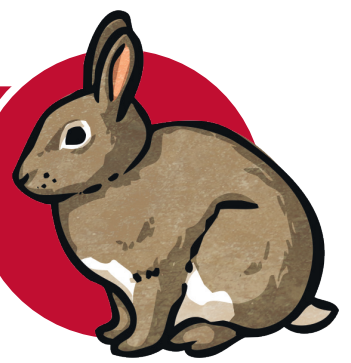
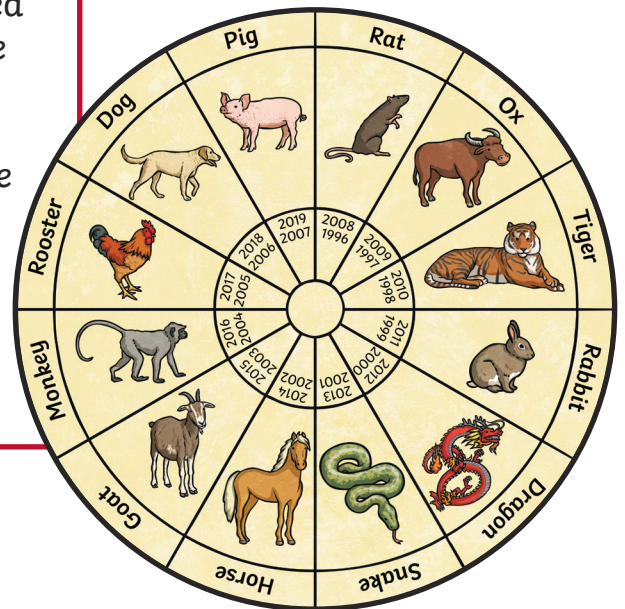


The Year of the Rabbit



Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year is celebrated by many people in different countries around the world. Each new year is based on a lunar year. This is when the calendar follows the Moon's phases rather than the movement of the Sun. The new year falls on a different date each year. There are many versions of the **zodiac cycle** but in the Chinese zodiac cycle, the Year of the Rabbit is the name of the new year that begins in 2023.



What Is the Legend of the 12 Animals?

The history of the festival is thousands of years old and there are many versions of the story. Some tales have Buddha as the main character while others have the Jade Emperor. Many of the stories are very similar although some contain different animals. Each new year begins with a new animal.

It is said that Buddha called out to all of the animals on Earth. He asked that they race to see him but only 12 animals answered his call. Buddha gave each of these animals their own year in the Chinese zodiac cycle as a way of saying thank you.



**You were born in the Year of the Rabbit if you were born in:
1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011 or 2023.**

When Is the Year of the Rabbit?

The Year of the Rabbit begins on January 22nd 2023 and lasts until February 9th 2024. Eleven years will pass until the next Year of the Rabbit, which will begin on 8th February 2035.

What Is Special about the Year of the Rabbit?

People born in the Year of the Rabbit are believed to have many special qualities. They are said to be skilful, gentle, patient and kind. They are thought to be loyal to people around them and they like to avoid arguments.

Some people believe that those who are born in the Year of the Rabbit are social and creative. They are also thought to do well in jobs where they can use their excellent planning skills, such as teachers, judges or editors.



Glossary

zodiac cycle: A repeating cycle of 12 years with each year being represented by an animal or sign.

Questions

1. How many animals answered Buddha's call? Tick one.

- 10
 11
 12
 13

2. When does the Year of the Rabbit start in 2023? Tick one.

- 2nd January
 22nd January
 9th February
 19th March

3. Number the sentences from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

- The history of the festival is thousands of years old.
 Some people believe that those who are born in the Year of the Rabbit are social and creative.
 This is when the calendar follows the Moon's phases rather than the movement of the Sun.
 Each new year begins with a new animal.

4. Draw **four** lines to complete the sentences.

The new year falls...

all of the animals on Earth.

Some tales have Buddha as the main character...

on a different date each year.

It is said that Buddha called out to...

are believed to have many special qualities.

People born in the Year of the Rabbit...

while others have the Jade Emperor.

5. Fill in the missing word.

They are said to be _____, gentle, patient and kind.

6. Look at the sub-heading **What Is Special about the Year of the Rabbit?**

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'keep away from'.

7. Would you like to be friends with someone born in the Year of the Rabbit?

Explain your answer.

Answers

1. How many animals answered Buddha's call? Tick one.

- 10
 11
 12
 13

2. When does the Year of the Rabbit start in 2023? Tick one.

- 2nd January
 22nd January
 9th February
 19th March

3. Number the sentences from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

- 2 The history of the festival is thousands of years old.
 4 Some people believe that those who are born in the Year of the Rabbit are social and creative.
 1 This is when the calendar follows the Moon's phases rather than the movement of the Sun.
 3 Each new year begins with a new animal.

4. Draw **four** lines to complete the sentences.

The new year falls...	all of the animals on Earth.
Some tales have Buddha as the main character...	on a different date each year.
It is said that Buddha called out to...	are believed to have many special qualities.
People born in the Year of the Rabbit...	while others have the Jade Emperor.

5. Fill in the missing word.

They are said to be **skilfull**, gentle, patient and kind.

6. Look at the sub-heading **What Is Special about the Year of the Rabbit?**

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'keep away from'.

avoid

7. Would you like to be friends with someone born in the Year of the Rabbit?

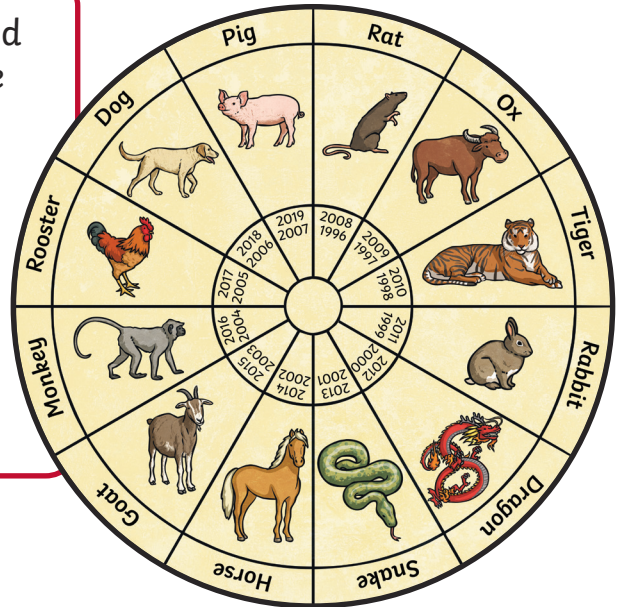
Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses such as: I would like to be friends with someone born in the Year of the Rabbit because it says that they are believed to be gentle, patient and kind. I think these are all lovely qualities to have in a friend and someone that I would want to spend time with.

The Year of the Rabbit



Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year is celebrated by many people in different countries around the world. Each new year is based on a lunar year. This is when the calendar follows the Moon's phases rather than the movement of the Sun. As a result, the new year falls on a different date each year. There are many versions of the **zodiac cycle** but in the Chinese zodiac cycle, the Year of the Rabbit is the name of the new year that begins in 2023.



The Legend of the 12 Animals?

Each new year is represented by one of 12 animals. The history of the festival is thousands of years old and there are many different versions of the story. One story has Buddha as the main character while another tale states that it was the Jade Emperor. However, many of the stories are very similar although some contain different animals.

In one version of the story, Buddha called out to all of the animals on Earth and asked that they race to see him but only 12 animals answered his call. To thank the animals for their loyalty, Buddha gave each one that had entered the race their own year in the Chinese zodiac cycle. As the rabbit finished fourth in the race, it is the fourth animal in this cycle.



**You were born in the Year of the Rabbit if you were born in:
1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011 or 2023.**

The Year of the Rabbit begins on January 22nd 2023 and lasts until February 9th 2024. Eleven years will pass until the next Year of the Rabbit, which will begin on 8th February 2035.

Traits of the Rabbit?

People born in each year of this zodiac cycle are believed to have particular **traits**. People born in the Year of the Rabbit are said to be skilful, gentle, patient and kind. They are thought to be loyal to people around them. As they like to avoid arguments, they may not speak up straight away if they have a problem.

Some people believe that those who are born in the Year of the Rabbit are social and creative. They are also thought to do well in jobs where they can use their excellent planning skills, such as teachers, judges or editors.



Glossary

traits: Qualities that make a person or a group of people different from others.

zodiac cycle: A repeating cycle of 12 years with each year being represented by an animal or sign.

Questions

1. Which of the following years is **not** a Year of the Rabbit? Tick one.

- 1998
- 1963
- 1975
- 1987

2. Number the sentences from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

- Each new year is represented by one of 12 animals.
- The rabbit finished fourth in the race.
- Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year is celebrated by many people.
- People born in each year of this zodiac cycle are believed to have particular traits.

3. Draw **four** lines to complete the sentences.

One story has Buddha as the main character while...

the new year falls on a different date each year.

As a result...

and lasts until February 9th 2024.

The Year of the Rabbit begins on January 22nd 2023...

they may not speak up straight away if they have a problem.

As they like to avoid arguments...

another tale states that it was the Jade Emperor.

4. Which of the following are said to be popular careers for people born in the Year of the Rabbit? Tick **two**.

- teachers
- politicians
- doctors
- judges

5. Fill in the missing word.

However, many of the stories are very _____ although some contain different animals.

6. Look at the sub-heading **Traits of the Rabbit**. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'likes spending time with people'.

7. Why do you think that there are different versions of the story of the 12 animals?

8. Discuss one other job that you think would be suited to someone born in the Year of the Rabbit. Explain your answer.

Answers

1. Which of the following years is **not** a Year of the Rabbit? Tick one.

- 1998**
 1963
 1975
 1987

2. Number the sentences from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

- 2** Each new year is represented by one of 12 animals.
3 The rabbit finished fourth in the race.
1 Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year is celebrated by many people.
4 People born in each year of this zodiac cycle are believed to have particular traits.

3. Draw **four** lines to complete the sentences.

One story has Buddha as the main character while...	the new year falls on a different date each year.
As a result...	and lasts until February 9 th 2024.
The Year of the Rabbit begins on January 22 nd 2023...	they may not speak up straight away if they have a problem.
As they like to avoid arguments...	another tale states that it was the Jade Emperor.

4. Which of the following are said to be popular careers for people born in the Year of the Rabbit? Tick **two**.

- teachers**
 politicians
 doctors
 judges

5. Fill in the missing word.

However, many of the stories are very **similar** although some contain different animals.

6. Look at the sub-heading **Traits of the Rabbit**. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'likes spending time with people'.

social

7. Why do you think that there are different versions of the story of the 12 animals?

Pupils' own responses such as: I think that there are different versions of the story of the 12 animals because the stories have been passed down through generations and retold over thousands of years.

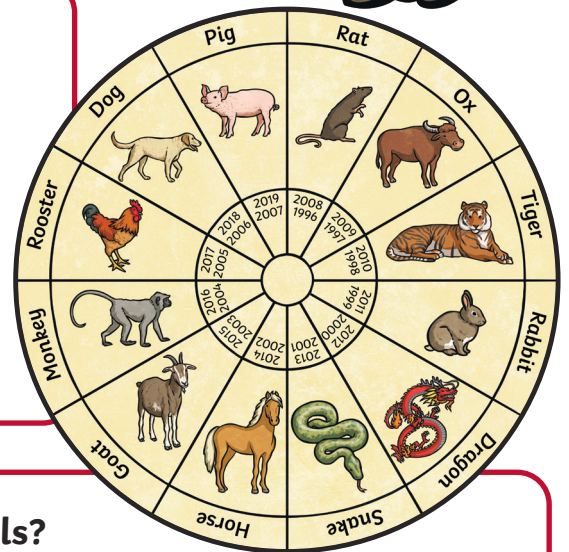
8. Discuss one other job that you think would be suited to someone born in the Year of the Rabbit. Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses such as: I think someone who is born in the Year of the Rabbit would be good as an author. I think this because it says that they are creative people.

The Year of the Rabbit



Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year is celebrated by many people in different countries around the world. Each new year is based on a lunar year. This is when the calendar follows the Moon's phases rather than the movement of the Sun. As a result, the new year falls on a different date each year. There are many versions of the **zodiac cycle** but in the Chinese zodiac cycle, the Year of the Rabbit is the name of the new year that begins in 2023.



The Legend of the 12 Animals?

Each new year is represented by one of 12 animals. The history of the festival dates back thousands of years and many different versions of the story exist. One story holds the main character as Buddha while another version states that it was the Jade Emperor. Many of the stories are very similar although some contain different animals.

In one version of the story, Buddha called out to all of the animals on Earth and asked that they race to see him but only 12 animals answered Buddha's call. To thank the animals for their loyalty, Buddha gave each one that had entered the race their own year in the Chinese zodiac cycle.

In the Vietnamese zodiac, 2023 will be the Year of the Cat. In the Chinese zodiac cycle, the Year of the Rabbit begins on January 22nd 2023 and lasts until February 9th 2024. Then, the Year of the Dragon will begin the day after on 10th February 2024. Eleven years will pass until the next Year of the Rabbit, which will begin on 8th February 2035.

You were born in the Year of the Rabbit if you were born in:
1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011 or 2023.



Traits and Qualities

People born in each year of this version of the zodiac cycle are believed to demonstrate particular traits. Overall, people born in the Year of the Rabbit are said to have many positive traits, such as being skilful, gentle, patient and kind. They are believed to be loyal to people around them. As they like to avoid arguments, they may avoid speaking up straight away if they have a problem.

Popular careers for people born in the Year of the Rabbit are said to be in fields that require them to be social and creative, such as art, design and literature. They also thrive in professions that require them to use their excellent planning and observation skills, such as teachers, architects, judges or editors.

Predictions and Horoscopes

The culture surrounding the zodiac includes **horoscopes**. The following predictions for 2023 are believed by some people to be true for anyone born in a Year of the Rabbit.

- They are predicted to experience positive changes in their lives.
- People are encouraged to focus on their current career.
- They should continue to work hard and see what goals they can achieve.



Glossary

horoscopes: Predictions about the future of a person based on the positions of the stars when that person was born.

zodiac cycle: A repeating cycle of 12 years with each year being represented by an animal or sign.

Questions

1. Who did Buddha ask to race to see him? Tick one.

- people
- animals
- gods
- kings and queens

2. ... **many different versions of the story exist**. Which word has the closest meaning to 'versions'? Tick one.

- animals
- festivals
- types
- cycles

3. Fill in the missing words.

They are _____ to experience _____ changes in their lives.

4. What does a lunar calendar follow?

5. Look at the sub-heading **Predictions and Horoscopes**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'job'.

6. Look at the section called **The Legend of the 12 Animals**.

Why do you think that this has been included in the text?

7. **They also thrive in professions that require them to use their excellent planning and observation skills...**

What do you think the author means by the word 'thrive'?

8. Why do you think that the zodiac is called a 'cycle'?

Answers

1. Who did Buddha ask to race to see him? Tick one.

- people
- animals**
- gods
- kings and queens

2. ... **many different versions of the story exist**. Which word has the closest meaning to 'versions'? Tick one.

- animals
- festivals
- types**
- cycles

3. Fill in the missing words.

They are **predicted** to experience **positive** changes in their lives.

4. What does a lunar calendar follow?

A lunar calendar follows the phases of the Moon.

5. Look at the sub-heading **Predictions and Horoscopes**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'job'.

career

6. Look at the section called **The Legend of the 12 Animals**.

Why do you think that this has been included in the text?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that this section has been included because it gives the reader useful background information on the origin of the zodiac and why each year is named after a different animal.

7. **They also thrive in professions that require them to use their excellent planning and observation skills...**

What do you think the author means by the word 'thrive'?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the word 'thrive' means to excel or do really well at something.

8. Why do you think that the zodiac is called a 'cycle'?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the zodiac is called a cycle because it goes around and it repeats. After all 12 of the animals have passed, the cycle begins again in the same order.