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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

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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!

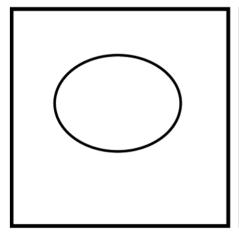
Chinese Fable: Chinese Zodiac

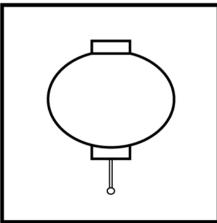
Questions

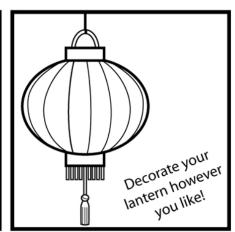
- 1. How many animals does the Chinese Zodiac have?
 - A. twelve
 - B. seven
 - C. thirteen
 - D. twenty

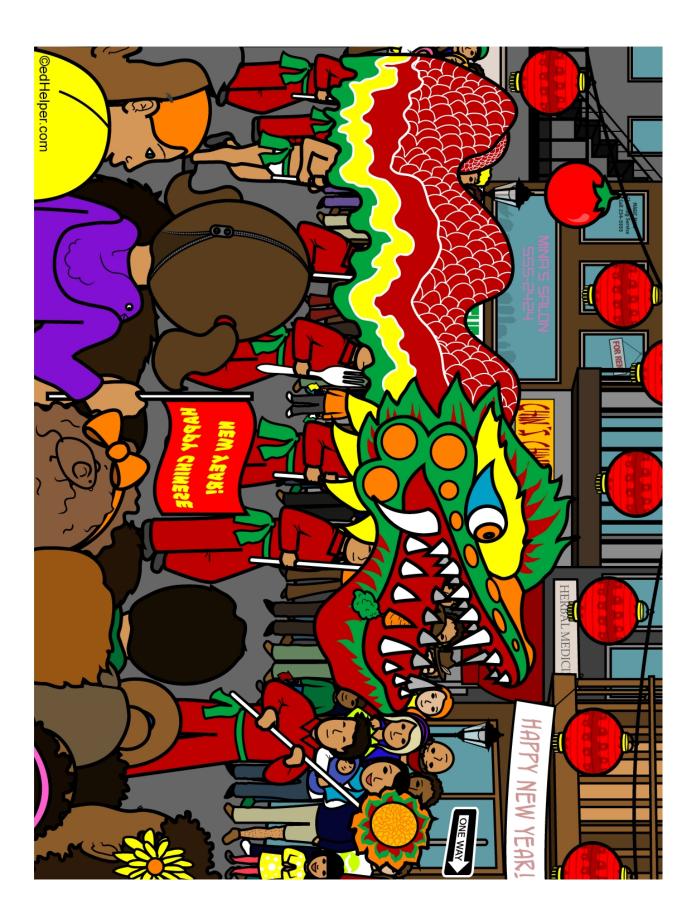
Chinese New Year

Follow the steps to draw the lantern











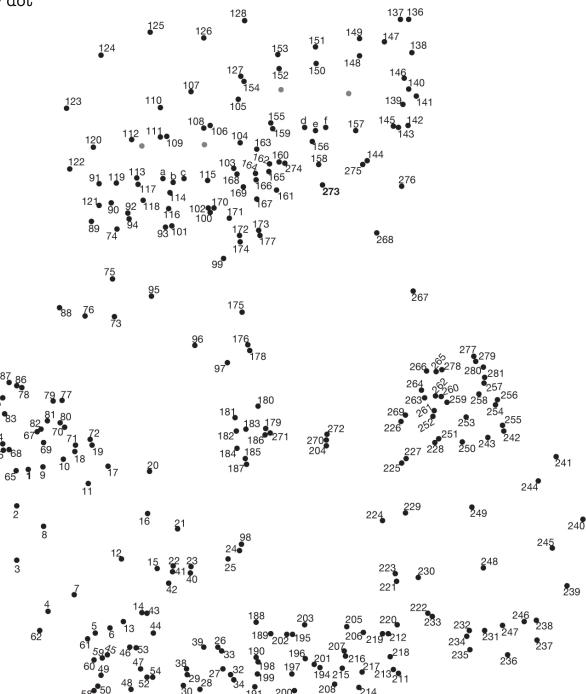
Describe the things that are wrong in the picture:				

Happy Chinese New Year!

- -Connect the dots 1 through 281
- -Connect the dots a through c
- -Connect the dots d through f
- -Draw a small circle around each gray dot

64

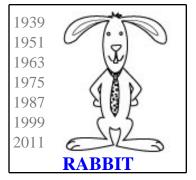
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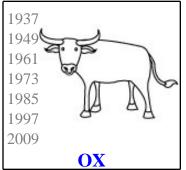
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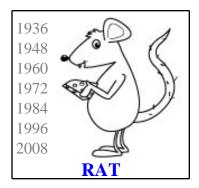
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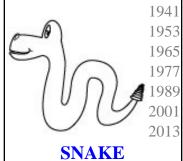


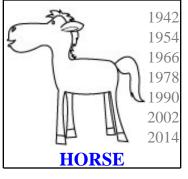
What year will it once again be the year of the dragon? _____

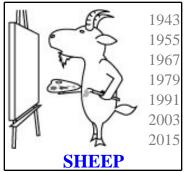
What is next year's animal?

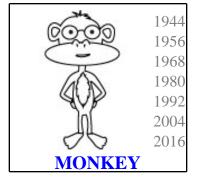
Draw your favorite animal.

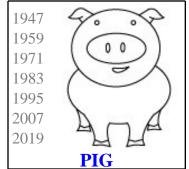




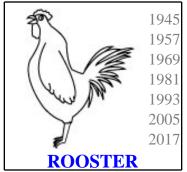












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The Eve of Good Fortune

Chinese New Year celebrates change. It celebrates getting rid of the old and welcoming the new. It is usually celebrated in January or February. Everything during Chinese New Year celebrations centers on good fortune for the new year. Celebrating usually begins the day before. Homes are prepared. The house is cleaned to get rid of things from the old year. Brooms and brushes are put away. Debts are paid. Differences with family and friends are worked out. Close family members gather in a home to have a reunion dinner. The dinner is planned carefully. Each food selection represents long life, good fortune, and success for the new year. For example, long noodles are



served. These noodles represent long life ahead. The celebration continues throughout the night. At midnight all doors and windows in the home are opened. This lets the "old" leave as the "new" enters. Happy New Year!

The Eve of Good Fortune

- 1. This text is mainly about _____.
 - A. the food served for Chinese New Year
 - B. how to clean the house for company
 - C. the celebration of Chinese New Year's Eve
 - D. none of the above
- 2. What does it mean to get rid of the old and welcome the new?
- 3. Chinese New Year is usually celebrated in _____ or ____.
- 4. What is done to prepare the home for the "reunion dinner" on the eve of the Chinese New Year?
 - A. The house is cleaned.
 - B. Brooms and brushes are put away.
 - C. Dinner is prepared.
 - D. all of the above

- 5. Long noodles are served for the "reunion dinner" because they represent long life. What food would you serve and why?
- 6. What happens at midnight on the eve of Chinese New Year?
 - A. All doors and windows are opened in the house.
 - B. Everyone sings.
 - C. The ball drops in Times Square in New York City.
 - D. Everyone goes to sleep.

Write as a decimal.
Sixteen and six tenths

Write as a decimal.

9 10

Write as a decimal.
Six hundredths

Sarah has \$53. She wants to buy something that costs \$93. How much more does she need?

At 3 p.m. today, Holly will not be able to use her electronics for 3 hours. At what time will she be able to resume using her phone? Rose has 60 books. She organized them equally into 5 boxes. How many books in each box?

___ ÷ 5 = 3

What is 14 less than 1,499?

Name the shape with six sides and six angles.

What is the sum of 40 and 350?

How many total legs are on 2 zebras and 4 ants?

10 x 9 + 4



