

All About...  
**The Year of the Ox**



# Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is a festival that celebrates the start of a new year in the Chinese calendar. It is sometimes called the Lunar New Year, or Spring Festival, as it is celebrated in lots of places in the world, including China, Vietnam and South Korea.

## Did You Know...?

The date of Chinese New Year changes each year. This is because the Chinese New Year starts when there is a new moon. It falls between the 21<sup>st</sup> of January and the 20<sup>th</sup> of February.



# How Is Chinese New Year Celebrated?

On the days before Chinese New Year, people clean their houses. During the festival, they have special food with their friends and families.

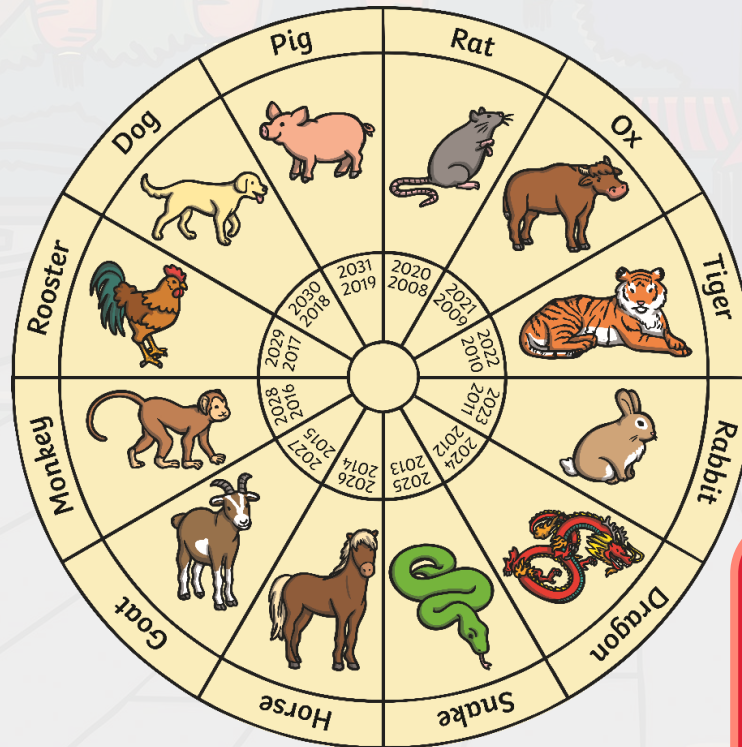
In Chinese culture, red is considered to be lucky. At Chinese New Year children are given 'lucky money', which is given to them in red envelopes. Red lanterns are also lit.

People watch firework displays and some people perform dragon dances in the street.



# The Chinese Calendar

Each new year is named after an animal.



**Talk About It!**  
Months have names too. Can you say the months in order?

# Why Are the Years Named after Animals?

A very long time ago, the Jade Emperor, the ruler of China, decided that there should be a way to measure time. He organised a race across the river and invited all the animals in China to take part.

The order in which the animals managed to cross the river was the order in which the Jade Emperor named the different years. 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.



# Oxen

Oxen are fully grown, male bulls that are trained to work, usually on a farm.



## Did You Know...?

If there is more than one ox, you say oxen.

Oxen have been used to help people for centuries to do different jobs, such as ploughing fields, threshing crops and carrying heavy loads in countries across the world.

# Facts About Oxen

Oxen are mammals. Mammals are animals that have warm blood that give birth to live babies. Bears, dolphins and humans are also mammals.

Oxen are part of a group of animals called cattle. Cows are also cattle.

Oxen are herbivores, which means they eat plants not meat.

An ox can live, on average, for 15 years.

Oxen work extremely hard and they only need four hours of sleep to do so.

## Did You Know...?

Oxen are known for their strength. There is a saying 'as strong as an ox' used to describe strong people.



# People Born in the Year of the Ox

The ox is a valued animal in Chinese culture because of its links with farming.

People born in the year of the ox are said to be honest, hard-working and kind. They think logically and are great leaders.

There are lots of famous people who were born in the year of the ox. These include Barack Obama, Walt Disney, Malala Yousafzai and Simone Biles.



## Find Out!

Can you find out which year of the Chinese calendar you were born in?





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