

LEARNING



# Wisdom and Growth in the Year of the Wood Snake



# Work in pairs. Scan and discuss the questions.

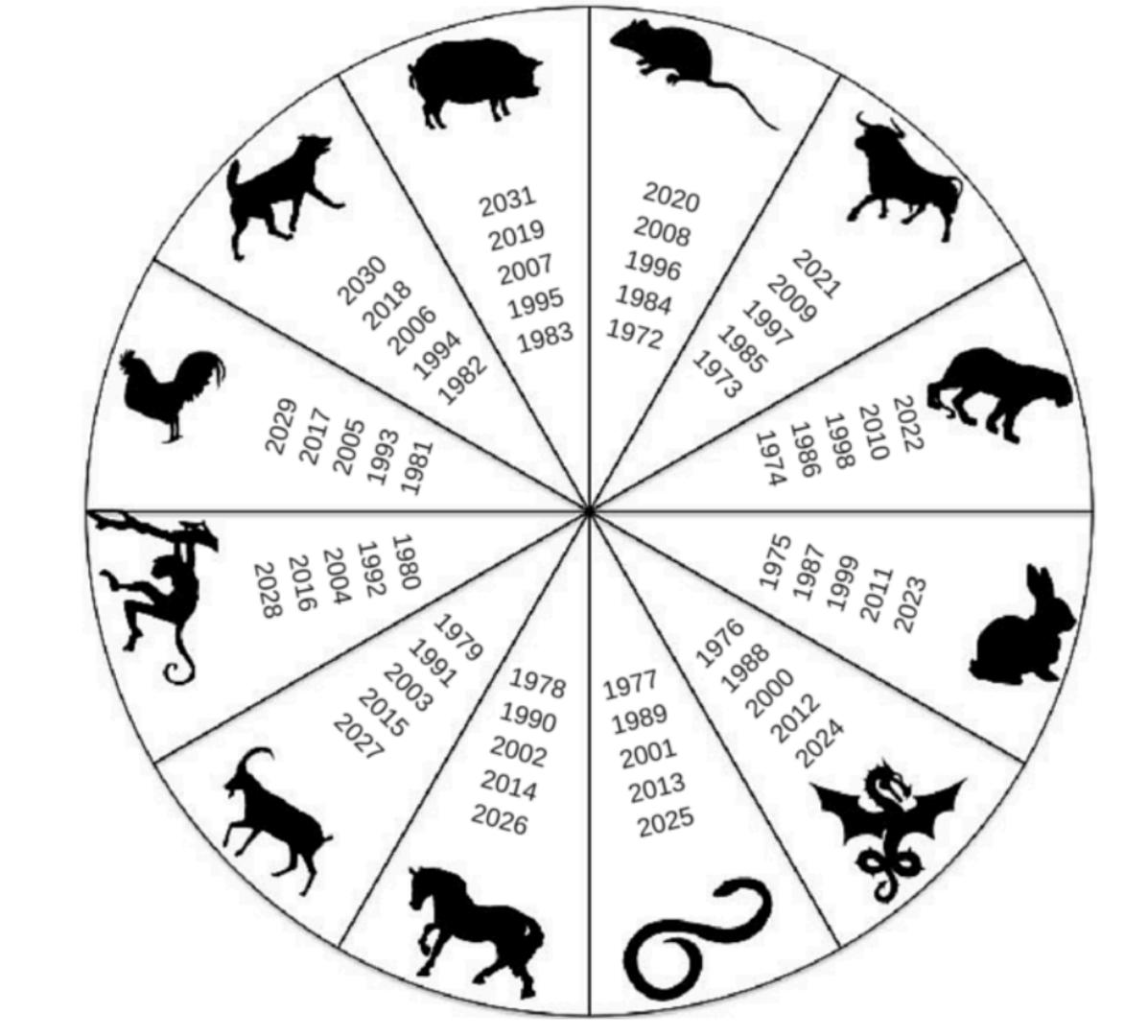


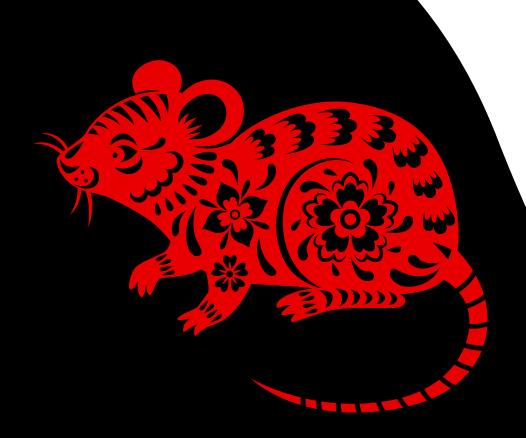




# What is your Chinese Zodiac sign?

# team





#### Ox

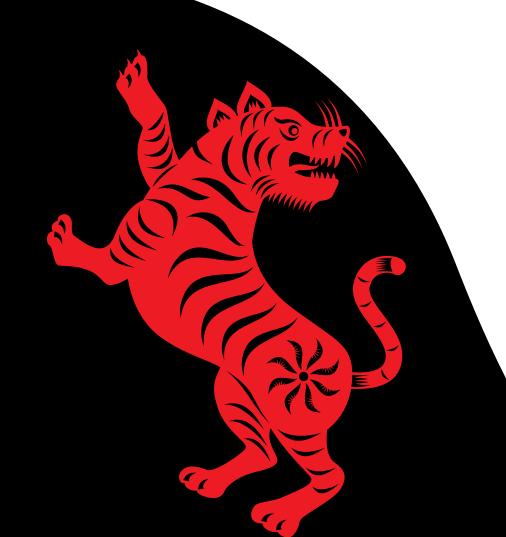
Oxen are hardworking, reliable, and strong. Known for their patience and determination, they are great at achieving long-term goals.





#### Rat

Rats are clever, adaptable, and quick-witted. They are natural problem-solvers but may sometimes appear cautious or secretive.



#### Rabbit

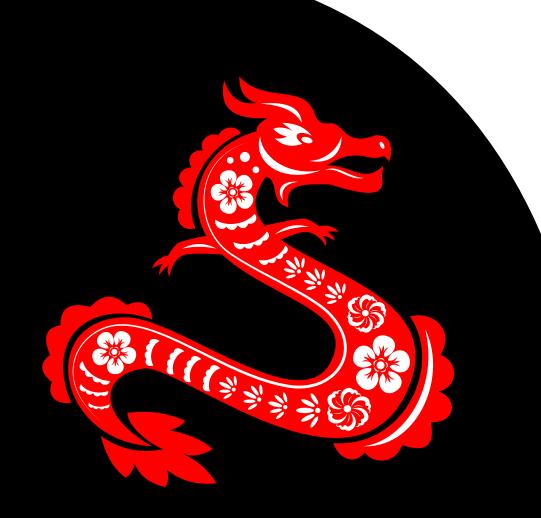
Rabbits are gentle, kind, and thoughtful. They value harmony and relationships, often avoiding conflict whenever possible.





#### Tiger

Tigers are brave, passionate, and confident leaders. They love challenges and excitement but can be impulsive at times.



#### Snake

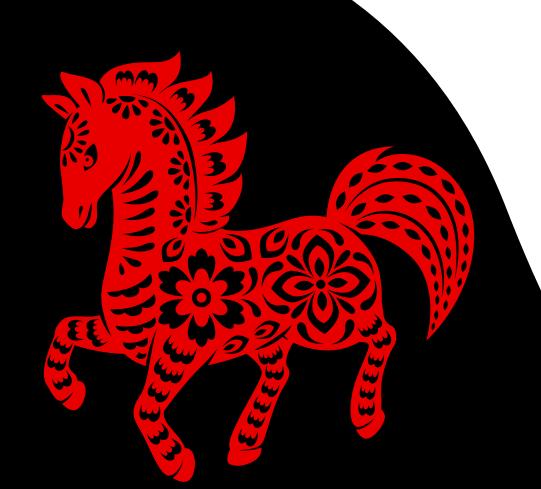
Snakes are wise, intuitive, and mysterious. They are great at analyzing situations and often have a calm, sophisticated demeanor.





#### Dragon

Dragons are energetic, ambitious, and charismatic. They are natural leaders with a strong desire for success and adventure.



#### Goat (or Sheep)

Goats are gentle, creative, and compassionate. They are drawn to beauty and harmony, often avoiding stressful situations.



#### Horse

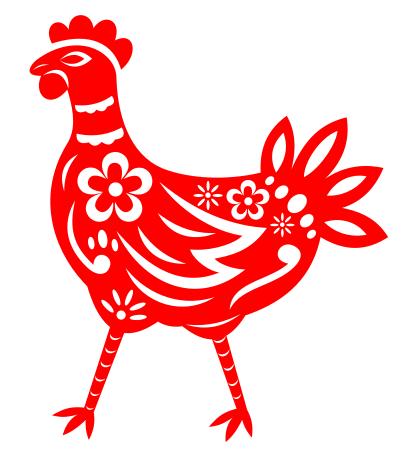
Horses are energetic, independent, and sociable. They thrive in dynamic environments but can sometimes be a little impatient.



#### Rooster

Roosters are confident, hardworking, and punctual. They pay attention to details and enjoy being in the spotlight.





#### Monkey

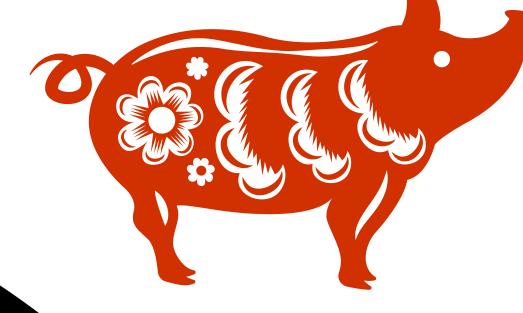
Monkeys are playful, curious, and intelligent. They are quick learners with a knack for solving problems in innovative ways.



#### Pig

Pigs are kind-hearted, generous, and optimistic. They enjoy the finer things in life but are also hardworking and dependable.





# Dog

Dogs are loyal, honest, and protective. They value fairness and are always ready to support their loved ones.



- 1. What does the Chinese New Year celebrate?
- a) The birthday of the Chinese emperor
- b) The start of the lunar calendar
- c) The invention of fireworks





2. Which color is most associated with the Chinese New Year?

a) Blue b) Red c) Green



3. Why are red decorations commonly used during Chinese New Year celebrations?

a) To symbolize wealth and prosperity

b) To represent joy and health c) Both a and b





- 4. What does cleaning the house before the New Year traditionally symbolize?
- a) Removing bad luck and preparing for good fortune
  - b) Starting the year with a fresh environment
    - c) Honoring ancestors



5. Which of these is a traditional activity during Chinese New Year?

a) Sending greeting cards
 b) Exchanging red envelopes with money
 c) Lighting candles





6. Which dish is believed to bring good fortune during Chinese New Year?

a) Dumplingsb) Sushic) Roast turkey

# Read the text



#### True, False or Not Given?



- 1. The Chinese New Year always begins at the same time as the Western New Year.
- 2. The snake in the Chinese zodiac represents wisdom, transformation, and deception.
- 3. People born in the Year of the Snake are known for being outgoing and impulsive.
- 4. The Wood element is associated with environmental awareness and harmony in relationships.
- 5. Cleaning the house before the New Year is meant to sweep away bad luck and make room for good fortune.
- 6. Dumplings are shaped like ancient coins and are thought to bring wealth, while spring rolls symbolize prosperity.
- 7. The Year of the Wood Snake is a time to focus on careful planning and adaptability to change.
- 8. Fireworks are used during Chinese New Year to scare away evil spirits.
- 9. Chinese zodiac signs are only important during the Lunar New Year celebrations.
- 10. The Year of the Wood Snake encourages people to avoid traditional celebrations and focus solely on modern innovations.



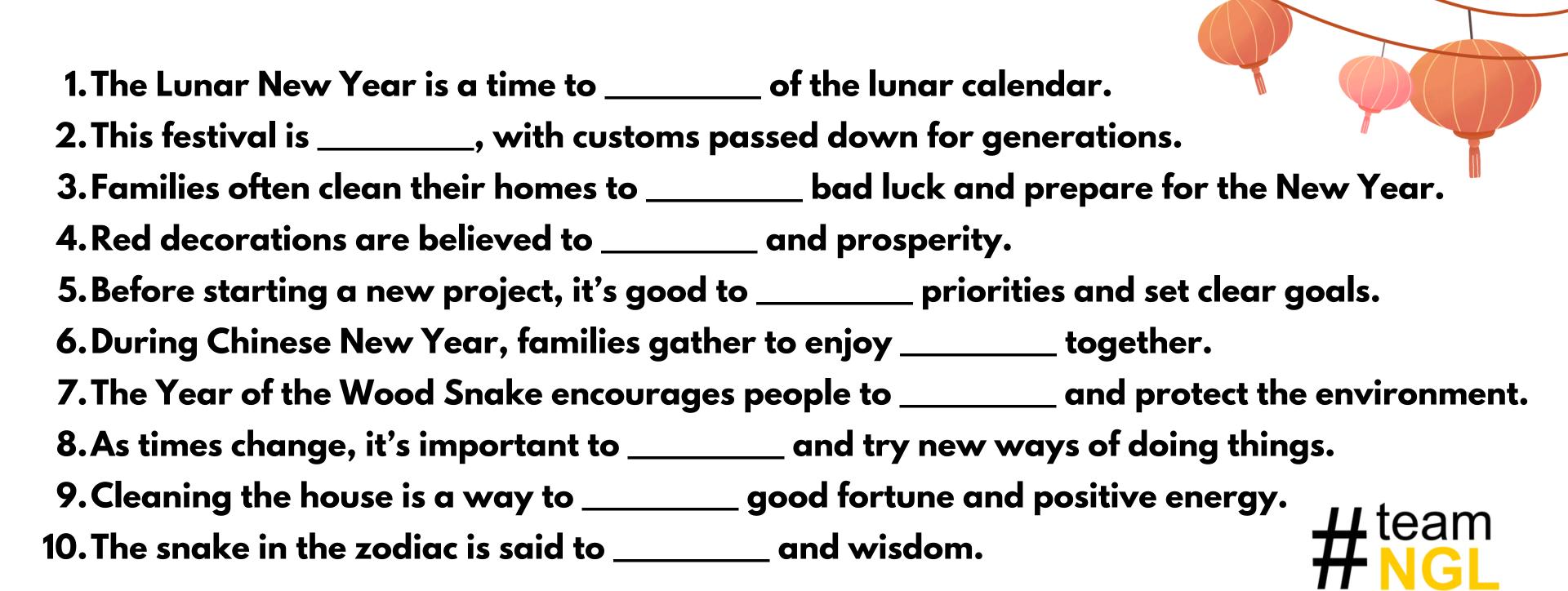
# Match the collocations with their definitions.



mark the beginning steeped in traditions bring good luck symbolize transformation sweep away make room for festive meals focus on sustainability embrace change reevaluate priorities

- a) Clear space or prepare for something new and positive.
- b) Represent a significant change or shift.
- c) Rich in cultural or historical practices.
- d) Special dishes prepared and eaten during a celebration.
- e) Think about what is most important in your life and make changes.
- f) Help ensure good fortune or success.
- g) Remove unwanted things, like bad luck, to start fresh.
- h) Concentrate on environmentally friendly practices.
- i) Celebrate or highlight the start of an event or period.
- j) Accept and adapt to new situations or opportunities.

#### Fill in the gaps with the collocations from the previous exercise.



#### **Discuss**



- What special event or activity do you think best marks the beginning of a new year? Why?
- Can you name a tradition in your family or culture that has been passed down for generations? How do you feel about it?
- In your opinion, which traditions during celebrations are most focused on bringing good luck?
- Why do you think animals like the snake are often chosen to symbolize transformation in various cultures?
- Do you think physical cleaning, like tidying up your room, can help sweep away mental stress? Why or why not?
- Do you think letting go of old habits or possessions is necessary to make room for new opportunities?
- What is the most memorable festive meal you've ever had? What made it special?
- What are some small changes people can make to ensure their celebrations are more environmentally friendly?
- Why do you think embracing change is important for personal growth?
- Do you think celebrations like New Year's are a good time to reevaluate priorities? Why or why not?

# Pick a theses and agree or disagree



"Traditional celebrations should remain unchanged, even in modern times."

"The zodiac sign you are born under influences your personality and life decisions."



#### Pick a theses and agree or disagree



"It is more important to reflect on the past year than to focus on future goals during New Year celebrations."

"Modern celebrations of festivals are losing their original meaning and becoming too commercialized."



#### 3-2-1 summary



(e.g., a tradition, a zodiac trait, or an important collocation.)

# Two Questions You Have List two questions or areas you'd like to know more about based on what we discussed.

(e.g., "How are zodiac signs determined in other cultures?" or "What other eco-friendly practices can be applied to celebrations?")

# One Connection You Can Make Identify one way today's topic connects to your own life, culture, or previous knowledge.

#team

(e.g., "We also clean our homes before a festival to bring in good luck.")

