The Year of the Ox

The Chinese Horoscope

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 come and 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 Year of the Ox begins on 12th February 2021. It is the 4719th year of the Chinese calendar. Once the Year of the Ox is over, the next will not begin again until 31st January 2033.

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

1961 1973 1985 1997 2009

Traits of the Ox

People born in the different years of the Chinese zodiac cycle are believed to have particular **traits** and qualities. These traits are said to link to the animal that the year is named after. The ox is said to be the second of the zodiac animals and is seen as honest.

Oxen are believed to be hard-working and loyal. Just like the real-life creature, people born in this year are also said to be reliable. Many people believe that individuals born in the Year of the Ox are determined people who believe in the importance of hard work.

People born in the Year of the Ox are said to get on well with those who were born in the Year of the Rat, the Year of the Snake and the Year of the Rooster.

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Tireless Workers

It is said that people born in the Year of the Ox do well in jobs that require a clear routine. They are said to prefer working alone and in jobs that require a specialist skill. It is believed that other people enjoy working with people who were born in the Year of the Ox because they can be relied upon to finish jobs thoroughly.

Popular careers for people born in the Year of the Ox are said to include:

- lawyers;
- carpenters;
- bankers;
- army officers.

Did You Know...?

Barack Obama, Malala Yousafzai and Diana, Princess of Wales were all born in the Year of the Ox.

Glossary

trait: A quality that makes 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.

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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. **The ox is said to be the second of the zodiac animals and is seen as honest.**
   Which word means the same as 'honest'? Tick one.
   - ○ brave
   - ○ polite
   - ○ kind
   - ○ truthful

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

Buddha...	was born in the Year of the Ox.
Barack Obama...	asked all of the animals on Earth to come and see him.
Oxen...	are believed to be hard-working and loyal.

4. Which of the following are said to be popular careers for people born in the Year of the Ox? Tick **two**.
   - ○ lawyers
   - ○ actors
   - ○ army officers
   - ○ 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 Ox begin in 2021?

   _____

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7. Explain why people born in the Year of the Ox might make good army officers.

_____

_____

_____

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

_____

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