INTRODUCTION

The Year of the Ox falls on February 12 this year. The festival is celebrated in East Asia and Southeast Asia and is also known as Chun Jié (traditional Chinese: 春節; simplified Chinese: 春节), or the Spring Festival, as it marks the arrival of the season on the lunisolar calendar.

The Chinese Zodiac, known as 生肖, is based on a twelve-year cycle. Each year in that cycle is correlated to an animal sign. These signs are the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig. It is calculated according to the Chinese Lunar calendar. It is believed that a person’s zodiac animal offers insights about their personality, and the events in his or her life may be correlated to the supposed influence of the person’s particular position in the twelve-year zodiac cycle.

Use the directions below to teach your little ones how to create their own paper zodiac animal mask to celebrate the Year of the Ox!

ESTIMATED TIME

15–20 minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED

• Chart (on the next page) to find your birth year and corresponding zodiac animal
• Zodiac animal mask templates
• Printer
• Colored pencils, markers, crayons, and/or pens
• Scissors
• Hole punch
• String

STEPS

1. Using the Chinese zodiac chart on the next page, find your birth year and correlating zodiac animal.
2. Print out the mask template of your zodiac animal.
3. Color your mask, cut it out, and use a hole punch and string to make it wearable.
## CHINESE ZODIAC

### YEAR OF THE RAT
1972 • 1984 • 1996 • 2008
Rat people are very popular. They like to invent things and are good artists.

### YEAR OF THE OX
1973 • 1985 • 1997 • 2009
People born in this year are dependable and calm. They are good listeners and have very strong ideas.

### YEAR OF THE TIGER
1974 • 1986 • 1998 • 2010
Tiger people are brave. Other people respect tiger people for their deep thoughts and courageous actions.

### YEAR OF THE RABBIT
1975 • 1987 • 1999 • 2011
People born in this year are nice to be around. They like to talk, and many people trust them.

### YEAR OF THE DRAGON
1976 • 1988 • 2000 • 2012
Dragon people have good health and lots of energy. They are good friends because they listen carefully to others.

### YEAR OF THE SNAKE
1977 • 1989 • 2001 • 2013
People born in this year love good books, food, music, and plays. They will have good luck with money.

### YEAR OF THE HORSE
1978 • 1990 • 2002 • 2014
People born in this year are popular, cheerful, and quick to compliment others. Horse people can work very hard.

### YEAR OF THE GOAT
1979 • 1991 • 2003 • 2015
People born in this year are very good artists. They ask many questions, like nice things, and are very wise.

### YEAR OF THE MONKEY
1980 • 1992 • 2004 • 2016
Monkey people are very funny. They can always make people laugh. They are also very good problem solvers.

### YEAR OF THE ROOSTER
1981 • 1993 • 2005 • 2017
People born in this year are hard workers. They have many talents and think deep thoughts.

### YEAR OF THE DOG
1982 • 1994 • 2006 • 2018
Dog people are loyal and can always keep a secret. Sometimes dog people worry too much.

### YEAR OF THE PIG
1983 • 1995 • 2007 • 2019
People born in this year are very good students. They are honest and brave. They always finish a project or assignment.