



The Chinese Zodiac



Dumplings: Saturday, November 4, 2006
Year of the Dog, Month of the Monkey, Time of the Snake

Legend

Long ago, when the gods were first creating the zodiac, they came up with an ingenious idea. They told all the animals that the first twelve to arrive for selection would be chosen, in the order they arrived. Of course, all the animals were eager for the honor. The mouse, especially, wanted so much to be first that he forgot his friend on the morning of the day of selection, convinced an ox to carry him on his back, and rushed off the ox's back into first place when they arrived at the finish line. Thus he became the very first animal of the zodiac, followed by the ox and the other ten animals that arrived afterwards.

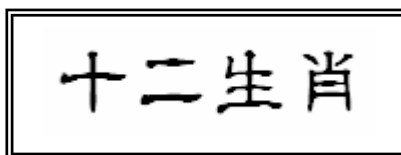


Custom

Today, the Chinese zodiac is as basic a part of identity as it has been for centuries. In addition to the twelve animals, it is based on the concept of yin and yang, and the 5 elements of metal, wood, water, fire, and earth, so that the 12-year rotation of the zodiac is also a part of a larger 60-year cycle. Each person's "sheng xiao," or birth sign, is not only a representation of age, but also often seen as a part of one's character. Rats are social, monkeys are intelligent, tigers are warm, dragons are brave—all are familiar stereotypes. Furthermore, although a person may have been born in a certain year, they also have an "inner animal" and a "secret animal," corresponding to their month and time of birth, that further determine their personality.

Schedule

- 10:30-10:40 Welcome: Arrival, Nametags
- 10:40-10:50 Game Time!
- 10:50-11:05 Puppet Show!
- 11:05-11:40 Make-your-own-Zodiac
- 11:40-11:50 Snack Time
- 11:50-12:00 Closing Circle: What's your ShengXiao?



Find your Sheng Xiao!

- Jan. 28, 1998 – Feb. 15, 1999
- Feb. 16, 1999 – Feb. 4, 2000
- Feb. 5, 2000 – Jan. 23 2001
- Jan. 24, 2001 – Feb. 11, 2002
- Feb. 12, 2002 – Jan. 31, 2003
- Feb. 1, 2003 – Jan. 21, 2004

- Tiger
- Rabbit
- Dragon
- Snake
- Horse
- Sheep