

The Year of the Ox

Chinese New Year is one of the most significant dates in the Chinese calendar. Each Chinese New Year – a lunar year in which the months are calculated based on the Moon's phases – begins on a slightly different date compared to the last and each is represented by one of 12 animals.

The Origin of the Chinese Horoscope

The history of the Chinese New Year is steeped in legend and dates back thousands of years. It is believed to have originated from a story but, given its age and regular retelling, many different versions of the story exist. One myth holds the main character as Buddha while another states that it was the Jade Emperor – a representation of the first god within Chinese culture. It is difficult to determine which version was the original tale but both stories bear strong similarities and involve the same 12 animals. In one version of the story, Buddha called out to all of the animals on Earth and requested that they come and see him yet 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.

One such animal was the dependable ox. It is said that the ox, in fact, arrived first but the rat - who was kindly helped by the ox - tricked the ox and rushed ahead of them. Consequently, the ox was the second animal to arrive and, thus, became the second animal of the Chinese zodiac.

The Year of the Ox commences on 12th February 2021 and will be the 4719th year of the Chinese calendar, lasting until 1st February 2022 when the Year of the Tiger begins. Once this happens, 11 years will pass until the next Year of the Ox, which will only begin again in 2033.



Traits and Characteristics

People born in each year of the Chinese zodiac cycle are believed to demonstrate particular traits and qualities. These characteristics are said to reflect the animal that the year is named after. Each zodiac sign is also linked with one of five elements: wood, fire, earth, water and metal. Depending on the year that you were born and the element that you are linked to, people born in a Year of the Ox are said to have different traits.

Year of Birth	Type of Ox	Traits	Famous Examples
1925 or 1985	Wood Ox	brave, outspoken and resourceful	Malcolm X
1937 or 1997	Fire Ox	clever and adaptable	Malala Yousafzai
1949 or 2009	Earth Ox	smart, confident and determined	Annie Leibovitz
1913 or 1973	Water Ox	hard-working and realistic	Jesse Owens
1961 or 2021	Metal Ox	busy and active with good people skills	Barack Obama

Overall, people born in the Year of the Ox are said to be dependable and faithful. They are believed to have a quiet and level-headed disposition and they are known for their determination and attention to detail. They are said to be practical and to make effective leaders.

People born in the Year of the Ox are said to be most compatible with those born in the years named after the rat, the snake and the rooster. The rat and the ox are believed to have compatible personalities while the rooster and the snake are said to have warm and caring natures which offer valuable support to the ox.



Predictions and Horoscopes

The Chinese culture surrounding the zodiac includes many beliefs and horoscopes – predictions about the future of a person based on the positions of the stars at the moment of their birth. Just as the above traits are believed to apply to anyone born in a Year of the Ox, the following are also believed to be true for those people in 2021:

- People born in the Year of the Ox will have a fruitful and prosperous year in 2021.
- It will be important for them to take extra care of themselves.
- They should be prepared to rely on friends for support during busy times.
- They should be prepared to take extra trips this year.