

THE STORY OF THE CHINESE ZODIAC

A long, long time ago, the Jade Emperor wanted to choose 12 animals to be part of the calendar. He decided to hold a big race! 🏁

He told all the animals,

“The first 12 animals to cross the river and reach the palace will each have a year named after them.”



The Clever Rat

The Rat was small and not very good at swimming. So he asked the kind Ox for a ride across the river.

But just before they reached the finish line... the Rat jumped off and ran ahead!

So the Rat came first, and the Ox came second.

The Brave Tiger

The Tiger swam strongly across the river and came third.

The Quick Rabbit

The Rabbit hopped across stones and floated on a log to reach fourth place.

The Helpful Dragon

The Dragon could fly! But instead of rushing to win, he stopped to help others by making rain for people and blowing the Rabbit safely to shore.

Because he helped, he came fifth.

The Sneaky Snake

The Snake quietly wrapped around the Horse's leg. When they reached the finish line, the Snake slithered out first – coming sixth, and the Horse came seventh.

The Teamwork Animals

The Goat, Monkey and Rooster worked together on a raft and crossed safely.

They came eighth, ninth and tenth.

The Playful Dog

The Dog loved the water and stopped to splash and play! He finished eleventh.

The Hungry Pig

The Pig stopped for a snack and even had a nap!

But he still made it in time to come twelfth.

And that is how the 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac were chosen! 🏠

Each year is named after one of these animals, and the cycle repeats every 12 years.

