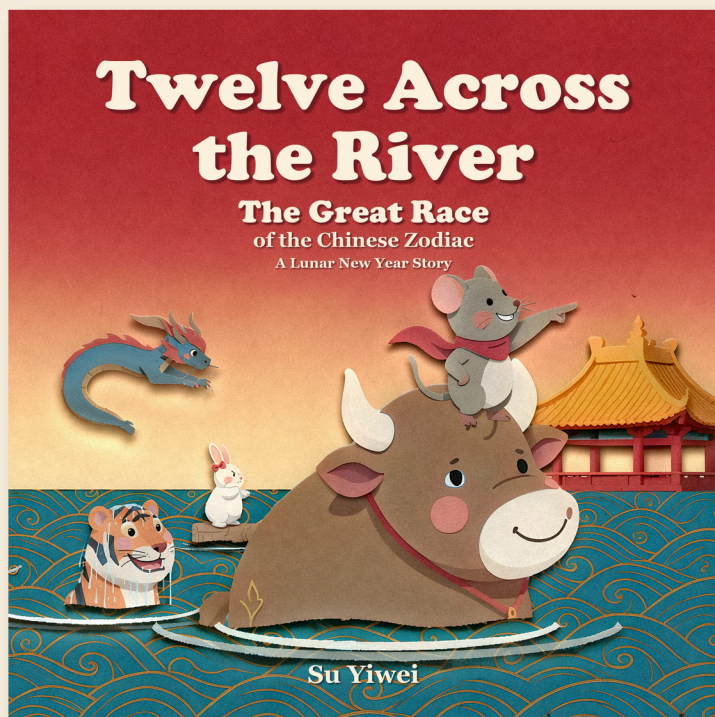




Activity Pack

to go with the picture book

Twelve Across the River

The Great Race of the Chinese Zodiac

by Su Yiwei

12 printable pages for Lunar New Year.
Ages 4 to 8, PreK to Grade 3.

Inside

- 2-4** Color the twelve animals (and cut them out as cards)
- 5** Who came first? Cut and paste the finishing order
- 6** Which animal are you? Find your birth year
- 7** Write the twelve animals in Chinese
- 8** Maze: help Rat and Ox cross the river
- 9** Animal word search
- 10** How did they cross the river?
- 11** Talk about it, and draw yourself in the race
- 12** Answers, and about the book

For teachers and families

Everything after this page prints in black and white. Pages 5, 10 and 11 follow the story as this book tells it; the other pages work with any telling of the Great Race. The answers are on page 12.

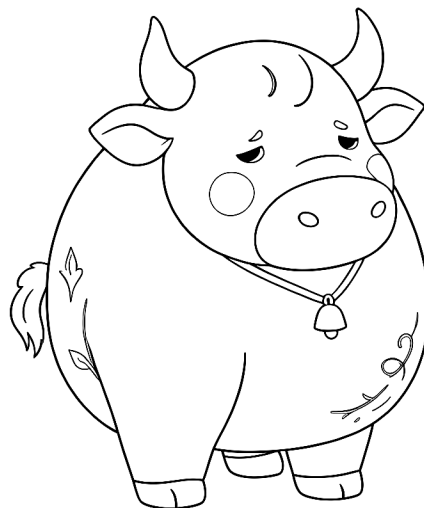


Color the twelve animals

Here are the animals that finished 1st to 4th. Color them in. Then cut along the dotted lines to make cards. Can you put all twelve in order?

**1****Rat**

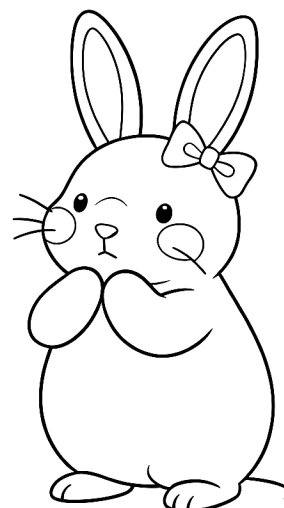
鼠 shǔ

**2****Ox**

牛 niú

**3****Tiger**

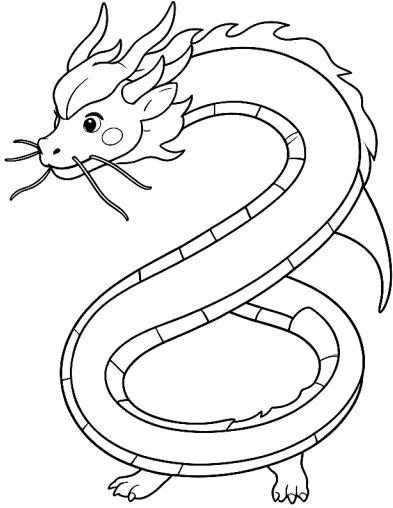
虎 hǔ

**4****Rabbit**

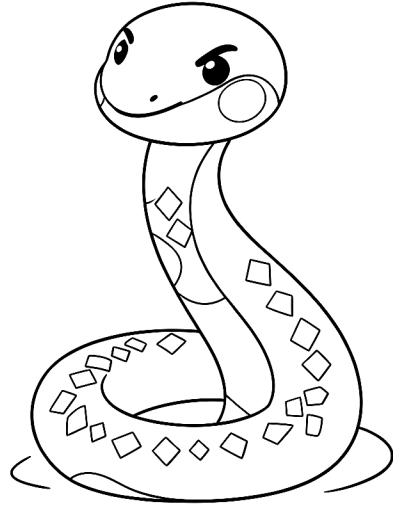
兔 tù

Color the twelve animals

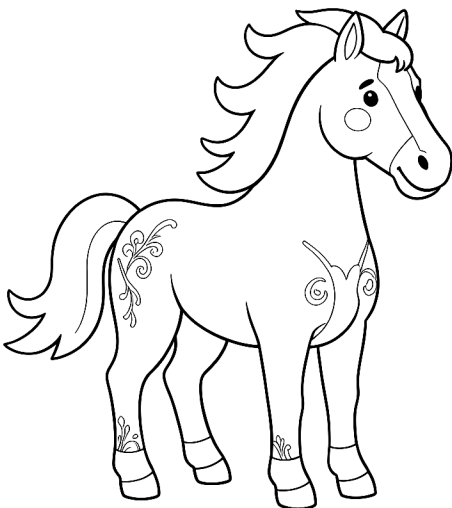
Here are the animals that finished 5th to 8th. Color them in. Then cut along the dotted lines to make cards. Can you put all twelve in order?



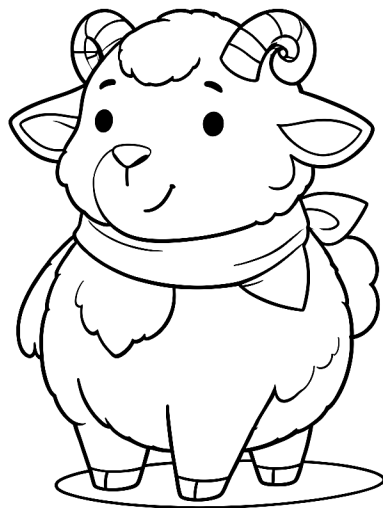
5 Dragon
龙 lóng



6 Snake
蛇 shé



7 Horse
马 mǎ



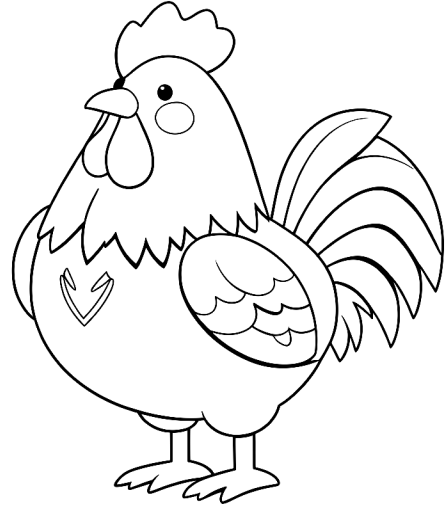
8 Goat
羊 yáng

Color the twelve animals

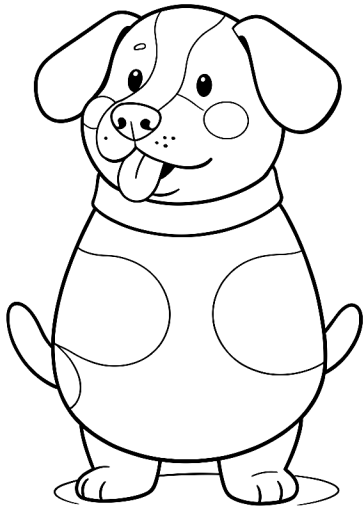
Here are the animals that finished 9th to 12th. Color them in. Then cut along the dotted lines to make cards. Can you put all twelve in order?



9 Monkey
猴 hóu



10 Rooster
鸡 jī



11 Dog
狗 gǒu



12 Pig
猪 zhū

Who came first?

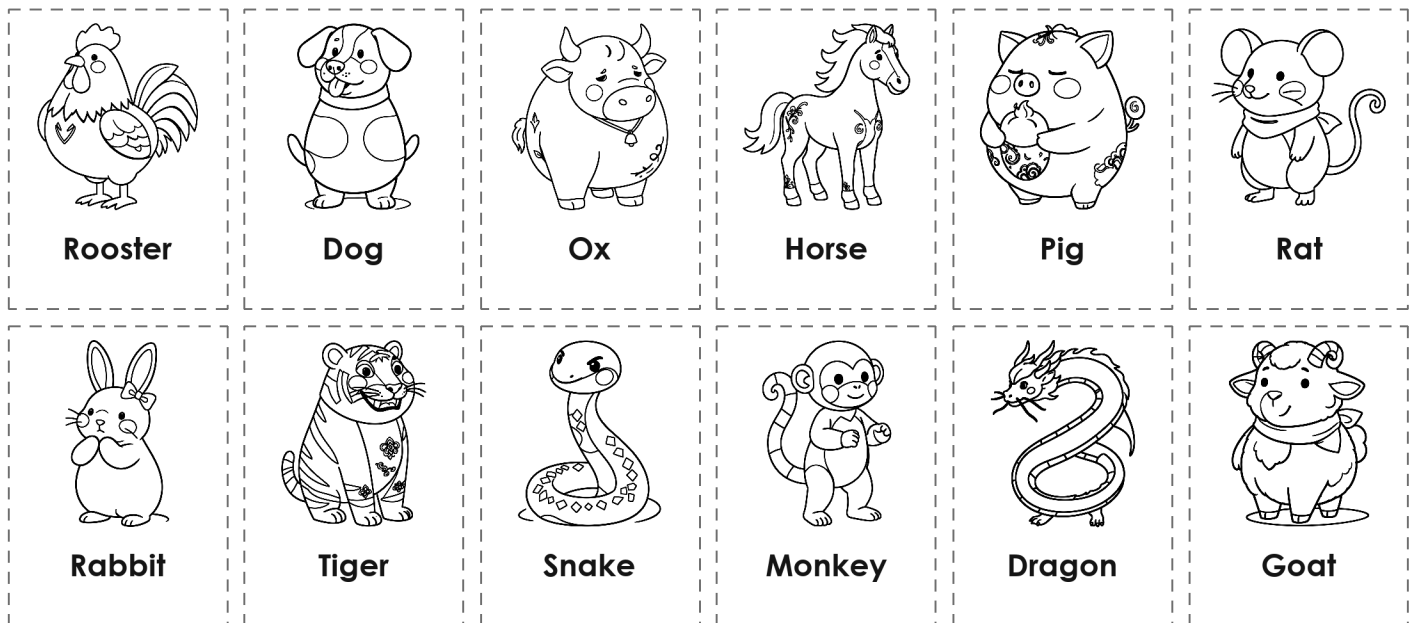
Cut out the twelve animals at the bottom of the page. Paste each one in its place, from first to twelfth. The story will help you.

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th

"Rat is ONE!" laughed the Emperor. Who was TWELVE?



cut here, then cut out each square



Which animal are you?

A Chinese year does not begin on January 1. It begins on Chinese New Year's Day, which comes in late January or in February. Find the year you were born.

	YEAR	ANIMAL	BEGAN ON
	2010	Tiger	Feb. 14
	2011	Rabbit	Feb. 3
	2012	Dragon	Jan. 23
	2013	Snake	Feb. 10
	2014	Horse	Jan. 31
	2015	Goat	Feb. 19
	2016	Monkey	Feb. 8
	2017	Rooster	Jan. 28
	2018	Dog	Feb. 16

	YEAR	ANIMAL	BEGAN ON
	2019	Pig	Feb. 5
	2020	Rat	Jan. 25
	2021	Ox	Feb. 12
	2022	Tiger	Feb. 1
	2023	Rabbit	Jan. 22
	2024	Dragon	Feb. 10
	2025	Snake	Jan. 29
	2026	Horse	Feb. 17
	2027	Goat	Feb. 6

Born in January or February?

Look at the date beside your year. If your birthday comes before it, your animal is the one from the year before.

Mei was born on January 20, 2012. The Year of the Dragon began three days later, on January 23. So Mei is a Rabbit.

I was born on _____

My animal is the _____

Born before 2010? Count back twelve years at a time: the same animal comes around every twelve years. (The book has every year from 1984 to 2031.)

Draw your animal

Write the animals in Chinese

Say the word. Trace the grey characters. Then write your own in the empty boxes.



Rat
shǔ

鼠

鼠

鼠



Ox
niú

牛

牛

牛



Tiger
hǔ

虎

虎

虎



Rabbit
tù

兔

兔

兔



Dragon
lóng

龍

龙

龙

龙



Snake
shé

蛇

蛇

蛇



Horse
mǎ

馬

马

马

马



Goat
yáng

羊

羊

羊



Monkey
hóu

猴

猴

猴



Rooster
jī

雞

鸡

鸡

鸡



Dog
gǒu

狗

狗

狗



Pig
zhū

豬

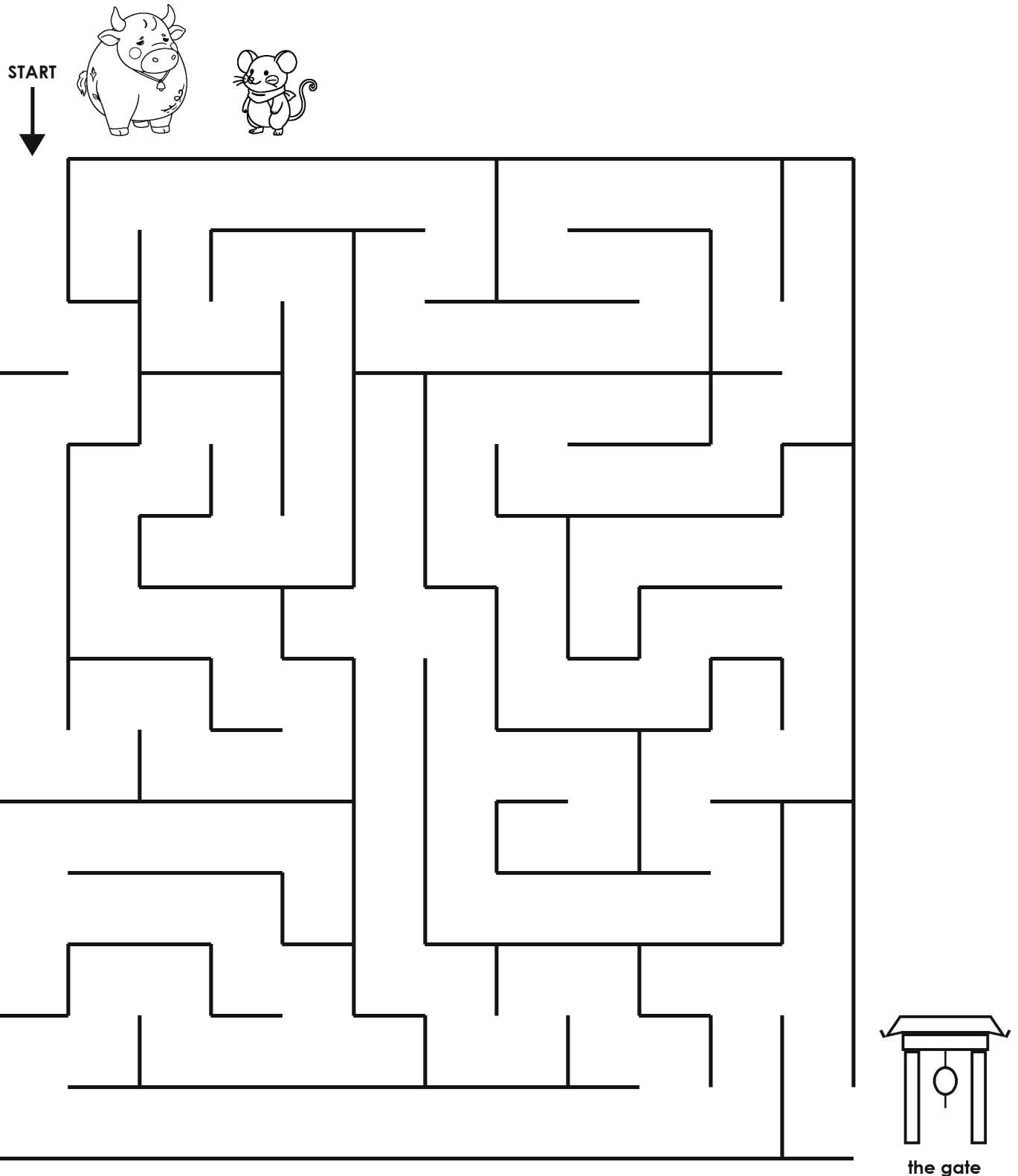
猪

猪

猪

Help Rat cross the river

Ox has the legs. Rat has the eyes. Start at the arrow and find the way to the Emperor's gate.



Animal word search

Find the twelve animals. The words go across or down.

☐

RAT

☐

OX

☐

TIGER

☐

RABBIT

☐

DRAGON

☐

SNAKE

☐

HORSE

☐

GOAT

☐

MONKEY

☐

ROOSTER

☐

DOG

☐

PIG

How did they cross the river?

Nobody crossed the same way. Draw a line from each animal to the way it crossed.



Rat

•

•

swam straight through the roaring water



Tiger

•

•

rode on the head of an ox



Rabbit

•

•

flew, and stopped to make rain



Dragon

•

•

shared a raft with two friends



Snake

•

•

hopped on stepping stones, then sailed on a log



Goat

•

•

wound herself around a horse's leg

Talk about it

Before you read

- Twelve animals must cross a wide river. Which one do you think will get there first? Why?
- Rat is the smallest animal on the riverbank, and he cannot swim. What could he do?

After you read

- Rat borrowed a trunk, a sneeze and four strong legs. Whose were they?
- Was it fair for Rat to jump?
- Dragon said, "Some things come before winning." What did he mean?
- Which animal would you most like to have on your team? Why?

Look again

- Follow Dog from page to page. Does he ever stop playing?
- Find Tortoise on the river. Where does she finish?
- The Cat never ran in the race. What do you think she said to Rat the next day?

If I were in the race...

I would cross the river by _____

Draw yourself crossing the river

Answers

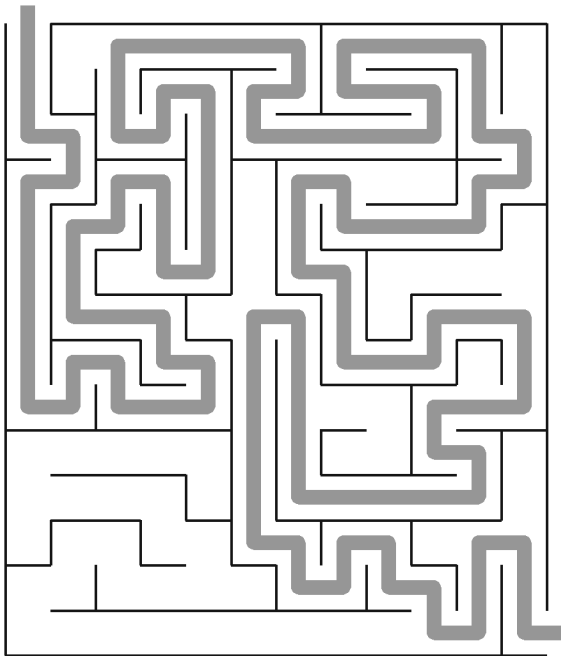
Who came first? (page 5)

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| 1 Rat | 7 Horse |
| 2 Ox | 8 Goat |
| 3 Tiger | 9 Monkey |
| 4 Rabbit | 10 Rooster |
| 5 Dragon | 11 Dog |
| 6 Snake | 12 Pig |

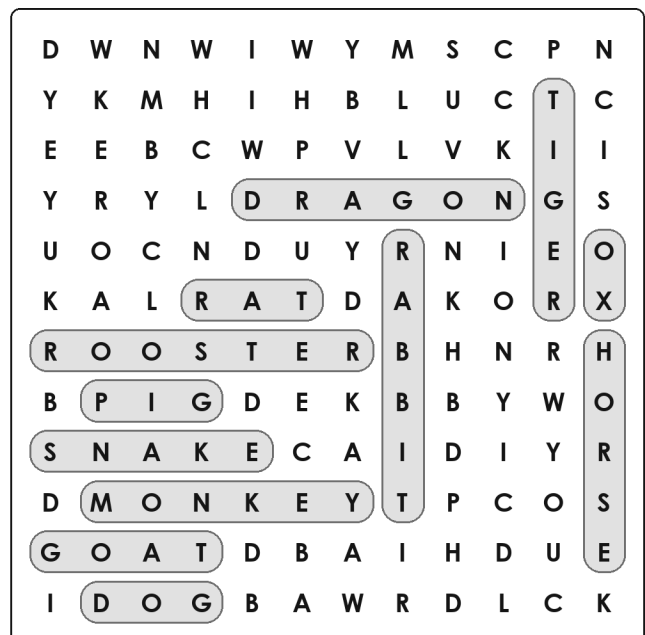
How did they cross the river? (page 10)

Rat: rode on the head of an ox
 Tiger: swam straight through the roaring water
 Rabbit: hopped on stepping stones, then sailed on a log
 Dragon: flew, and stopped to make rain
 Snake: wound herself around a horse's leg
 Goat: shared a raft with two friends

Maze (page 8)



Word search (page 9)

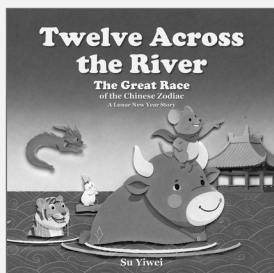


More to do

Retell it. Use the cards from pages 2 to 4 to tell the story again, one animal at a time.

Graph it. Find every child's animal on page 6. Which animal has the most children in your class?

Act it out. Choose an animal and cross the "river" the way it did.



About the book

Twelve Across the River: The Great Race of the Chinese Zodiac, by Su Yiwei. A picture book for ages 4 to 8, in paperback and e-book. Three editions: English; English with Simplified Chinese and pinyin; English with Traditional Chinese and pinyin.



Listen to the story:
suyiweibooks.pages.dev