



# The Year of the Tiger



Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year is one of the most significant dates in the calendar of lots of different countries: it marks the beginning of the new **lunar year**. Because of this, the new year falls on a slightly different date each year.



## Traits of the Tiger



People born in each year of the Chinese zodiac cycle are believed to demonstrate particular traits and qualities. These characteristics are said to reflect the animal that the year is named after; for example, the tiger is said to be a brave and confident creature.

Each zodiac sign is also linked with one of five elements: wood, fire, earth, water and metal. Depending on the year that you were born and the element that you are linked to, people born in the Year of the Tiger are said to have different traits.

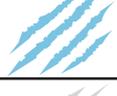


## The Legend of the 12 Animals

According to Chinese culture, each lunar year is represented by one of 12 animals. This tradition dates back thousands of years and is said to have begun with a story. However, given its age, many versions of the story exist and it is unclear which version was the original tale. One story holds the main character as Buddha while another states that it was the Jade Emperor. Nevertheless, both stories are very similar and name the same 12 animals. In one version of the Chinese myth, Buddha called out to all of the animals on Earth and asked them to race to see him yet only 12 animals answered Buddha's call. To repay them for their loyalty, Buddha gave each one of these animals their own year in the Chinese zodiac cycle.



One such animal was the tiger. The Year of the Tiger begins on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022. It is the 4720<sup>th</sup> year of the Chinese calendar and it will run until 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023. The Year of the Rabbit begins the day after on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023. Once the Year of the Rabbit begins, the next Year of the Tiger will not begin again until 19<sup>th</sup> February 2034.

Year of Birth	Type of Tiger	Supposed Traits
1914 and 1974	 Wood Tiger	sociable and compassionate
1926 or 1986	 Fire Tiger	optimistic and headstrong
1938 or 1998	 Earth Tiger	ambitious and kind
1962 or 2022	 Water Tiger	confident and intelligent
1950 or 2010	 Metal Tiger	enthusiastic and indecisive

Overall, people born in the Year of the Tiger are said to be courageous and strong. They are believed to have a charming disposition and they are known for their likeable personalities. However, it can be said that they can also be outspoken and stubborn.

## Predictions and Horoscopes

The Chinese culture surrounding the zodiac includes many beliefs and **horoscopes**. Just as the above traits are believed to apply to anyone born in a Year of the Tiger, the following predictions are also believed to be true for those people in 2022.

▶ People born in the Year of the Tiger are predicted to experience some change in the year 2022.

▶ It is believed to be a good year for considering a career change.

▶ They should make careful decisions about their future.

▶ They should set themselves a goal then work hard to achieve it.

## Glossary

### horoscope:

Predictions about what will happen in someone's future based on the positions of the stars when that person was born.

### lunar year:

A year in which the months are calculated based on the Moon's phases rather than the Sun's movement.

# Questions

1. Which of the following types of tiger are listed in the Chinese zodiac cycle? Tick **two**.
  - Metal Tiger
  - Stone Tiger
  - Wind Tiger
  - Wood Tiger
2. On which date does the Year of the Tiger begin? Tick one.
  - 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023
  - 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022
  - 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023
  - 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021
3. Find and copy one word which shows that it is not known which version of the story is the original tale.  

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4. List the **two** supposed traits of an Earth Tiger.
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5. In which section of the text would you find the date of the next new year?  

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6. Why does Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year fall on a slightly different date each year?  

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7. **They are believed to have a charming disposition and they are known for their likeable personalities.**  
What does the word 'disposition' mean?  

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8. **...Buddha called out to all of the animals on Earth and asked them to race to see him get only 12 animals answered Buddha's call.**

Explain why you think that the tiger was one of the 12 animals that responded to Buddha's call.

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9. Summarise what you have learnt about Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year using 30 words or fewer.

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