

Notes

In the Chinese Zodiac, each year is named after one of twelve animals. There are many different stories about how the cycle came about, although most of the tales follow the theme of a race. Each of the animals has different characteristics associated with them, so this provides a great opportunity for children to discuss their own characteristics. In a setting, it is likely that there will not be many different birth years, but children could try and discover in what years their parents, grandparents, siblings, etc. were born and see if they do match up to the characteristics for that birth year [It might also give the teacher an insight as to why this year's class is so different from last year's].

People born in the Year of the Rat are noted for their charm. They work hard to achieve their goals, acquire possessions, and are likely to be perfectionists. They are thrifty with money and are easily angered.

People born in the Year of the Ox are patient and inspire confidence in others. They can also anger easily. Although they speak little, when they do they are quite eloquent. Oxes are mentally and physically alert. Generally easy going, they can be remarkably stubborn, and they hate to fail.

People born in the Year of the Tiger are sensitive and capable of great sympathy. They can be short tempered and sometimes come into conflict with older people or those in authority. Sometimes Tigers cannot make up their minds, which can result in poor, hasty decisions. They are suspicious of others, but they are courageous.

People born in the Year of the Rabbit are articulate, talented, clever and ambitious. Rabbits are admired and trusted. They are fond of gossip but are tactful and kind. Rabbits seldom lose their temper.

People born in the Year of the Dragon are healthy, energetic, excitable, short tempered and stubborn. They are also honest, sensitive, brave, and they inspire confidence and trust. They tend to be soft hearted.

People born in the Year of the Snake say little and possess great wisdom. They have tremendous sympathy for others and try to help those less fortunate. They are determined in whatever they do and hate to fail.

People born in the Year of the Horse are popular. They are cheerful and perceptive, although they sometimes talk too much. They are wise, talented and good with their hands. They like entertainment and large crowds. They are very independent and rarely listen to advice.

People born in the Year of Ram are often shy and pessimistic. They are usually timid by nature. Sometimes clumsy, they are always passionate about what they believe in. Rams are wise and gentle.

People born in the Year of the Monkey are clever and skilful. They are remarkably inventive and can solve the most difficult problems with ease. Having common sense, Monkeys have a deep desire for knowledge.

People born in the Year of the Rooster are deep thinkers and talented. They like to be busy and are deeply disappointed if they fail. They can be selfish and too outspoken, but are always interesting and can be brave.

People born in the Year of the Dog possess the best traits of human nature. They have a deep sense of loyalty, are honest, and inspire other people's confidence because they know how to keep secrets.

People born in the Year of the Pig have great honesty and are extremely loyal. Whatever they do, they do with all their strength. Pigs are quick tempered, yet hate arguments. They are kind to their loved ones.