

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 12th February 2021. It is the 4719th year of the Chinese calendar. Once the Year of the Ox is over, the next will not begin again until 31st 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.

The Year of the Ox

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? Tick one.

- 12th February
- 31st January
- 31st February
- 12th 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 _____th year of the Chinese calendar.

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

Answers

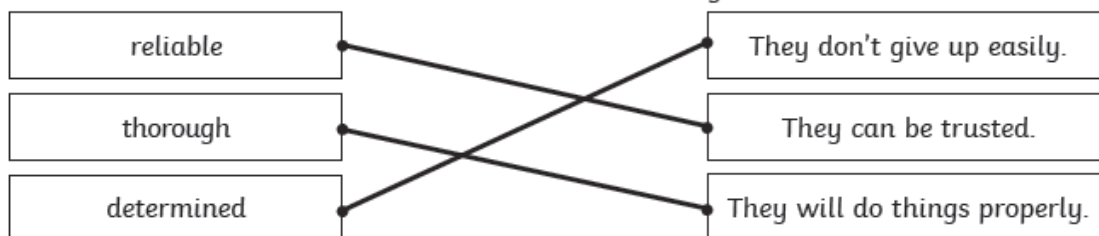
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4. Which of the following years is not a Year of the Ox? Tick one.

- 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 **4719th** 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.