




















The Chinese Zodiac Swimming Race

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	The Chinese Zodiac is a cycle of 12 years. Each year is named after an animal.
	2021 is the Year of the Ox. There is an ancient myth that explains the order of the animals in the zodiac. Listen carefully
	A long, long, long, long time ago, the Jade Emperor gathered all the animals together to tell them his plan.
	There would be a swimming race on river the very next day. The river was hard to cross, so it would be a real challenge.
	The first twelve animals to get across the river would have a year of the Zodiac named after them.
	The animals were very excited. That night, the animals were all arguing about who was the best swimmer, and who would win the race.
	Then the rat had an idea. He sneaked away and hid behind a tree.
	The next morning the animals were all lined up and ready for the race.
	There was the ox, the tiger, the rabbit, the dragon, the snake, the horse, the goat, the monkey, the rooster, the dog, the boar ...
	But where was the rat? No-one could see him.
	One, two, three... go!

	<p>The race began. The animals swam as quickly as they could.</p>
	<p>The ox was in the lead when suddenly ...</p>
	<p>The rat jumped out from behind the ox's ear and landed in the Emperor's lap.</p>
	<p>The cunning rat had won the race ..</p>
	<p>And so, the first year of the Zodiac was named after him.</p>
	<p>And the Ox came second. So, the second year of the Zodiac is named after him.</p>
	<p>The Emperor was very pleased with the swimming race.</p>
	<p>The sky was alight with fireworks to celebrate the Chinese Zodiac.</p>