



## **China: Art and Culture**

### **Pre-visit Activity: Background Reading**

#### **Chinese Zodiac**

Your Chinese Zodiac sign is derived from your birth year, according to the Chinese lunar calendar:

Rat: 2008, 1996, 1984, 1972, 1960

Ox: 2009, 1997, 1985, 1973, 1961

Tiger: 2010, 1998, 1986, 1974, 1962

Rabbit: 2011, 1999, 1987, 1975, 1963

Dragon: 2012, 2000, 1988, 1976, 1964

Snake: 2013, 2001, 1989, 1977, 1965

Horse: 2014, 2002, 1990, 1978, 1966

Goat: 2015, 2003, 1991, 1979, 1967

Monkey: 2016, 2004, 1992, 1980, 1968

Rooster: 2017, 2005, 1993, 1981, 1969

Dog: 2018, 2006, 1994, 1982, 1970

Pig: 2019, 2007, 1995, 1983, 1971

#### **Chinese Zodiac Love Compatibility**

People born in a certain animal year are believed to have attributes of that animal, which could either help or hinder a relationship. An important use of the Chinese Zodiac is to determine if the signs of two people are compatible, in a romantic relationship or any kind of relationship.





## **It is BAD LUCK When Your Zodiac Year Comes Around!**

As the Chinese zodiac starts over every 12 years, your animal year will come around when you are 12, 24, 36, 48, 60, 72, etc. According to ancient Chinese superstition, in your birth sign year, you will offend the God of Age, and will have bad luck during that year. The best way to avoid bad luck during this year is by wearing something red given by a relative, such as socks, a necklace, underwear, a belt, or a bracelet.

## **Chinese Zodiac Origins – Why 12 Animals?**

The 12 animals were chosen deliberately. They are either closely related to ancient Chinese people's daily lives, or have luck meanings. The ox, horse, goat, rooster, pig, and dog are six of the main domestic animals raised in China. The other six animals: rat, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, and monkey are all loved by the Chinese people. They are placed according to Chinese Yin and Yang Theory, based on the odd or even number of their claws, toes or hoofs. The animals are then arranged in an alternating or complementary yin-yang sequence. Usually an animal has the same number of claws on its front and rear legs. However, the rat has four toes on its fore legs and five on its hind legs. As the old saying goes, "a thing is valued in proportion to its rarity", so the Rat ranks first of the 12 zodiac animals. It uniquely combines the attributes of even (yin) and odd (yang).  $4+5=9$  making yang dominant. Therefore, the Rat is classified as odd (yang) overall.

Source: <http://www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/chinese-zodiac/>



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the blanks using the word bank below:

4+5=9	daily	claws
birth	Rat	4
yang	12	Age
bad	red	lucky
hoofs	5	yin

1. Your Chinese Zodiac sign is determined by your \_\_\_\_\_ year.
2. It is \_\_\_\_\_ luck when your Zodiac year comes around.
3. The Chinese Zodiac starts over every \_\_\_\_\_ years.
4. During your birth sign year the God of \_\_\_\_\_ is offended.
5. To avoid bad luck during your birth year something \_\_\_\_\_ should be worn.
6. Twelve animals were chosen because they are considered \_\_\_\_\_ or were related to ancient Chinese \_\_\_\_\_ lives.
7. The yin or the yang of the animals is based on the odd or even number of their \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ ranks first of the 12 zodiac animals. It has \_\_\_\_\_ toes on its front legs and \_\_\_\_\_ on its hind legs, therefore a rarity.
9. It combines the attributes of \_\_\_\_\_ (even) and \_\_\_\_\_ (odd).
10. The Rat is classified as odd because \_\_\_\_\_.





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### Pre-visit Activity: Background Reading Key

1. birth
2. bad
3. 12
4. Age
5. red
6. lucky, daily
7. claws, hoofs
8. Rat, 4, 5
9. yin, yang
10.  $4+5=9$