

The Year of the Rat

Why Were Different Animals Chosen?

Each new year in Chinese culture is known by an animal. There are 12 different animals altogether. This tradition began a very long time ago and is thought to have started with a story about Buddha. Buddha asked all of the animals to come and see him one day but only 12 animals came. Buddha gave each one of these animals their own year in the Chinese zodiac cycle to say thank you.

When Does the Year of the Rat Start?

The Year of the Rat starts on 25th January 2020. Once it is over, the Year of the Rat will only begin again in 2032.

What Is Good about the Year of the Rat?

There are a lot of good things about being born in the Year of the Rat. If someone is born in the Year of the Rat, Chinese culture believes that they will be:

- adaptable – they will be able to adjust to changes;
- smart – they will be clever;
- cautious – they will be careful;
- alert – they will always be on the lookout for danger;
- a positive person;
- someone who is friendly and confident;
- someone who is always cheerful.



What Jobs Would People Be Good At?

Chinese culture believes that someone born in the Year of the Rat might make a good:

- artist;
- author;
- teacher;
- architect;
- musician.



You were born in the Year of the Rat if you were born in:

1960

1972

1984

1996

2008



Did You Know...?

If you were born in the Year of the Rat:

- your lucky colours are gold, blue and green;
- your lucky flowers are lilies and violets;
- your lucky numbers are 2 and 3;
- you will find love in the west and wealth in the east;
- 2020 is predicted to be a year of opportunity.



1. On which date does the Year of the Rat begin in 2020? Tick one.

- ☐ 20th June
- ☐ 30th March
- ☐ 1st January
- ☐ 25th January

2. Which of these is a lucky number for someone born in the Year of the Rat? Tick one.

- ☐ 3
- ☐ 8
- ☐ 7
- ☐ 1

3. How many different animals are said to have visited Buddha when he asked? Tick one.

- ☐ 11
- ☐ 12
- ☐ 13
- ☐ 14

4. Which of these years was a Year of the Rat? Tick one.

- ☐ 1946
- ☐ 1960
- ☐ 1982
- ☐ 2004

5. Fill in the missing words in this sentence:

2020 is _____ to be a year of _____.

6. Name one thing that people born in the Year of the Rat are good at.

7. Why do you think that people born in the Year of the Rat might make good teachers?
