

SOCIAL STUDIES, MATH

## What's Your Chinese Animal Sign?

Explain to children that the Chinese New Year takes place sometime in January or February. Chinese years run on a lunar cycle, so the date changes from year to year. Each year is represented by a different animal. The animals run in a cycle of 12, always in the same order: rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig. After 12 years, the cycle starts all over again.

Copy the chart below on chart paper. Have children record their birthdates, then use the chart to figure out what Chinese year they were born in and draw a picture of the animal. Display children's work and discuss how they arrived at their answers.

American Year	Chinese Year	Animal
2004	January 22, 2004 – February 8, 2005	Monkey
2005	February 9, 2005 – January 28, 2006	Rooster
2006	January 29, 2006 – February 17, 2007	Dog
2007	February 18, 2007 – February 6, 2008	Pig
2008	February 7, 2008 – January 25, 2009	Rat
2009	January 26, 2009 – February 13, 2010	Ox
2010	February 14, 2010 – February 2, 2011	Tiger
2011	February 3, 2011 – January 22, 2012	Rabbit
2012	January 23, 2012 – February 9, 2013	Dragon
2013	February 10, 2013 – January 30, 2014	Snake
2014	January 31, 2014 – February 18, 2015	Horse
2015	February 19, 2015 – February 7, 2016	Horse

### Book Break

## Lion Dancer

by Kate Waters (Scholastic, 1990)

Follow Ernie Wong as he prepares for Chinese New Year in New York City's Chinatown. Let children perform a lion dance of their own!

### Computer Connection

To find out more about Chinese year signs and what they mean, check out the following web sites:

[www.chinese.new-year.co.uk/calendar.htm](http://www.chinese.new-year.co.uk/calendar.htm)

[www.holygmt.com/astrology/year.htm](http://www.holygmt.com/astrology/year.htm)