

Name: _____

Chinese Fable: Chinese Zodiac

Long ago in China, the Jade Emperor, the almighty Chinese God, decided to have a race. The Jade Emperor was the ruler of the heavens. He announced that he would set up a system that runs in a 12-year cycle. He called it the Zodiac. He offered to hold a contest on his birthday. The first twelve animals of his kingdom to arrive at the finish line would receive the honor of having a year named after them. All the animals were very excited!



Rat was ambitious. It wanted to win the first prize. Yet, it had two problems. The first was about the timing. Because the race would start at the crack of dawn, Rat was afraid that it could not wake up on time. The second was about the route. As the finish line would be directly beyond a swift river, Rat needed to find a way to cross the current. Just when Rat was contemplating a solution, it bumped into its best friend, Cat. After a lengthy discussion, the two animals came up with a brilliant idea. They decided to solicit help from Ox. Rat and Cat figured that Ox - always being an early riser and a good swimmer - could wake them up before sunrise and carry them across the river. With their minds made up, Rat and Cat went to see Ox. Out of kindness, Ox agreed to help. Hence, the three animals formed an alliance. They promised to help each other, so they could share the first prize.

On the day of the race, Ox woke up Rat and Cat and put them on its back. Just when Ox was half way across the river, Rat had a second thought about the plan. It wondered, "Why should I share the glory with Cat? Look at it! It just lies on Ox's back sleeping! What a lazy animal Cat is! Come to think of it, what if Cat decides not to honor the agreement? It runs fast. Surely, it can get to the finish line before I do, once Ox reaches the bank." Eager to win, Rat decided to get rid of Cat. It quietly crept next to Cat and gave it a push. SPLASH! Cat fell into the river. Not knowing how to swim, Cat called out for help. To its horror, Rat pretended not to hear its pleas and urged Ox to keep on moving.

Finally, Ox reached the other side of the river and climbed ashore. As soon as they were on the dry land, Rat jumped from Ox's back and ran ahead toward the finish line. Ox could not believe its eyes! It called out, "Wait for me! I thought we had a pact! And where is Cat?" Rat didn't stop. It kept on charging ahead. Just as it had dreamed, Rat won the contest! The Jade Emperor congratulated Rat and named the first year "Rat." Before long, Ox also reached the finish line and took the second spot. Ox was furious at Rat. It accused Rat of breaking the deal. Rat laughed smugly and said, "How naive you are! Why should I - the smartest of all creatures - share the title with Cat and you? It's your own mistake to trust me!" Ox wanted to argue more, but it was not very good at expressing its opinions. Though upset by Rat's deceitful act, Ox decided to drop the matter.

Then, Tiger arrived and settled for the third prize. The Jade Emperor waited patiently for more animals to come. From a distance, he heard a thumping sound and saw Rabbit leaping toward him. He registered Rabbit as

Name: _____

the fourth Zodiac animal. Just as he was recording Rabbit in his book, Dragon descended from the sky and took the fifth place. The Jade Emperor wondered how Rabbit crossed the river and why Dragon came so late. Rabbit answered first. It told the Jade Emperor that, thanks to its powerful hind legs, it was able to jump from one stone to another that were scattered across the riverbed. Dragon apologized to the Jade Emperor for being late. It said that, on the way here, it saw people crying and stopped to ask why. People told Dragon that they wanted to grow rice, but there wasn't enough rain. Feeling compassion, Dragon gathered clouds and made rain for them. The Jade Emperor was happy. He praised Rabbit for its quick wit and Dragon for its unselfishness.

Next to reach the finish line was Snake. It beat Horse by a narrow margin.

The Jade Emperor looked out to the river and saw Monkey, Goat, and Rooster standing on a log and working as a team to maneuver their makeshift raft across the swift current. Once ashore, they helped each other to reach the destination. Goat took eighth place, Monkey ninth, and Rooster took tenth.

After a while, no other animals showed up. Then, suddenly, Dog emerged. It told the Jade Emperor that it could have been here earlier, had it not stopped to play in the water.

Now, just one more spot was left in the Chinese Zodiac. Which animal would come next? Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Chicken, Dog, and the Jade Emperor all fixed their eyes on a black dot that gradually drew closer. Aha! It was Pig. Pig told the Jade Emperor that it overslept. It was happy that it secured the last prize!

The Jade Emperor gathered all twelve winners together and congratulated them. Then, all of a sudden, he heard noises coming from the direction of the river. He turned to look what the commotion was about. It was Cat! Soaking wet and gasping, Cat rushed to the Jade Emperor and called out, "I am here! I am here! Did I win?" The Jade Emperor explained to Cat that it was too late. He only needed twelve animals for the Zodiac, and unfortunately, Cat was the 13th animal to cross the finish line. Enraged, Cat charged toward Rat and wanted to kill the betrayer. Yet, Rat was faster. It sought refuge by hiding under the Jade Emperor's chair. Seeing this and not wanting to anger the Jade Emperor, Cat refrained from its pursuit. It vowed that Rat would now be its archenemy. From that point on even until today, Rat always tries to stay clear of Cat!

Chinese Fable: Chinese Zodiac

Questions

- _____ 1. How many animals does the Chinese Zodiac have?
- A. seven
 - B. twenty
 - C. thirteen
 - D. twelve

Name: _____

- _____ 2. Which three animals teamed up to cross the river with a log?
- A. Dragon, Tiger, and Rabbit
 - B. Pig, Dog, and Horse
 - C. Rooster, Monkey, and Goat
 - D. Rat, Cat, and Ox
- _____ 3. Why did Dragon come late?
- A. It stopped on the way to burn a forest.
 - B. It stopped on the way to kidnap a princess.
 - C. It stopped on the way to put out a fire.
 - D. It stopped on the way to make rain.
- _____ 4. Jade Emperor was disgusted by Rat's cheating act, so he disqualified Rat and gave the first prize to Cat.
- A. true
 - B. false
- _____ 5. Rabbit crossed the river by hopping from one stone to another that were scattered across the riverbed.
- A. false
 - B. true
- _____ 6. Which of the following animals represents the seventh year of the Chinese Zodiac?
- A. Monkey
 - B. Horse
 - C. Pig
 - D. Rabbit

$$2 \overline{) 6.4}$$

$$6 \overline{) 1.8}$$

Change $\frac{2}{5}$ to a decimal.

A book has 6 pages. Each page has 11 dimes. How many dimes in the book?

$$56 \div 8 =$$

$$11 + 2 + 6$$

How many total legs are on 5 tigers and 2 owls?

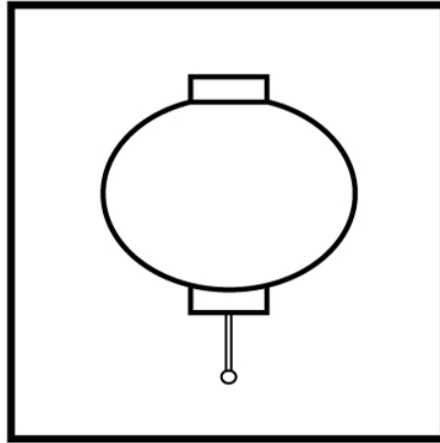
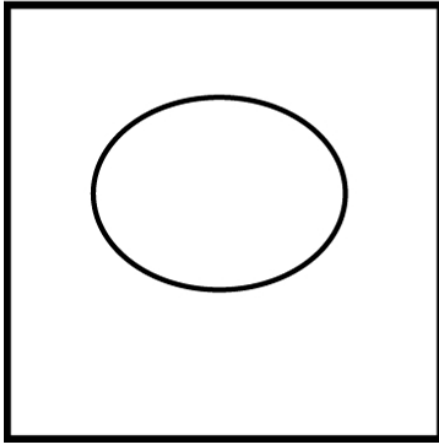
Round 164 to the nearest ten.

Is 752 closer to 700 or 800?

Name: _____

Chinese New Year

Follow the steps to draw the lantern





Name: _____

WHAT'S WRONG?

Describe the things that are wrong in the picture:

Name: _____



Name: _____

★ 2024 ★

1939
1951
1963
1975
1987
1999
2011



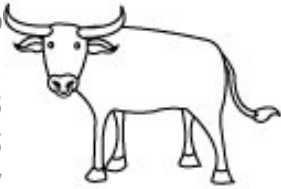
RABBIT

1938
1950
1962
1974
1986
1998
2010



TIGER

1937
1949
1961
1973
1985
1997
2009



OX

1936
1948
1960
1972
1984
1996
2008



RAT

1947
1959
1971
1983
1995
2007
2019



PIG

1946
1958
1970
1982
1994
2006
2018

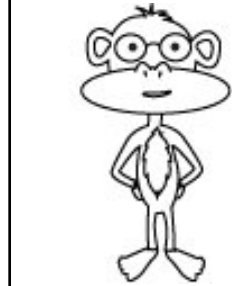


DOG



ROOSTER

1945
1957
1969
1981
1993
2005
2017



MONKEY

1940
1952
1964
1976
1988
2000
2012
2024
2036

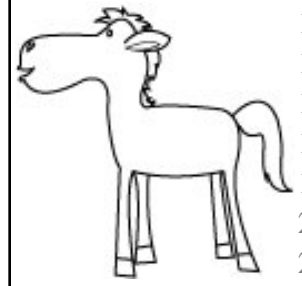


DRAGON



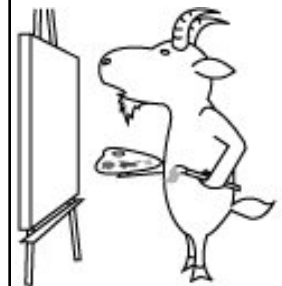
SNAKE

1941
1953
1965
1977
1989
2001
2013



HORSE

1942
1954
1966
1978
1990
2002
2014



SHEEP

1943
1955
1967
1979
1991
2003
2015

What year will it once again be the
year of the dragon? _____

What is next year's animal?

Draw your favorite animal.

Name: _____

Chinese New Year

The Chinese New Year is an important holiday for Chinese people all over the world. It is also called the Spring Festival. Many people call it the Lunar New Year. It is a time to celebrate. Family gathers. Friends visit. The celebration includes food, dragon dances, and fireworks. Chinese New Year is not celebrated on January 1. It begins with the new moon that comes between January 21 and February 21. It ends on the fifteenth day of the first calendar month.

Chinese legend says that a mythical beast appeared. Its name was Nian. Nian means "year" in Chinese. Nian would come on the first day of every new year. It would eat livestock and crops. It would attack villagers. Villagers would put food outside their doors as a way to protect themselves. They hoped that Nian would eat the food instead of them.



The tale says that Nian was once scared away by a child. The child was wearing red. The villagers thought that Nian was scared of red. Red lanterns were hung in windows and doors when each new year came. People also used firecrackers to scare Nian away. Nian never came to the village again after that.

The Chinese New Year is filled with traditions. This story is just one of many that is told again and again.

Chinese New Year

Questions

- _____ 1. The Chinese New Year is also called _____.
A. the Spring Festival
B. the Lunar New Year
C. both A and B
D. neither A nor B
- _____ 2. Chinese New Year is not celebrated on just one day.
A. true
B. false
3. Who is Nian?

Name: _____

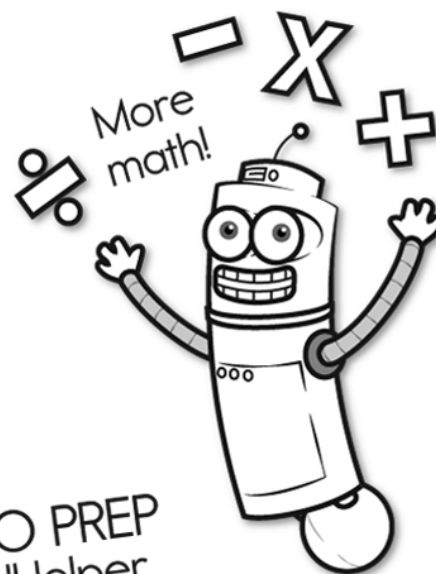
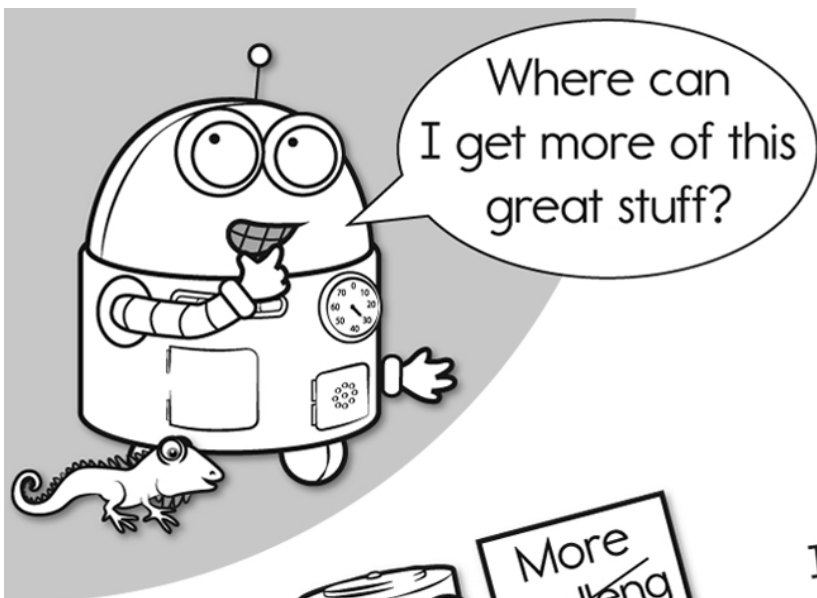
4. How did the villagers in the tale protect themselves from Nian?
- _____
- _____
5. What color scared Nian away in the tale?
- A. blue
B. green
C. red
D. yellow
6. According to the legend, did Nian return to the village?
- A. yes
B. no

<p>Circle the greatest number:</p> <p>8,493 57,612 645,208,391 2,430,965,817</p>	<p>The circus is in town! Tickets are only \$6 for kids. Adults need to pay double the price of kids tickets. Jessica is bringing five of her friends in her class. Her mom is also coming. Jessica wants to pay for everyone. How much will she need to pay?</p>		
$\begin{array}{r} 408 \\ - 132 \\ \hline \end{array}$	<p>Write a letter that has two or more lines of symmetry.</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>What time is 17 hours after 3:00 p.m.?</p> <p>_____</p>	
<p>17 km = _____ m</p>	<p>Rose wrote down a fraction on a piece of paper. If you take her fraction and multiply it by three you get eleven. Can you guess what her fraction is?</p>	$\begin{array}{r} 26 \\ + 26 \\ \hline \end{array}$	
<p>1 cm = 10 mm</p>			
<p>10 cm = _____ mm</p>			

word root **fer** can mean **carry** **transfer, refer**

☐ The legend of Nian is a tale that the Chinese tell about the first new year. Write a story explaining a New Year's tradition that you celebrate. Share it with a friend.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

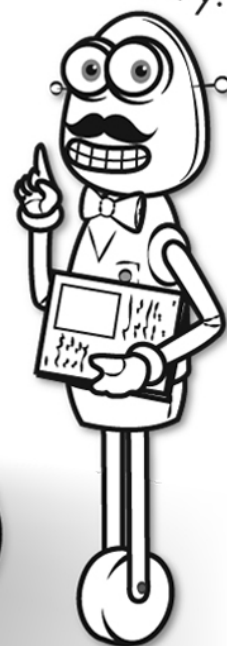


It's NO PREP at edHelper.

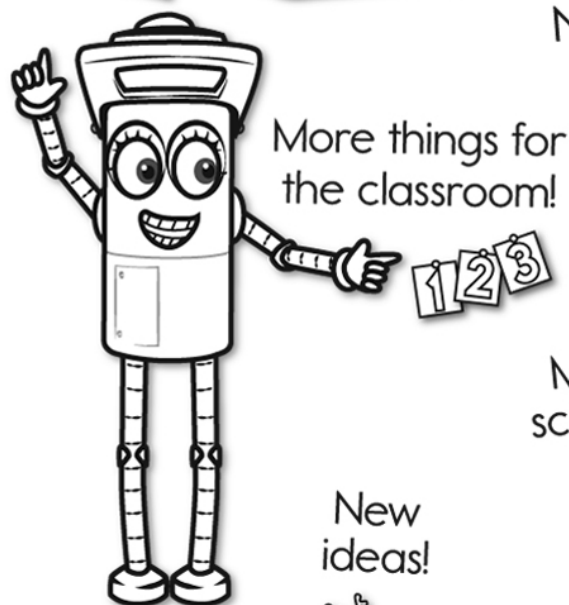
More history!



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