

Chapter 1 : 12 Zodiac Animals & Zodiac Calendar - Buddhism in Japan and China

The 12 zodiac signs most commonly used in were created by the ancient Greeks and Romans, and they still go by their Roman names. They were based on earlier astrological systems, which were created by the Babylonians.

Early history[edit] Wheel of the zodiac: This 6th century mosaic pavement in a synagogue incorporates Greek-Byzantine elements, Beit Alpha , Israel. Zodiac circle with planets, c. Babylonian star catalogues and MUL. APIN The division of the ecliptic into the zodiacal signs originates in Babylonian " Chaldean " astronomy during the first half of the 1st millennium BC. The zodiac draws on stars in earlier Babylonian star catalogues, such as the MUL. LUL "The Crayfish", among others. Each sign contained thirty degrees of celestial longitude , thus creating the first known celestial coordinate system. The Sun actually passed through at least 13, not 12 Babylonian constellations. In order to align with the number of months in a year, designers of the system omitted the major constellation Ophiuchus. Bullinger interpreted the creatures appearing in the book of Ezekiel as the middle signs of the four quarters of the Zodiac, [20] [21] with the Lion as Leo , the Bull is Taurus , the Man representing Aquarius and the Eagle representing Scorpio. Martin and others have argued that the arrangement of the tribes around the Tabernacle reported in the Book of Numbers corresponded to the order of the Zodiac, with Judah , Reuben , Ephraim , and Dan representing the middle signs of Leo, Aquarius, Taurus, and Scorpio, respectively. Such connections were taken up by Thomas Mann , who in his novel Joseph and His Brothers attributes characteristics of a sign of the zodiac to each tribe in his rendition of the Blessing of Jacob. Hellenistic astrology derived in part from Babylonian and Egyptian astrology. The Dendera zodiac , a relief dating to ca. The earliest extant Greek text using the Babylonian division of the zodiac into 12 signs of 30 equal degrees each is the Anaphoricus of Hypsicles of Alexandria fl. The Hindu zodiac, being sidereal, does not maintain this seasonal alignment, but there are still similarities between the two systems. The Hindu zodiac signs and corresponding Greek signs sound very different, being in Sanskrit and Greek respectively, but their symbols are nearly identical. Mediaeval stained glass by Andre Robin after the fire of The High Middle Ages saw a revival of interest in Greco-Roman magic , first in Kabbalism and later continued in Renaissance magic. This included magical uses of the zodiac, as found, e. A volvella is a moveable device for working out the position of the sun and moon in the zodiac, 15th century 17th-century fresco of Christ in the Zodiac circle, Cathedral of Living Pillar , Georgia An example of the use of signs as astronomical coordinates may be found in the Nautical Almanac and Astronomical Ephemeris for the year The "Longitude of the Sun" columns show the sign represented as a digit from 0 to and including 11 , degrees from 0 to 29, minutes, and seconds. Also, the "English translation" is not usually used by English speakers. The Latin names are standard English usage.

The 12 Chinese Zodiac animals are in a fixed order according to Chinese Yin and Yang Theory and perceived attributes. The yin or the yang of the animals is defined based on the odd or even number of their claws (or toes, hoofs).

Chat Astrology is certainly one of the most ancient philosophies still in existence in China. Some estimate it to be more than 3, years old but recent study of more esoteric beliefs place it further back into the clouded past of human history. In ancient China, and up until today Astrology has been used to predict what happens to countries, the outcome of wars, economic trends and much more. Chinese Astrology is organized according to 12 Animals Signs. One Chinese legend attributes the creation of the animal signs to the semi-mythical Yellow Emperor in B. According to another legend, the Lord Buddha summoned all the animals to come to him before he departed from Earth. Only 12 animals came to bid him farewell. As a reward he named a year after each other one in the order that they arrived. Thus we have 12 signs today. The Chinese horoscope is based on these 12 Animals Signs, each having its own year in the cycle. The animal ruling year in which you were born exercises a profound influence on your life. As the Chinese say, "This is the animal that hides in your heart". They like to be busy and are devoted beyond their capabilities and are deeply disappointed if they fail. People born in the Rooster Year are often a bit eccentric, and often have rather difficult relationship with others. They always think they are right and usually are! They frequently are loners and though they give the outward impression of being adventurous, they are timid. They can be selfish and too outspoken, but are always interesting and can be extremely brave. They are most compatible with Ox, Snake, and Dragon. Clever, skillful, and flexible, they are remarkably inventive and original and can solve the most difficult problems with ease. They want to do things now, and if they cannot get started immediately, they become discouraged and sometimes leave their projects. Although good at making decisions, they tend to look down on others. Having common sense, Monkey people have a deep desire for knowledge and have excellent memories. Monkey people are strong willed but their anger cools quickly. They are most compatible with the Dragon and Rat. But ram year people are often shy, pessimistic, and puzzled about life. They are usually deeply religious, yet timid by nature. Sometimes clumsy in speech, they are always passionate about what they do and what they believe in. Ram people never have to worry about having the best in life for their abilities make money for them, and they are able to enjoy the creature comforts that they like. Ram people are wise, gentle, and compassionate. They are compatible with Rabbits, Pigs, and Horses. They are cheerful, skillful with money, and perceptive, although they sometimes talk too much. They are wise, talented, good with their hands, and sometimes have a weakness for members of the opposite sex. They are impatient and hot-blooded about everything except their daily work. They like entertainment and large crowds. They are very independent and rarely listen to advice. They are most compatible with Tigers, Dogs, and Sheep. They say little and possess great wisdom. They never have to worry about money; they are financially fortunate. Snake people are often quite vain, selfish, and a bit stingy. Yet they have tremendous sympathy for others and try to help those less fortunate. They are determined in whatever they do and hate to fail. Although calm on the surface, they are intense and passionate. Snake people are usually good-looking and sometimes have martial problems because they are fickle. They are most compatible with the Ox and Rooster. They are also honest, sensitive, brave, and they inspire confidence and trust. Dragon people are the most eccentric of any in the eastern zodiac. They neither borrow money nor make flowery speeches, but they tend to be soft-hearted which sometimes gives others an advantage over them. They are compatible with Rats, Snakes, Monkeys, and Roosters. They are virtuous, reserved, and have excellent taste. Rabbit people are admired, trusted, and are often financially lucky. They are fond of gossip but are tactful and generally kind. Rabbit people seldom lose their temper. They are clever at business and being conscientious, never back out of a contract. They would make good gamblers for they have the uncanny gift of choosing the right thing. However, they seldom gamble, as they are conservative and wise. They are most compatible with those born in the years of the Sheep, Pig, and Dog. They can be extremely short-tempered, however. Other people have great respect for them, but sometimes tiger people come into conflict with older people or those in authority. They are suspicious of others, but they

Chapter 3 : Zodiac - Wikipedia

This is the most widespread legend about Chinese zodiac. The Jade Emperor (The Emperor in Heaven in Chinese folklore) ordered that animals would be designated as calendar signs and the twelve that arrived first would be selected. At that time, the cat and the rat were good friends and neighbors.

The Four Pillars or columns chart is called such as the Chinese writing causes it to fall into columns. Each pillar or column contains a stem and a branch and each column relates to the year, month, day and hour of birth. The first column refers to the year animal and element, the second to the month animal and element, the third to the day animal and element, and the last to the hour animal and element. These three signs are said to be intense and powerful individuals capable of great good, who make great leaders but are rather unpredictable. The three are said to be intelligent, magnanimous, charismatic, charming, authoritative, confident, eloquent and artistic, but can be manipulative, jealous, selfish, aggressive, vindictive, and deceitful. These three signs are said to possess endurance and application, with slow accumulation of energy, meticulous at planning but tending to hold fixed opinions. The three are said to be intelligent, hard-working, modest, industrious, loyal, philosophical, patient, goodhearted and morally upright, but can also be self-righteous, egotistical, vain, judgmental, narrow-minded, and petty. These three signs are said to seek true love, to pursue humanitarian causes, to be idealistic and independent but tending to be impulsive. The three are said to be productive, enthusiastic, independent, engaging, dynamic, honorable, loyal and protective, but can also be rash, rebellious, quarrelsome, anxious, disagreeable, and stubborn. These three signs are said to have a calm nature and somewhat reasonable approach; they seek aesthetic beauty and are artistic, well-mannered and compassionate, yet detached and resigned to their condition. The three are said to be caring, self-sacrificing, obliging, sensible, creative, empathetic, tactful and prudent, but can also be naive, pedantic, insecure, selfish, indecisive, and pessimistic.

Zodiac origin stories[edit] This section does not cite any sources. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. May Learn how and when to remove this template message

There are many stories and fables to explain the beginning of the zodiac. Since the Han Dynasty, the 12 Earthly Branches have been used to record the time of day. However, for the sake of entertainment and convenience, they have been replaced by the 12 animals. The 24 hours are divided into 12 periods, and a mnemonic refers to the behavior of the animals: Earthly Branches may refer to a double-hour period. This is the time when Rats are most active in seeking food. Rats also have a different number of digits on front and hind legs, thus earning the symbol of "turn over" or "new start". This is the time when Oxen begin to chew the cud slowly and comfortably. This is the time when Tigers hunt their prey more and show their ferocity. This is the time when the Jade Rabbit is busy pounding herbal medicine on the Moon according to the tale. This is the time when Dragons are hovering in the sky to give rain. This is the time when Snakes are leaving their caves. This is the time when the Sun is high overhead and while other animals are lying down for a rest, Horses are still standing. This is the time when Goats eat grass and urinate frequently. This is the time when Monkeys are lively. This is the time when Roosters begin to get back to their coops. This is the time when Dogs carry out their duty of guarding the houses. This is the time when Pigs are sleeping sweetly. Although they were poor swimmers, they were both quite intelligent. To get to the meeting called by the Jade Emperor, they had to cross a river to reach the meeting place. The Jade Emperor had also decreed that the years on the calendar would be named for each animal in the order they arrived to the meeting. Cat and Rat decided that the best and fastest way to cross the river was to hop on the back of Ox. Ox, being kindhearted and naive, agreed to carry them both across. As the Ox was about to reach the other side of the river, the Rat pushed the Cat into the water, and then jumped off the Ox, and rushed to the Jade Emperor. It was named as the first animal of the zodiac calendar. The Ox had to settle in second place. The third one to come, was the Tiger. Even though it was strong and powerful, it explained to the Jade Emperor that the currents were pushing him downstream. Suddenly, from a distance came a thumping sound, and the Rabbit arrived. It explained how it crossed the river: Halfway through, it almost lost the race, but it was lucky enough to grab hold of a floating log that later washed him to shore. For

that, it became the fourth animal in the zodiac cycle. In fifth place, was the flying Dragon. The Jade Emperor was wondering why such a swift airborne creature such as the Dragon failed to come in first. The Dragon explained that it had to stop by a village and brought rain for all the people, and therefore it was held back. Then, on its way to the finish, it saw the helpless Rabbit clinging onto a log, so it did a good deed and gave a puff of breath to the poor creature so that it could land on the shore. As soon as it had done so, a galloping sound was heard, and the Horse appeared. After a while, the Goat, Monkey, and Rooster came to the heavenly gate. With combined efforts, they managed to arrive to the other side. The Rooster found a raft, and the Monkey and the Goat tugged and pulled, trying to get all the weeds out of the way. The Jade Emperor was pleased with their teamwork and decided to name the Goat as the eighth animal followed by the Monkey, and then the Rooster. The eleventh animal placed in the zodiac cycle was the Dog. Although it should have been the best swimmer, it spent its time to play in the water. Though his explanation for being late was because it needed a good bath after a long spell. For that, it almost did not make it to the finish line. Right when the Emperor was going to close the race, an "oink" sound was heard: The Pig felt hungry in the middle of the race, so it stopped, ate something and then fell asleep. After it awoke, it finished the race in twelfth place, and became the last animal to arrive. The cat eventually drowned, and did not make it in the zodiac. It is said that this is the reason cats always hunt Rats. This image depicts a scene from the "Great Race" folk story, in which the Ox carries the Rat across the river. Another folk story tells that the Rat deceived the Ox into letting it jump on its back, in order for the Ox to hear the Rat sing, [8] before jumping off at the finish line and finishing first. In Chinese mythology, a story tells that the cat was tricked by the Rat so it could not go to the banquet. This is why the cat is ultimately not part of the Chinese zodiac. In Buddhism, legend has it [citation needed] that Gautama Buddha summoned all of the animals of the Earth to come before him before his departure from this Earth, but only 12 animals actually came to bid him farewell. To reward the animals who came to him, he named a year after each of them. The years were given to them in the order they had arrived. The twelve animals of the Chinese zodiac were developed in the early stages of Chinese civilization; it is difficult to investigate its real origins. Most historians agree that the cat is not included, as they had not yet been introduced to China from India, with the arrival of Buddhism. Problems with English translation [edit] Due to confusion with synonyms during translation, some of the animals depicted by the English words did not exist in ancient China. Chinese zodiac in other countries [edit] The Chinese zodiac signs are also used by cultures other than Chinese. The Chinese lunar coins, depicting the zodiac animals, inspired the Canadian Silver Maple Leaf coins, as well as varieties from Australia, Korea, and Mongolia. The Chinese zodiac is also used in some other Asian countries that have been under the cultural influence of China. However, some of the animals in the zodiac may differ by country. The Japanese zodiac includes the Sheep hitsuji instead of the Goat which would be yagi, and the Wild boar inoshishi, instead of the Pig buta. The Vietnamese zodiac is almost identical to the Chinese zodiac except the second animal is the Water Buffalo instead of the Ox, and the fourth animal is the Cat instead of the Rabbit. The Cham zodiac uses the same animals and order as the Chinese zodiac, but replaces the Monkey with the turtle known locally as kra. Similarly the Malay zodiac is identical to the Chinese but replaces two of the animals with the turtle kura-kura and mousedeer kancil. One of the replaced animals is always the Rabbit, the other being either the Pig or Monkey.

Chapter 4 : Ancient Chinese Zodiac Charms

12 Chinese zodiac animal signs There are 12 Chinese zodiac signs, in the following order: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig. Each sign is named after an animal, and each animal has its own unique characteristics.

The designation is usually explained with a simple story that a long time ago, Buddha called together all the animals to help guard and protect the year. Of all the animals, only twelve answered the call. In order to establish an orderly sequence, a race was called. In the race, the Ox would have taken the honor of taking first place had it not been for the clever and cunning Rat who rode on the back of the Ox and jumped forward at the finish line to steal away the top award. The Tournament of the Twelve Animals The Jade Emperor wanted to select twelve animals to represent the different years as totems. Hearing this, all the animals on earth rushed to the call with each desiring to be selected. Finding no suitable method on which to base his selection, the Jade Emperor decided to have a tournament of physical skills and abilities. The Jade Emperor appointed the Elephant to be the undisputed judge of this tournament. The elephant was known for his calmness, great moral virtue and conduct. His judgment was principled and fair and because of this he is highly respected by all the animals. When this tournament and its rules were announced, the Cat heard about it and went to tell this to the Rat. In earlier times, both the Cat and the Rat were very close friends. The Cat told the Rat that he was eligible to compete because being an animal was the only necessary qualification. When the Rat arrived, he saw that there was already a mighty strong brown Ox poised on the tournament platform welcoming all challengers. The brown Ox was both large in size and extremely mighty. He thought little of having the tiny Rat as his opponent. He was over confident as he stood boldly on the tournament platform. Ready for the battle, the Ox raised his front legs and pawed and scratched on the ground as he was prepared to stomp on the Rat and flatten him into a small meat patty. However, the Rat was light in weight and quick and agile in movement so that he was successful in side-stepping the charging Ox. The Rat jumped onto his feet and catapulted himself onto the back of the Ox. The Ox was helpless to this attack and the pain inflicted caused him to scream out with an admission of defeat. The judge had no alternative than to award the Rat with the coveted First prize. The Ox was embarrassed and speechless to have lost to the Rat. The rest of the animals battled one another, and this is how the ranking of the twelve animals came to be:

Chapter 5 : 12 signs of the Zodiac | Astrology | Learn Traits for Each Sign |

29 responses to "Story of the 12 Animals in Chinese Zodiac" The 12 animals and 5 elements, as a base for numbers can be traced through history. Sumarians.

Scroll down or click to learn more about the 12 Zodiac Signs

Aries Sign: Aries does not suffer avoidance – just get to the point and get on with things. Read all about Aries Star Sign. However, it would be a grave mistake to think the agility of their minds to be anything less than the Olympic gold medalist that it truly is. Read all about Taurus Star Sign. What they do and say on one day can and often does change the next. The saving grace here is that Gemini has both charm and wit that often gets them out of trouble. Read all about Gemini Star Sign. This is why others often turn to this zodiac sign for good advice. Read all about Cancer Star Sign. Those born under the Leo Sign are the truest of humanitarians who believe their job is to protect and serve. But, like all fire signs, their negative traits can burn. Read all about Leo Star Sign. Because of this, People trust Virgos to make wise, discriminating suggestions. Read all about Virgo Star Sign. This zodiac sign is charming, sensitive and artistic. Those born under Libra are, also, usually extremely intelligent. They have a rare knack for being able to see both sides of a situation. Maybe this is why they can never quite make up their minds! Read all about Libra Star Sign. Love is their life, but be careful of the famous Scorpio sting! Read all about Scorpio Star Sign. The planet that governs Sagittarius is Jupiter. Read all about Sagittarius Star Sign. This zodiac sign does not gamble. They plan, rehearse and execute. Read all about Capricorn Star Sign. Those born under the Aquarius sign are the consummate forward thinking dreamers and doers. Read all about Aquarius Star Sign. Pisces spends their life trying to make the world a better place. Read all about Pisces Star Sign. The Western Zodiac and its 12 Zodiac Signs In Western Astrology the year has twelve specific signs called Zodiac Signs, each of which has different personality traits and general characteristics. The time and day on which a person is born determines what sign influences them most. By learning about zodiac sign traits, personalities and characteristics we can come to understand ourselves and others a whole lot better. This understanding can help make our personal and professional relationships far more fulfilling and successful! Once finding your star sign another name for zodiac sign in the chart below, click through to the complete zodiac description. The Western Zodiac Signs and the Elements each corresponds to is as follows: Aries – The Ram Fire: February 19 – March 20 Zodiac Planets Pythagoras likened the movement of celestial bodies to a kind of celestial symphony that resonates throughout the spheres and effects our lives. Your personal song is unique to where the planets were when you entered this mortal coil. Here are the zodiac signs ruling planets according to Classical tradition: Ruled by the sun. Ruled by the Moon. Creativity and transformation Pisces: Fate and change Virgo: An Astrologer also considers the horizon line, angles formed by the planets in relationship to each other conjunction, opposition, retrograde, etc. Unless you plan on becoming a professional Astronomer you probably have some questions by now, like what the heck does a 5, year old divinatory system have to do with my reality? Truth be told, people use astrology every day for all manner of things including choosing stocks, starting a new business, getting perspectives on relationships and moving into new homes or jobs. Unless you grew up or lived in the Far East it can be difficult for the Western mind to fully grasp the symbolism and meaning behind Vedic and Chinese Astrology systems. All three approaches have strong cultural overtones, and for Astrology to be useful it must also be meaningful to you. Finally, please remember that like any divination system Astrology has its limitations. So as you review your zodiac sign traits, personality and characteristics, use what resonates most with you at that moment. Come back to the information at a later date as what you take away from Astronomy transforms as your life changes.

Chapter 6 : Chinese Zodiac | History

[citation needed] The Chinese zodiac is represented by 12 animals, whereas some of the signs in the Western zodiac are not animals, despite the implication of the etymology of the word zodiac.

Hereinafter will introduce the best well-known version of the great crossing race. The Great Race In the ancient times when human knowledge was limited, the calculation and separation of years and months were both unknown. The Jade Emperor, at the request of mankind, came up with an idea to use the names of twelve animals to make it easy for ordinary people to remember the years. But how to choose the animals and sort them? Through a deep consideration, the Jade Emperor decided to hold an animal crossing race on his birthday and take the first twelve animals as the zodiac to calculate years. When the news got around, all the animals were riveted and eager to find a place in the twelve zodiac signs. Among them, the little mouse and cat also wanted to go to the meeting, but they were too small to swim, so they asked the ox who had a gentle temper and always got up early in the morning to give them a ride. Just as they were almost there, the ox raced up with the thought of "getting the first". However, the mouse jumped in front of the ox and grabbed the first. The ox had to come in the second. The tiger came to third with all wet. The rabbit crossed the river with the help of other animals and jumped up to the Jade Emperor and became the fourth animal in the zodiac cycle. The dragon who had just made a rain to help all the people and creatures of the earth because of responsibility rushed to the meeting, only got the fifth and missed the first. Then the Horse appeared. Hidden on its hoof was the Snake, whose sudden appearance gave the horse a fright, thus making it fall back and giving the Snake the sixth spot, while the Horse placed seventh. Soon later, the sheep, monkey and rooster came to the shore on a wooden raft. They helped each other on the way to the banquet, so the Emperor was very pleased and promptly named the sheep as the eighth creature, the Monkey as the ninth, and the Rooster the tenth. The eleventh animal was the Dog. Although it was good at swimming, it wasted a long time playing in the river causing a delay to the finish line. The last was the little Pig. It got hungry during the race, promptly stopped for a feast and then fell asleep. After the nap, it continued the race and was named the twelfth animal of the zodiac cycle. Just as the Jade Emperor solemnly declared: What number did I get? He held out his claw and caught the mouse. It is said that this is the reason why cats always chase rats. But the real reason is that there were no cats in China at that time. The origin country of cats was Egypt, it could not be verified when it was introduced to China. But before the cat was introduced to China, the Chinese zodiac had long been settled. Moreover, the tiger who was a big cat has already been in the zodiac, so the real little cat was off duty.

Chapter 7 : 12 Animal Signs of the Zodiac | Chinese Zodiac | Goway

The Chinese animal zodiac, or sheng xiao in pinyin (literally translated as "born resembling"), is (rather interestingly) a rotating cycle of 12 years, with each year being represented by an animal and its reputed attributes. Scientifically speaking, the "Chinese Zodiac" could be said of as a way of dividing the "Jupiter Year" because it takes.

The Origin of the Zodiac: Astrology The zodiac Greek: Astrology, in its broadest sense, is the search for purpose in the heavens. We know from ancient records that the Greeks inherited their knowledge of the heavens primarily from the Mesopotamians, who in turn inherited their knowledge from the Sumerians. But is there any evidence of the heavenly constellations in art or culture from before this time. Remarkably, it has been proposed that the images at Lascaux and other nearby Palaeolithic sites show exactly that. Near to the entrance of the Lascaux cave complex is a magnificent painting of a bull. Hanging over its shoulder is what appears to us to be a map of the Pleiades, the cluster of stars sometimes called the Seven Sisters. Inside the bull painting, there are also indications of spots that may be a representation of other stars found in that region of sky. Today, this region forms part of the constellation of Taurus the bull. In recent years, new research has suggested that the Lascaux paintings may incorporate prehistoric star charts. Dr Michael Rappenglueck of the University of Munich argued that some of the non-figurative dot clusters and dots within some of the figurative images correlate with the constellations of Taurus, The Pleiades and the grouping known as the "Summer Triangle". While there are currently 88 constellations officially by the IUA recognised today, this page is concerned only with the origin of the 12 constellations that make up the modern zodiac. The classical map of the sky, with the 48 Greek constellations, was derived from at least two different pre-Greek traditions. One tradition comprised the 12 signs of the zodiac, with several associated animal constellations, all of which developed over 3, BC in Mesopotamia in a religious or ritual tradition. These were taken over by the Greeks around BC. However the other Babylonian constellations, their farming-calendar tradition, were not adopted. The other tradition was not Mesopotamian; it comprised large constellations which appear to date from 2, BC, probably from the Mediterranean region, devised for the navigators of ships. The origins of some other constellations, including the Perseus tableau and various animals, are unknown. Until recently it has usually been assumed that they evolved from the fancies of primitive imaginations, but research now suggests that they were designed as a pictorial scientific coordinate system. A coordinate system is a set of imaginary lines for measuring positions, like the lines of latitude and longitude for determining locations on the earth. The constellations perform a similar function, but they employ pictures, which make it easy to identify stars without need of instruments. Moreover, this evidence points to a time and place that they originated: The location of the centre of the empty part of the sky implies an origin date of about 2, B. Many of the constellations are tipped at an angle to the natural directions of north, east, south and west. If one asks if there was a time and place when they would have all been much aligned vertically and horizontally, the answer is, about 2, B. Note that this is an entirely different line of reasoning, but it yields a very similar date and location of origin. Moreover, several of the constellations mark astronomically important areas at the date. For example, the long snake Hydra would have coincided with the circle called the celestial equator. Star risings and settings. The ancient Greek poet Aratus states that certain stars rise at the same time, or set at the same time, or that one rises as another sets on opposite points on the horizon. Accordingly, the Sumerians are currently credited with originating the constellations. It is known that Babylonian astrology developed within the context of divination. A collection of 32 tablets with inscribed liver models, dating from about 1, BC, are the oldest known detailed texts of Babylonian divination, and these demonstrate the same interpretational format as that employed in celestial omen analysis.

Chapter 8 : Story of the 12 Animals in Chinese Zodiac | calendrierdelascience.com

History | Chinese Lunar Calendar The Chinese zodiac consists of twelve animals that first appeared in the Zhan Guo period [5th century B.C.]. No one knows the exact date as of when the zodiac was essentially created, but they were officially identified during the Han Dynasty [B.C A.D.], which was over years ago.

Each sign is named after an animal, and each animal has its own unique characteristics. Do you know why the 12 Chinese zodiac animals are in the sequence above? The following story reveals legendary reasons, and some of the characteristics of the 12 animals. The story is widespread and widely varying among Chinese. Though it is made up, it might be interesting for you to tell your children and friends. The Jade Emperor wanted to select 12 animals to be his guards. The next day, animals set off towards the Heavenly Gate. Rat got up very early. On his way to the gate, he encountered a river. He had to stop there, owing to the swift current. The diligent Ox did not mind at all and simply continued. After crossing the river, he raced towards the palace of the Jade Emperor. Rat won first place and Ox was second. Tiger and Rabbit Tiger and Rabbit came third and fourth because both are fast and competitive, but Tiger was faster. Rabbit got across the river by hopping on stepping stones and a floating log. Just then, Snake came forward and said Dragon was his adoptive father; so Snake ranked sixth. They were very kind and modest and each let the other go first. The Jade Emperor saw how polite they were and ranked them seventh and eighth. Jumping Monkey Monkey had fallen well behind. But he jumped between trees and stones, and caught up to be ninth. Last were Rooster, Dog, and Pig. These 12 animals became guards of the Heavenly Gate. See 12 Chinese Zodiac Sign Symbolism.

Chapter 9 : Chinese Zodiac Story and Legend, Zodiac Origin Stories

Each year of the Chinese Zodiac is represented by a different animal: the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig. The five elements are assigned to the 12 animals (years), giving different characteristics to each animal (year).

Pigs are sleeping soundly and growing fast. What are symbolic meanings of Chinese Zodiac signs? Chinese Zodiac plays an important role in Chinese folk culture. Each animal has symbolic meanings. The 12 animals are divided into six pairs. Rat is a symbol of wisdom while Ox a symbol of diligence. Tiger is a symbol of valor and vigor while Rabbit symbolizes prudence. Dragon is a symbol of strength and inflexibility while Snake symbolizes flexibility. Horse is a symbol of persistence and marching forward with indomitable will while Sheep is a symbol of peace. Monkey is a symbol of flexibility while Rooster, which crows every morning, is a symbol of constancy. Dog is a symbol of loyalty while Pig is considered amiable. According to the research, all agreed that the reason why Chinese zodiac animals fixed to 12 ones is greatly related to the traditional Chinese astronomy and calendar. The ancient people observed the phases of the moon and found that there is times full moon in a year. So, they divided twelve months in a year and 12 two-hour periods in a day as they regard 12 as the number given under the will of Heaven. Therefore, the twelve Earthly Branches and the twelve zodiac animals appeared afterwards. Why choose the present twelve animals not others? If you analyze these animals carefully, you can find that they can be divided into three categories: The first group is Chinese six domestic animals: They are raised and trained for economic and other purposes playing important roles in Chinese agriculture. When the Chinese spring festival comes, people always wish their domestic animals thrive in the coming year. So, due to their importance, these six animals must be chosen in the 12 animals. They are tiger, rabbit, monkey, rat and snake. Among them, tiger and snake are feared, rat is detested, and rabbit and monkey are loved by the people. The last group includes one animal - dragon, the traditional mascot of Chinese people. It is the only fictitious animal in 12 ones. Chinese people think they are descendents of the dragon and have a special emotion with it. It is a deified animal symbolizing auspicious, omnipotent ability and the loftiest power. So, dragon is indispensable. Why is Chinese zodiac so Important to the Chinese? As an important part of the traditional Chinese Culture, the Chinese Zodiac culture has long been recognized, accepted, taken by consensus and penetrated into the daily lives of the Chinese people. Everyone, from the date of birth, has his unique animal sign accompanying him with the life long time. It is the birth symbol and mascot with different symbolic meanings for each one affecting their behaviors, characters and destiny. People show their strong belief in fortune and luck through the animal signs. For example, when finding their mates, Chinese people hope to find the person with the animal sign that compatible with him best. Also the zodiac provides guidance on how people live their lives. For example, according to Chinese astrology, in different animal years, people under different signs should pay attention to different things in order to go smoothly in the year. It does not only exist in China, but also other countries in the world. However, the signs in different countries are different. Check the following table to get zodiac equivalents in other counties to Chinese zodiac signs.