

CHINESE ZODIAC SIGNS

Level: A2+ - FLYERS

Age: 10-12

Time: 40-50 minutes

Lesson focus: The class focus is on Chinese zodiac signs and the Chinese New Year. Students learn the zodiac signs and predict their order, followed by a TED-Ed video, explaining their origin. Learners watch the video again, this time answering a set of questions from the TED-Ed website. Proceed by talking about personality traits associated with each animal and how accurate they may be. Learners decide which traits best describe them and find out the sign associated with them. The class ends with students finding out their actual Chinese zodiac and writing about their actual personality traits.

Materials:

- Presentation - *Chinese Zodiac*
- TED-Ed video - [The myth behind the Chinese zodiac](#)
- [TED-Ed quiz](#)
- [Chinese Zodiac Signs' Personality](#)

Learning objectives:

- to learn about Chinese zodiac
- to learn personality traits vocabulary
- to discuss personality traits and their connection to zodiac signs
- to write about personality traits

Structure:

1. Lead-in (2'-4')

Write on the board 'Happy New Year!' and elicit a reaction from students. Explain that in Asian countries, including China, people celebrate New Year on a different day. Write ____ February 2022 and ask to predict the day of the New Year (**answer: 1st February 2022**).

2. Pre-teach vocabulary (3'-5')

Ask students about their dates of birth and their Western zodiac. Write down their dates of birth, as they will be necessary for the later part of the class. Explain that Chinese zodiac signs are different and change once a year, not every month. Show pictures of the zodiac signs and write the names of the animals in English.

Write - The year 2022 is the year of the _____. Students guess the zodiac signs (**answer: Tiger**).

3. Listening for gist (6'-8')

Say that the zodiac signs appear in the order decided by a race. Students work in pairs and predict the order in which the animals came in. Check the answers and ask to justify them.

Watch the first part of the video (0:00 - 2:15) and check the answers. Were your students surprised by the answers?

(**answer: rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, pig**).

4. Listening for detail (6'-8')

Go over the questions from the [TED-Ed Think section](#) and explain any new words as necessary. Watch the video again, this time in its entirety. Students choose the answers to multiple-choice questions. Check the answers.

(**answers: 1.A, 2.D, 3.B, 4.C, 5.D**).

5. Post-video discussion (3'-5')

Look at the zodiac signs and think about the personality traits that come to mind when thinking about those animals. Do you think that zodiac signs define our personalities?

6. Teach: Vocabulary - Personality traits (3'-5')

Show personality traits divided into twelve sections. Explain any new words as necessary. Students work individually and think which two words best describe them and explain their choices. Reveal the signs associated with the traits.

7. Discover your Chinese zodiac sign (4'-6')

Show a chart that explains zodiac signs and years. Students check their dates of birth and find out their real Chinese zodiac signs.

Look at the personality traits and check characteristics associated with each sign. Do students agree with these descriptions? Why (not)?

8. Writing practice / Craft (7'-9')

Students draw their Chinese zodiac signs and write about five sentences that describe and explain their actual personality traits.