

# The Year of the Rat

## Why Were Different Animals Chosen?

Each new year in Chinese culture is known by an animal. There are 12 different animals altogether. This tradition began a very long time ago and is thought to have started with a story about Buddha. Buddha asked all of the animals to come and see him one day but only 12 animals came. Buddha gave each one of these animals their own year in the Chinese zodiac cycle to say thank you.

## When Does the Year of the Rat Start?

The Year of the Rat starts on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Once it is over, the Year of the Rat will only begin again in 2032.

## What Is Good about the Year of the Rat?

There are a lot of good things about being born in the Year of the Rat. If someone is born in the Year of the Rat, Chinese culture believes that they will be:

- adaptable – they will be able to adjust to changes;
- smart – they will be clever;
- cautious – they will be careful;
- alert – they will always be on the lookout for danger;
- a positive person;
- someone who is friendly and confident;
- someone who is always cheerful.



## What Jobs Would People Be Good At?

Chinese culture believes that someone born in the Year of the Rat might make a good:

- artist;
- author;
- teacher;
- architect;
- musician.



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

1960

1972

1984

1996

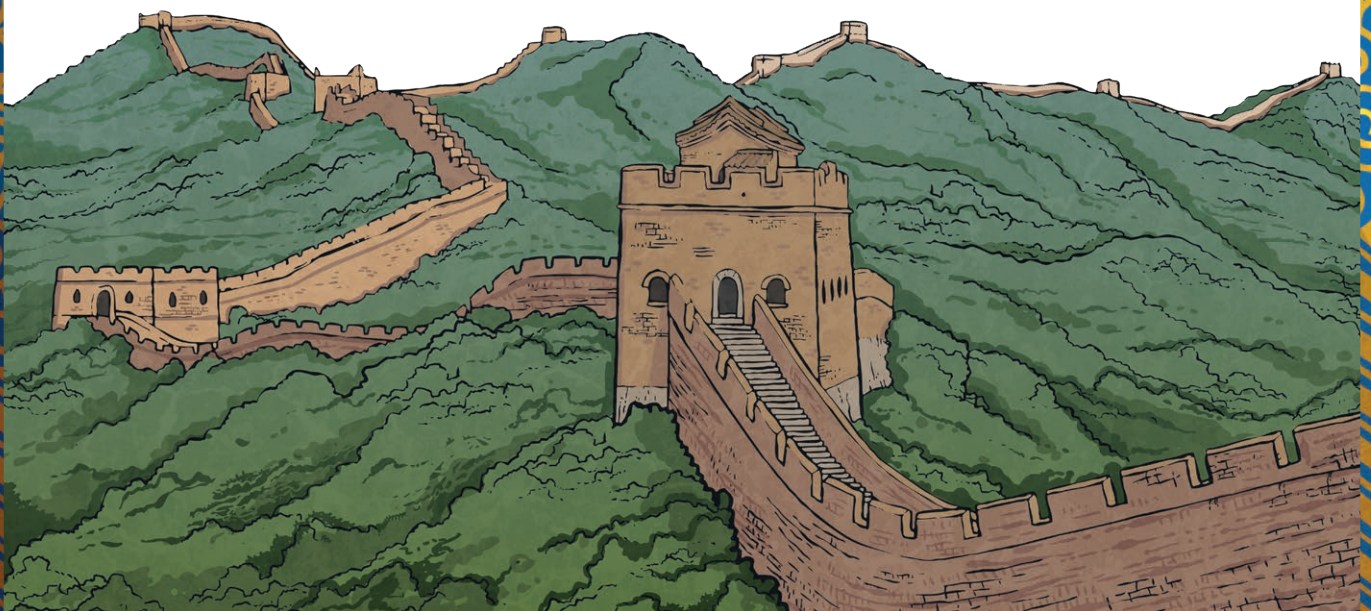
2008



## Did You Know...?

If you were born in the Year of the Rat:

- your lucky colours are gold, blue and green;
- your lucky flowers are lilies and violets;
- your lucky numbers are 2 and 3;
- you will find love in the west and wealth in the east;
- 2020 is predicted to be a year of opportunity.



# Questions

1. On which date does the Year of the Rat begin in 2020? Tick one.
  - 20<sup>th</sup> June
  - 30<sup>th</sup> March
  - 1<sup>st</sup> January
  - 25<sup>th</sup> January
2. Which of these is a lucky number for someone born in the Year of the Rat? Tick one.
  - 3
  - 8
  - 7
  - 1
3. How many different animals are said to have visited Buddha when he asked? Tick one.
  - 11
  - 12
  - 13
  - 14
4. Which of these years was a Year of the Rat? Tick one.
  - 1946
  - 1960
  - 1982
  - 2004

5. Fill in the missing words in this sentence:

2020 is \_\_\_\_\_ to be a year of \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Name one thing that people born in the Year of the Rat are good at.

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7. Why do you think that people born in the Year of the Rat might make good teachers?

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# Answers

1. On which date does the Year of the Rat begin in 2020? Tick one.
  - 20<sup>th</sup> June
  - 30<sup>th</sup> March
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  - 25<sup>th</sup> January**
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4. Which of these years was a Year of the Rat? Tick one.
  - 1946
  - 1960**
  - 1982
  - 2004
5. Fill in the missing words in this sentence:

2020 is **predicted** to be a year of **opportunity**.

6. Name one thing that people born in the Year of the Rat are good at.  
**Accept any one of the following answers: adjusting to changes; being careful; spotting danger; being friendly; being confident; being cheerful.**
7. Why do you think that people born in the Year of the Rat might make good teachers?  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: People born in the Year of the Rat might make good teachers because they are said to be creative, confident and cheerful, which are all traits that a good teacher needs.**

# The Year of the Rat

## The Chinese Horoscope

In Chinese culture, each new year is known by one of 12 animals. This tradition is thousands of years old and is thought to have started with a story about Buddha. The story tells that one day, Buddha asked all of the animals to come and see him but only 12 animals came. To repay those animals for taking the time to see him, Buddha gave each one of them their own year in the Chinese zodiac cycle.

The Year of the Rat starts on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020. It is the 4718<sup>th</sup> year of the Chinese calendar. Once the Year of the Rat is over, it will only begin again in 2032.

## Traits of the Rat

A trait is a quality that someone has which is specific to them or a group they belong to. People born in the different years of the Chinese calendar are each said to have different traits and qualities. These qualities link to the animal that the year is named after. The rat is said to be the first of all zodiac animals and is seen as a sign of wealth.

The rat is believed to be adaptable and smart. This means that they can adjust to changes that come their way. They are also said to be cautious and alert, which means that they are always on the lookout for danger. It is believed that people born in the Year of the Rat are always positive and cheerful. They are friendly, confident and always look on the bright side.

## Perfect Professions

People born in the Year of the Rat tend to do well in creative jobs which have a lot of freedom. They are said to prefer to work alone rather than as part of a team and they like to pay attention to small details.

Other people enjoy working with people who were born in the Year of the Rat because they are said to be flexible when it comes to changes but also careful about what they are doing.



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

- artists;
- authors;
- teachers;
- architects;
- musicians;
- comedians;
- researchers.

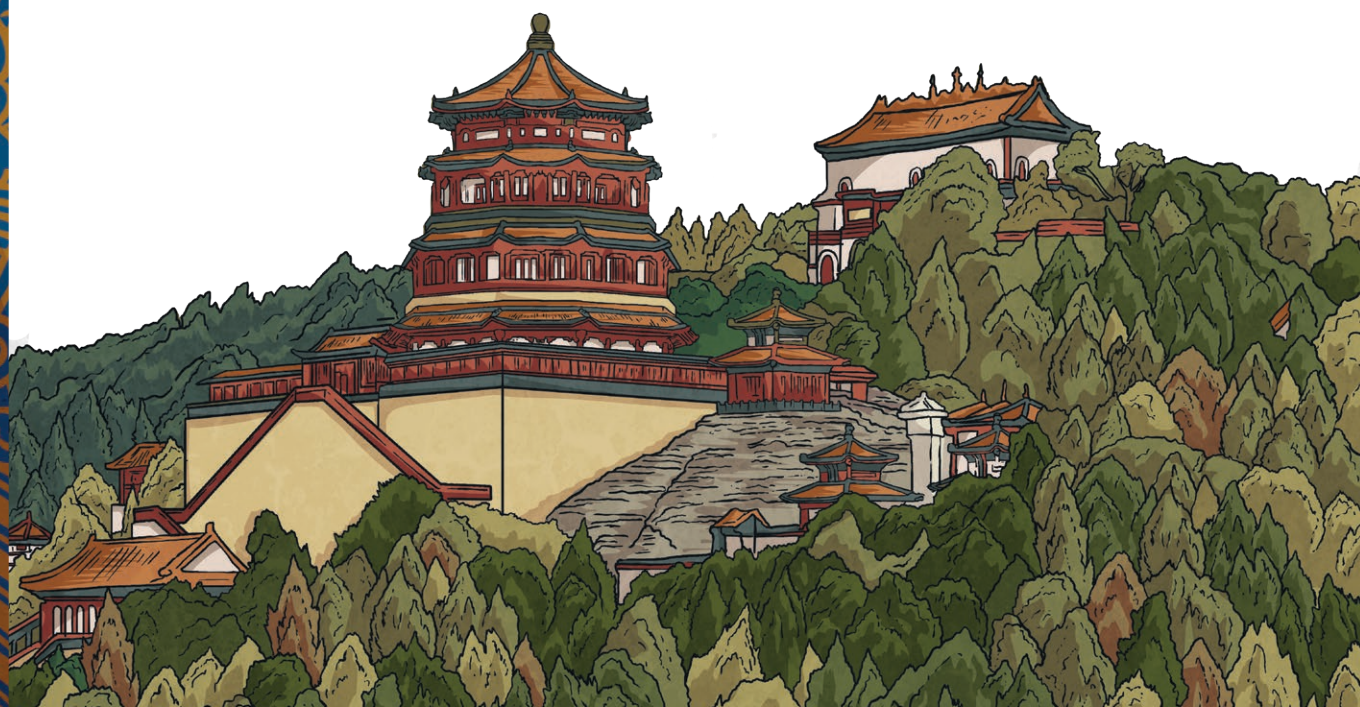


**You were born in the Year of the Rat if you were born in:**

1960   1972   1984   1996   2008

### Did You Know...?

William Shakespeare and Prince Charles were both born in the Year of the Rat.



# Questions

1. Which one of these years was **not** a Year of the Rat? Tick one.

- 2008
- 1994
- 1972
- 1960

2. Draw three lines and complete each sentence.

The Year of the Rat starts on...	4718 <sup>th</sup> year of the Chinese calendar.
It is the...	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2020.
It will only begin again...	in 2032.

3. **People born in the different years of the Chinese calendar are each said to have different traits...**

What does the word **trait** mean? Tick one.

- the way that someone walks
- a quality that someone has
- a favourite place to live
- a bad temper

4. Who asked all the animals to come and see him? Tick one.

- the rat
- the Chinese zodiac
- Buddha
- a dragon

5. List **two** good traits of someone who was born in the Year of the Rat.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

6. Why might the rat have been called 'the first of all zodiac animals'?

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7. Why might people like working with someone who was born in the Year of the Rat?

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8. Explain why people born in the Year of the Rat would make good comedians.

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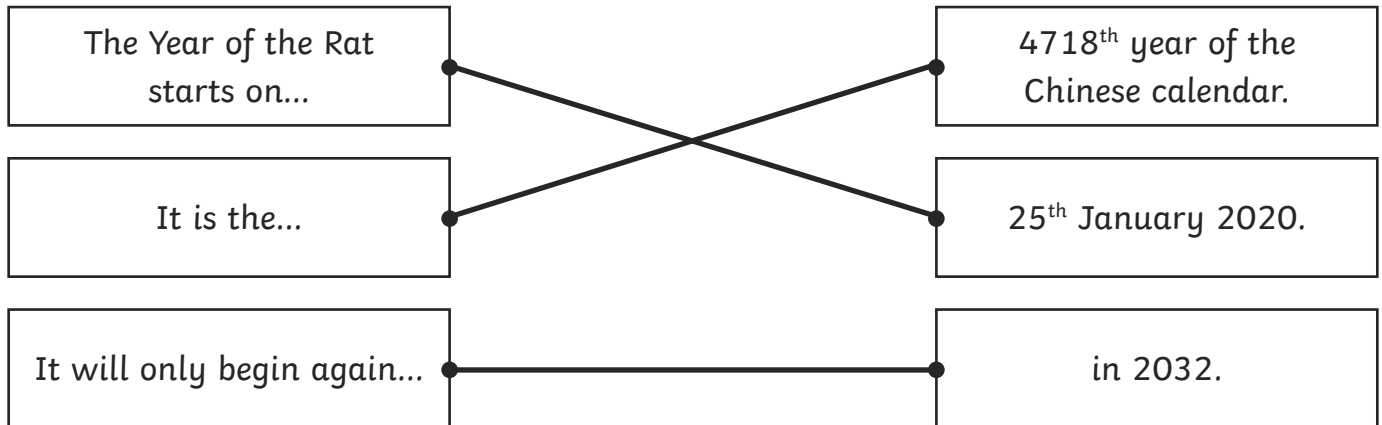


# Answers

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4. Who asked all the animals to come and see him? Tick one.

- the rat
- the Chinese zodiac
- Buddha**
- a dragon

5. List **two** good traits of someone who was born in the Year of the Rat.

**Accept any two of the following answers: adaptable; smart; they can adjust to changes; cautious; alert; they are always on the lookout for danger; positive; cheerful; friendly; confident; they always look on the bright side.**

6. Why might the rat have been called 'the first of all zodiac animals'?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The rat might have been called the first of all zodiac animals because it was the first creature to respond when Buddha called.**

7. Why might people like working with someone who was born in the Year of the Rat?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: People might like working with people who were born in the Year of the Rat because they are said to be flexible when it comes to changes but also careful about what they are doing.**

8. Explain why people born in the Year of the Rat would make good comedians.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: People born in the Year of the Rat would make good comedians because they are said to always be positive and confident which are traits that a comedian would need when performing.**

# The Year of the Rat

## The Legend of the Chinese Horoscope

In Chinese culture, each new year is represented by one of 12 animals. This tradition dates back thousands of years and is said to begin with a story about Buddha. The Chinese myth tells that Buddha called out to all of the animals and asked them to come and see him one day. However, 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.

The Year of the Rat begins on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020. It is the 4718<sup>th</sup> year of the Chinese calendar and will last until 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021 when the Year of the Ox begins. Once the Year of the Ox begins, the next Year of the Rat will only begin again in 2032.

## Traits of the Rat

People born in the different years of the Chinese zodiac cycle are believed to have particular traits and qualities. These characteristics reflect the animal that the year is named after. The rat is said to be the first of all zodiac animals and is seen as a sign of wealth.

In Chinese culture, the rat is believed to be adaptable and smart. This means that they can adjust to changes that come their way. Just like the real-life creature, people born in this year are also said to be cautious and alert – always on the lookout for danger. It is believed that people born in the Year of the Rat are always positive and cheerful. They are friendly, confident and always look on the bright side.

## Making Friends

Each animal in the Chinese zodiac cycle has other animals that they are said to get on well with. If you were born in the Year of the Rat, you are said to easily make friends with those who are oxen, dragons and monkeys.

## Perfect Professions

People born in the Year of the Rat tend to do well in creative jobs which have a lot of freedom. They are said to prefer to work alone rather than as part of a team and they like to pay attention to small details.

Other people enjoy working with people who were born in the Year of the Rat because they are said to be



# The Year of the Rat

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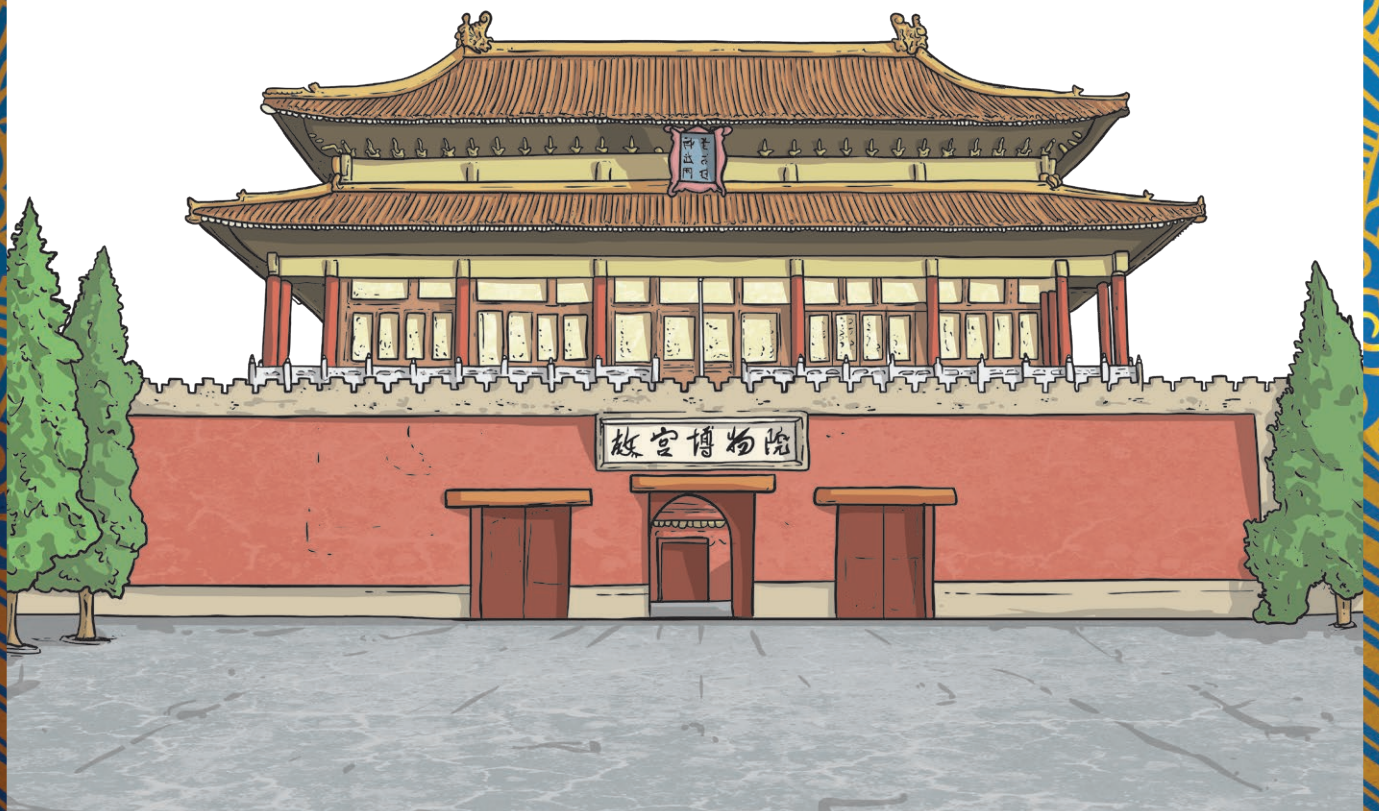
Popular careers for people born in the Year of the Rat are said to be jobs which require independence and imagination, such as artists, authors, teachers, musicians, comedians, architects and researchers.

**You were born in the Year of the Rat if you were born in:**

1960    1972    1984    1996    2008

**Did You Know...?**

William Shakespeare and Prince Charles were both born in the Year of the Rat.



# Questions

1. **...and is seen as a sign of wealth.**

Which of these words means the same as **wealth**? Tick one.

- health
- anger
- riches
- gloom

2. Draw three lines to match each question to the correct answer. Each answer may only be used once.

Which year of the Chinese zodiac begins on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020?

The Year of the Ox

Which year will follow the Year of the Rat?

The Year of the Dragon

People born in the Year of the Rat will get along with people born in which other year?

The Year of the Rat

3. List **two** famous people who were born in a Year of the Rat.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

4. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

Popular careers for people born in the Year of the Rat are said to be jobs which require \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

5. **To repay them for their loyalty...**

How else could the author have written this phrase?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What might people born in the Year of the Rat do when they are around other people?

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7. What might happen if someone born in the Year of the Rat has to sit next to someone who was born in the Year of the Monkey? Give a reason for your answer.

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8. Would you like to be friends with someone who was born in the Year of the Rat? Give a reason for your answer.

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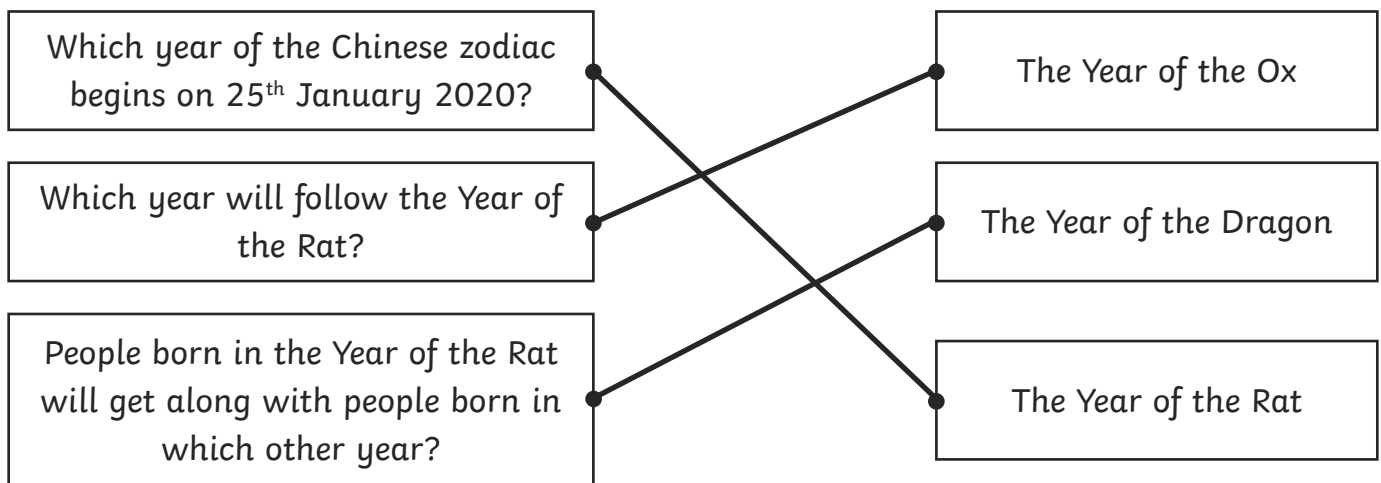
# Answers

1. ...and is seen as a sign of wealth.

Which of these words means the same as **wealth**? Tick one.

- health
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2. Draw three lines to match each question to the correct answer. Each answer may only be used once.



3. List **two** famous people who were born in a Year of the Rat.

**Accept 'William Shakespeare' and 'Prince Charles' only.**

4. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

Popular careers for people born in the Year of the Rat are said to be jobs which require **independence** and **imagination**.

5. **To repay them for their loyalty...**

How else could the author have written this phrase?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: To pay them back for being devoted...**

6. What might people born in the Year of the Rat do when they are around other people?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: When people born in the Year of the Rat are around other people, they might make them smile because they are said to always be cheerful and friendly.**

7. What might happen if someone born in the Year of the Rat has to sit next to someone who was born in the Year of the Monkey? Give a reason for your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: If someone born in the Year of the Rat had to sit next to someone born in the Year of the Monkey, I think that they would make friends easily because their zodiac animals are said to get along well.**

8. Would you like to be friends with someone who was born in the Year of the Rat? Give a reason for your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, I would like to be friends with someone who was born in the Year of the Rat because I like to be happy and those people are said to always be cheerful and positive.**