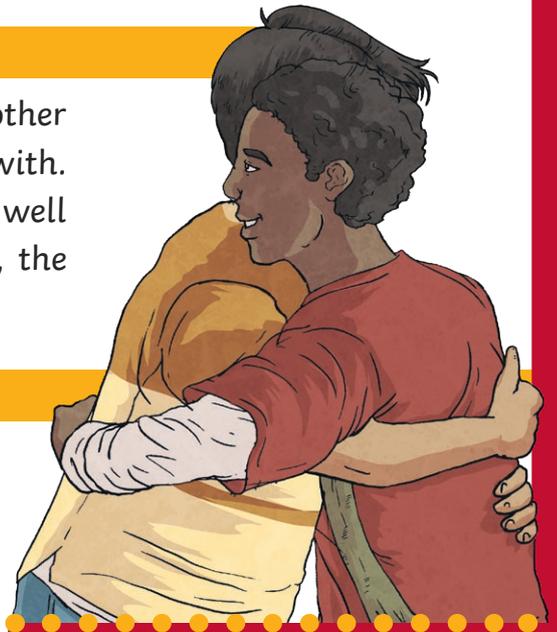
### Making Friends

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.

31<sup>st</sup> January 2033

The date that the Year of the Tiger begins.

1<sup>st</sup> February 2022

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

12<sup>th</sup> 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.

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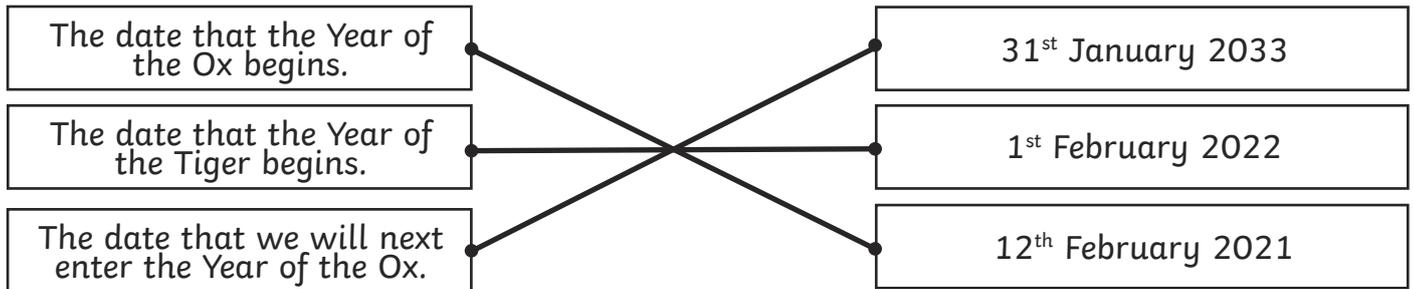
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# Answers

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.**

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

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that someone born in the Year of the Ox would make a good scientist. This is because scientists need to be very hard-working and determined. They can also contribute greatly to society through their discoveries.**