

The Story of the Chinese Zodiac.

A long, long time ago in China, 12 animals were arguing about who was the best.

“I am the best because I can breathe Fire!” said the dragon.

“I am the best because ... I can do tricks!” said the dog.

“I am the best because my wool can make beautiful clothes!” said the sheep.

“I am the best because I can crow very loudly! Cock-a- doodle-doo!” said the rooster.

“I am the best because ... I can gallop really fast!” said the horse.

“I am the best because ... I am the smallest!” said the rat.

“I am the best because I have a cute, curly tail!” said the pig

“I am the best because I’m the strongest!” said the ox.

“I am the best because I have a nice, fluffy tail!” said the rabbit.

“I am the best because ... I am funny!” said the monkey

“I am the best because I can ssslither on the ground!”
said the snake.

“I am the best because I have beautiful, stripy fur!” said the tiger.

“I am the best! No, I am the best!

“Stop arguing NOW!” said the animal god.

The animals argued and argued so loudly that the Jade God in the sky woke up.

He was very angry.

“Why are you making so much noise?” he asked.

“What is your problem?” asked the animal god.

“Ssssss sorry Great God.”

“But we want to know ... whois the best! “

“Ppppp please can you help us?”

“Alright!” he said. “ You will all ... have a race across the Great Yellow River. The winner ... will be the first and the best”

“Go to the river bank!” said the animal god.

So the animals lined up along the river bank .

“Ready ... steady GO!”

The animals jumped into the river.

“I am the smallest I can’t win the race!” said the rat.

“Oh dear! My wool is so wet!” said the sheep.

“My fluffy tail is wet too!” said the rabbit.

“My fire will go out!” said the dragon.

“ I am too slow I will never win the race!” said the pig.

“ This is easy! I am the strongest and I will win the race easily!” said the ox.

“I have an idea!” said the rat.

He jumped onto the ox’s tail and when they got to the other side, the ox was just about to step on the river bank when...

Little rat jumped over his back, over his head and he was the first to step onto the river bank.

“ I’m the winner!” “Hurray!”

“ That’s not fair! Anyone can see I am the winner!”

The Great God laughed and said,

“ Ox, it is true, you are the strongest, but .. little rat is the cleverest! .. Sometimes ... you have to use your brain! ..”

“Sometimes that is the best!”

Then he named the years after each animal in the race.

1. The first was the rat
2. The second was the ox
3. The third was the tiger
4. The fourth was the rabbit
5. The fifth was the dragon
6. The sixth was the snake
7. The seventh was the horse
8. The eighth was the sheep
9. The ninth was the monkey
10. The tenth was the rooster
11. The eleventh was the dog
12. The twelfth was the pig.

This year is ...

The Year of the Rooster!

“Cock-a- doodle-doo!”