



# The Chinese New Year Story



A long time ago, in China, twelve animals were arguing. Every animal wanted the New Year to be named after them.

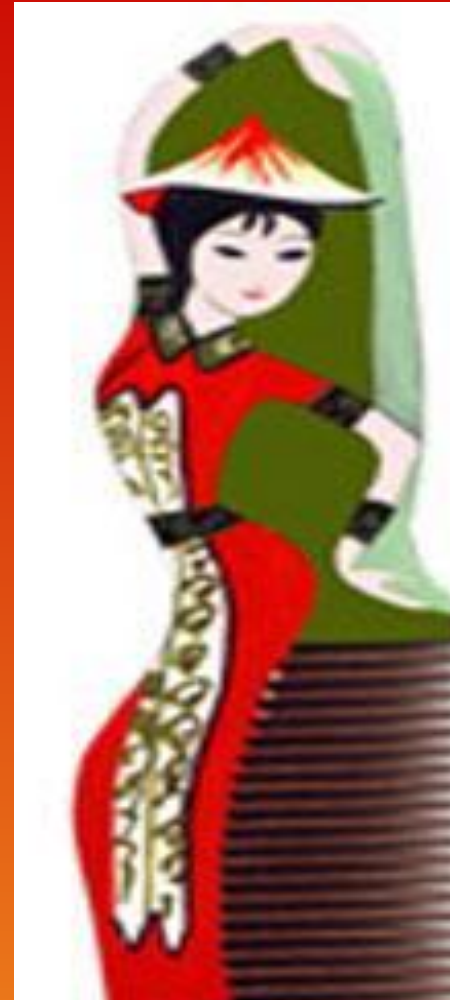


The animals were making so much noise that the Emperor of China heard them.



The Emperor's daughter decided to help. She asked all the animals why they were arguing.





**The tiger said "I want the  
New Year named after me!"**



"So do I!"

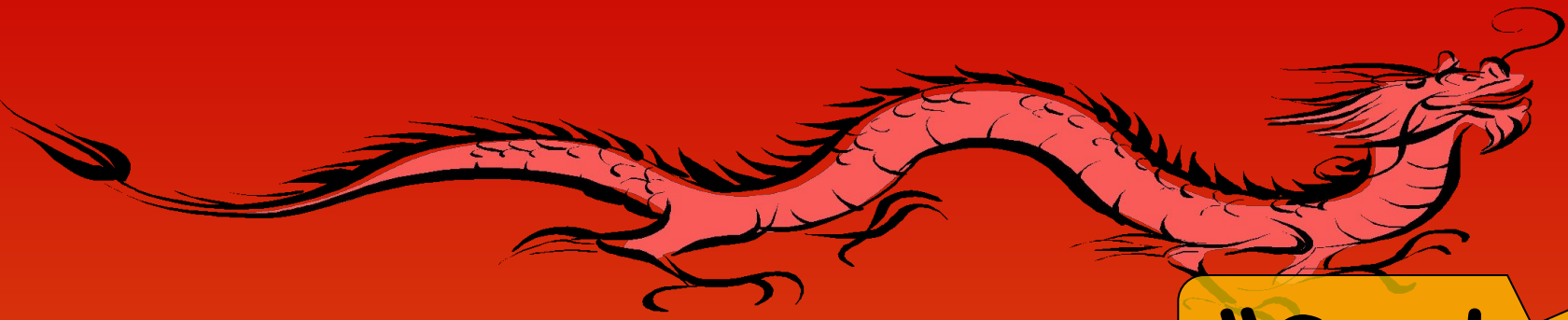


"So do I!"

"So do I!"

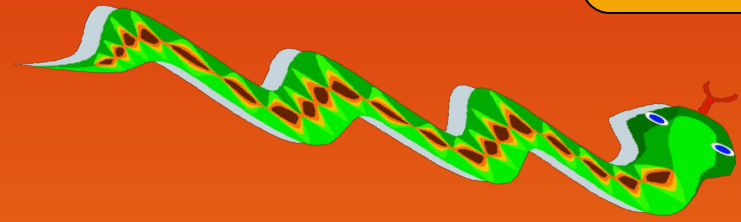


said rat, ox and rabbit.

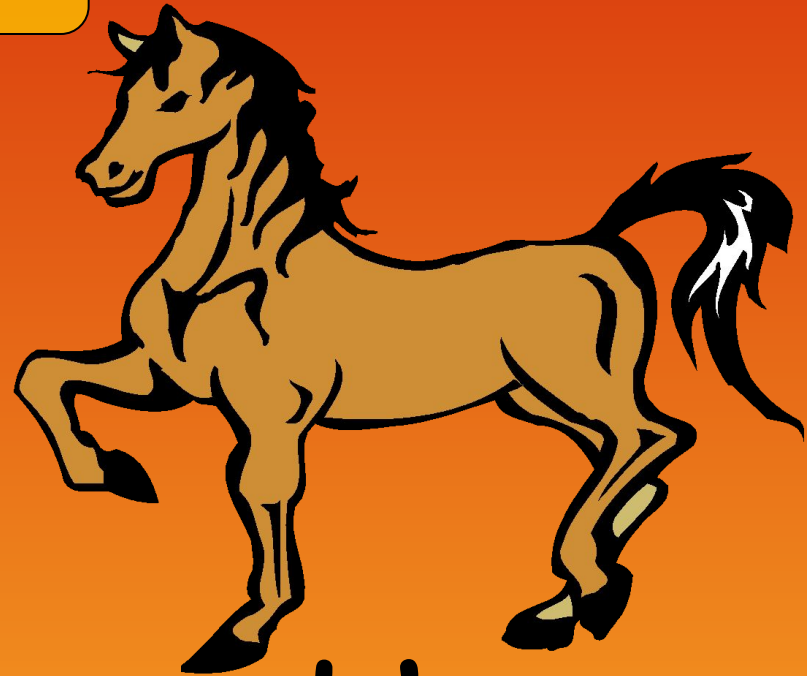


"So do I!"

"So do I!"



"So do I!"



said dragon, snake and horse.



~~"So do I!"~~

"So do I!"



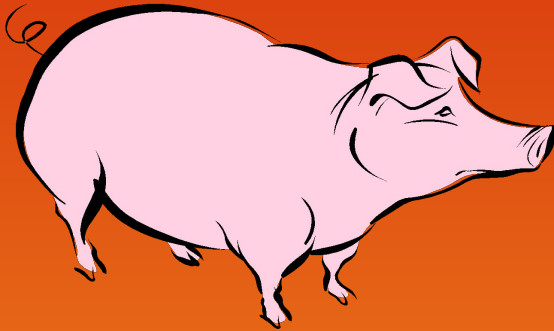
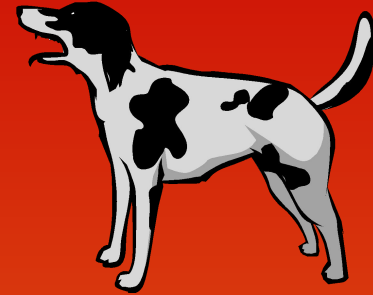
"So do I!"



said ram, monkey and rooster.



"So do I!"



"Me too!"

said dog and pig.

The emperor's daughter was very clever. She suggested that the animals should have a race across the river.



"The New Year will be named after the winning animal."

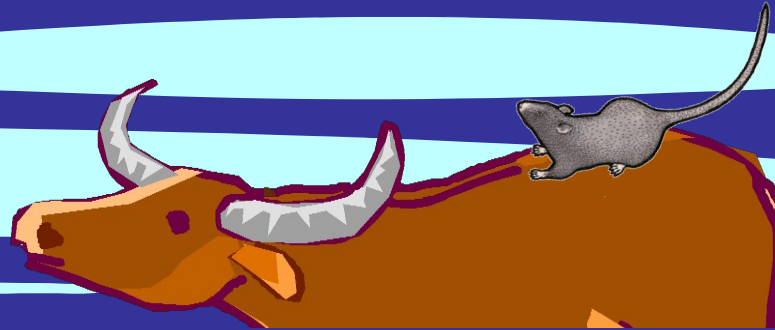


All the animals said "yes!" They waited on the bank of the river for the race to begin.



**"Ready,  
steady, go!"**

**All the animals jumped into the river and swam as fast as they could to reach the other side.**

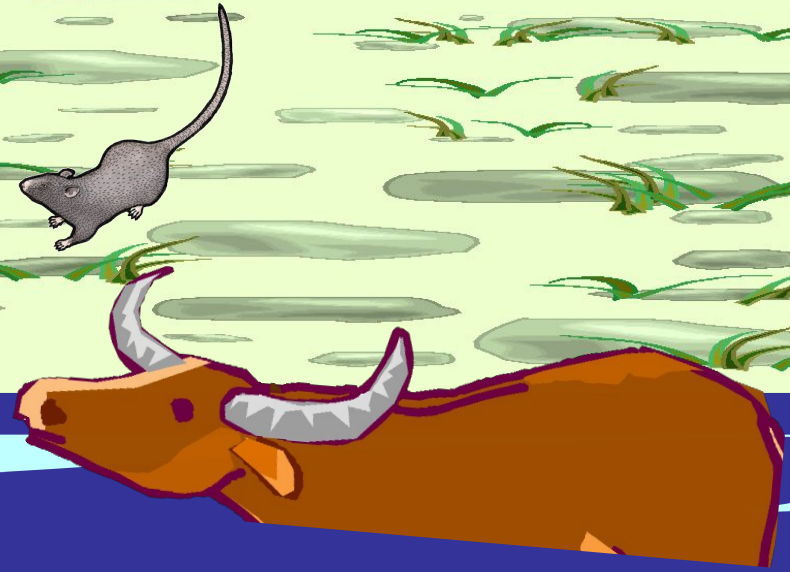


The ox quickly took the lead, but the clever rat jumped on his back!



As the ox reached the other side, the rat jumped onto the grassy bank.

"I am the winner!"



**“Well Done,” says the emperor  
and his daughter.**



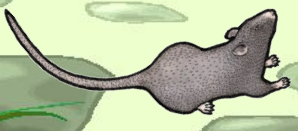
**“The New  
Year will be  
the Year of  
the rat”**





Next came the ox, the tiger and then the rabbit.





After that the dragon,  
snake and horse arrived.



Then came ram, monkey, rooster, dog and finally pig.





When all the animals had finished the race. The emperor's daughter had an idea...



**“You have all worked hard. Let us name the next eleven years after the other animals who finished the race!”**



From that day each New Year has been named after one of the twelve animals.



From that day each New Year has been named after one of the twelve animals.

# Chinese Zodiac Order

1. Rat

2. Ox

3. Tiger

4. Rabbit

5. Dragon

6. Snake

7. Horse

8. Ram

9. Monkey

10. Rooster

11. Dog

12. Pig