The Year of the Tiger

Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year is an important traditional holiday for lots of countries. In these countries, each year of the calendar is based on the phases of the Moon rather than the movement of the Sun. Because of this, the new year falls on a different date each year.

The History of the 12 Animals

In Chinese culture, each new year is shown by one of 12 animals. This tradition dates back thousands of years and started with a story. Because it is an old tale, there are many different versions of the story. Some versions have the Jade Emperor as the main character and others have Buddha. However, all of the stories are very similar and contain the same 12 animals.

One version of the story tells that Buddha asked all of the animals on Earth to race to see him but only 12 animals answered his call. Buddha repaid them by giving each one of these animals their own year in the Chinese zodiac cycle. The tiger is the third animal in this cycle.

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

The Year of the Tiger begins on 1st February 2022. It is the 4720th year of the Chinese calendar. Once the Year of the Tiger is over, the next will not begin again until 19th February 2034.

Traits of the Tiger

People born in the different years of the Chinese zodiac cycle are believed to have particular traits and qualities. These characteristics are said to reflect those of the animal that the year is named after.
Tigers are believed to be confident and strong. Just like the real-life creature, people born in this year are also said to be courageous. Many people believe that individuals born in the Year of the Tiger are likeable people who are good communicators. Some people believe that they make good lawyers, managers, actors or authors.

People born in the Year of the Tiger are said to get on well with those who were born in the Year of the Horse and the Year of the Pig.

Famous people born in the Year of the Tiger: Queen Elizabeth II, David Attenborough, Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Cruise.

### Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>lunar</td>
<td>Related to the moon.</td>
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<tr>
<td>traits</td>
<td>Qualities that make a person or a group of people different from others.</td>
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<tr>
<td>zodiac cycle</td>
<td>A repeating cycle of 12 years with each year being represented by an animal or sign.</td>
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Questions

1. How did the tradition of the Chinese horoscope begin? Tick one.
   - with a song
   - with a letter
   - with a story
   - with a poem

2. **Tigers are believed to be confident and strong.**
   Which is the correct definition of ‘confident’ as it is used in this sentence? Tick one.
   - They are loud.
   - They believe in themselves.
   - They don’t like speaking in front of people.
   - They tell the truth.

3. Draw **three** lines and complete each sentence.

   Buddha...
   
   David Attenborough...
   
   People born in the Year of the Tiger...

   was born in the Year of the Tiger.
   asked all of the animals on Earth to race to see him.
   are believed to have many special qualities.

4. Which of the following are said to be popular careers for people born in the Year of the Tiger? Tick **two**.
   - lawyers
   - actors
   - dentists
   - artists

5. Fill in the missing words.
   Buddha repaid the animals by giving each one their own ________________________
   in the Chinese ________________________ cycle.
6. On what date does the Year of the Tiger begin in 2022?

7. Explain why people born in the Year of the Tiger might make good actors.

8. Would you like to be friends with someone born in the Year of the Tiger? Explain your answer.