

## The Great Race of Chinese Zodiac Animals

Once upon a time, it was hard for people to remember the time. To solve this problem, the Jade Emperor, the ruler of heaven, decided to select twelve animals to represent the years. He ordered animals to cross the big river and report to the palace to compete for the twelve places.

The Cat and the Rat were neighbours. They were both bad at swimming but they were smart. They decided that the best and fastest way to cross the river was to hop on the back of the Ox.

The Ox, being kindhearted and naïve, agreed to carry them both across. As the Ox was about to reach the other side of the river, the Rat pushed the Cat into the water, and then jumped off the Ox and rushed to the Jade Emperor, becoming the first animal of the zodiac calendar.

Soon after they arrived, there came Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, Pig and finally, the Cat!

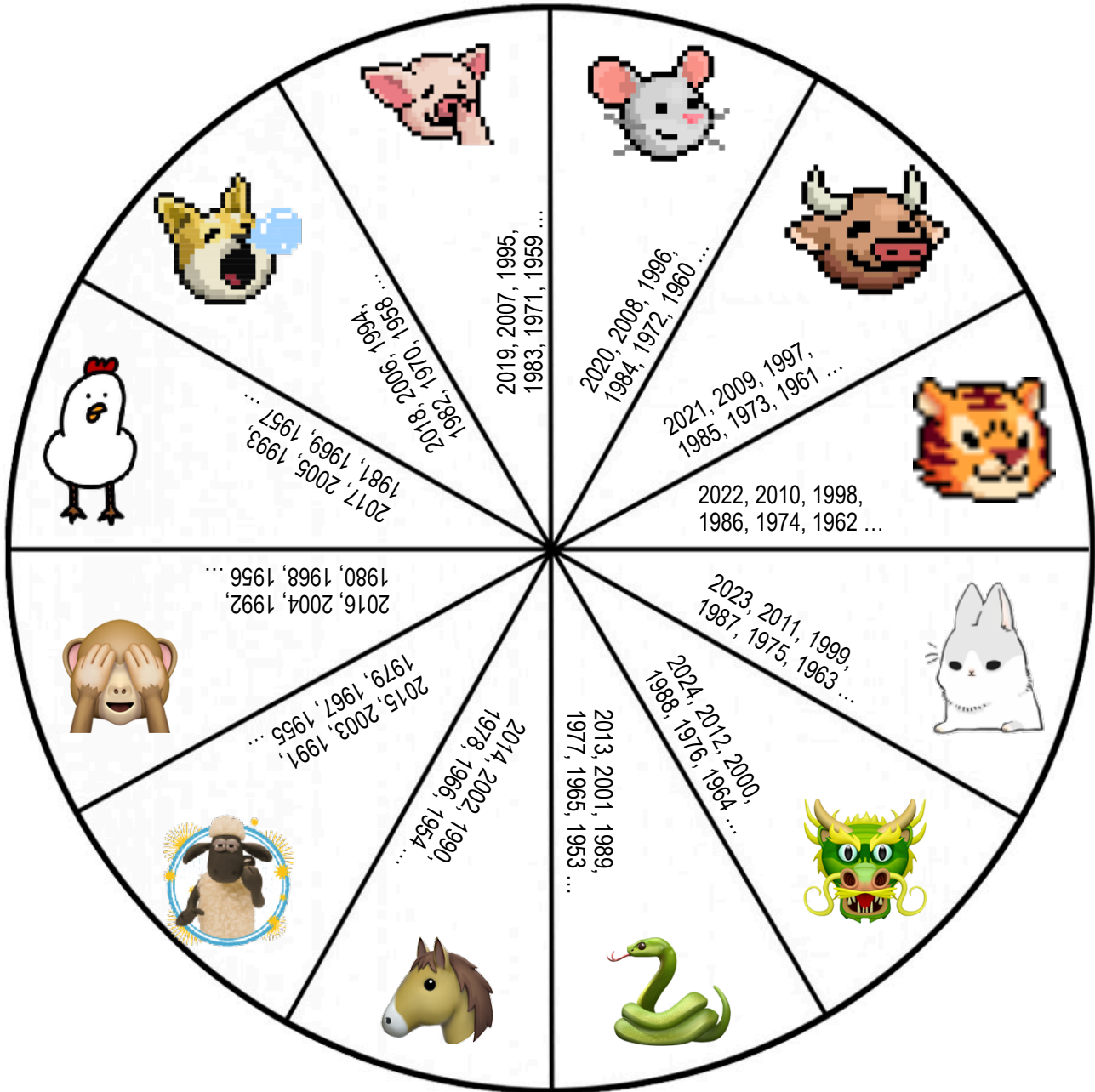
“Sorry, my dear.” said Jade Emperor to the cat, “you’re too late and the race has ended.” As a revenge, the Cat has started to hunt for the Rat ever since.

### **Lunar New Year**

***is celebrated NOT just in China. LNY is celebrated in countries like Vietnam, Korea, Tibet, Mongolia, Singapore, Malaysia, etc.***

***Some cultures also observe their own lunar calendar, such as the Islamic calendar and Hindu calendar (which determines the Diwali).***

# Knowing your year animal



I was born in the year of .

How about your family?

### **Fun fact:**

Did you know that the "animal year" is based on a SOLAR calendar, which always start from the 4th February!

Therefore, babies born on 1st February 2022 is actually an Ox!



**Activity: New Year Traditions in Hong Kong (Captions)**

Instructions: You can print out the photos and caption for kids to match.

- **Visiting lunar year markets at night**
- **Wearing new clothes / red clothes**
- **Family gathering  
(dinner / dim sum / preparing new year food)**
- **Visiting relatives and play games together**
- **Putting up new year wishes (Fai Chun)**
- **Kids (unmarried) receiving pocket money from older family members**
- **Cleaning houses / cars etc.**
- **Lighting firecrackers (in villages)**
- **Lion dance performance**

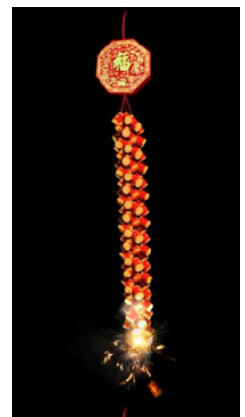
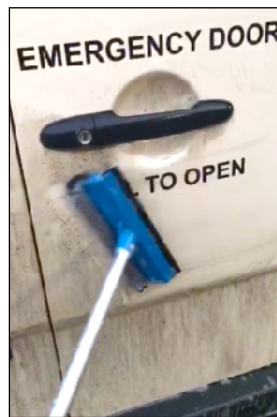




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## Lunar new year dessert (Eaten during family reunion / 15th Day of lunar new year)

Adapted from <https://en.christinesrecipes.com/2013/12/pandan-dumplings-tangyuan.html>

### Sweet Glutinous Rice Balls (Tong Yuen) | Vegan | Gluten-free

#### Ingredients:

- Glutinous rice flour (120 gm)
- Water (100 ml)
- Palm Sugar / Rock Sugar
- Ginger (a few pieces)

#### Optional stuffing:

- 25 gm roasted peanuts, roughly crushed
- 25 gm palm sugar, roughly chopped



#### Steps:

1. Add water to a bowl of glutinous rice flour to knead into a dough. Remember not to add too much water.
2. Roll the dough into ball shape and you're good to go.
3. **If stuffing is to be added:** Flatten dough into a disc shape. Place a heaped teaspoon of peanuts and palm sugar in the middle. Fold edges and seal the fillings inside. Gently roll it between two palms into ball shape. Repeat this step with the remaining dough and fillings.
4. Place water, rock sugar and ginger into a large pot of boiling water. Carefully drop the dumplings into the boiling water. Immediately use chopsticks to stir the water in order to prevent the dumplings from sticking to the bottom.
5. Boil the Tong Yuen doughs for a few minutes over low heat. When they float, serve with the soup in a bowl.