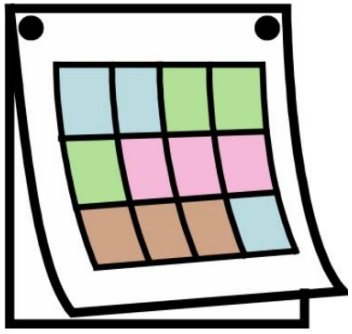
Selina Squirrel celebrates Chinese New Year

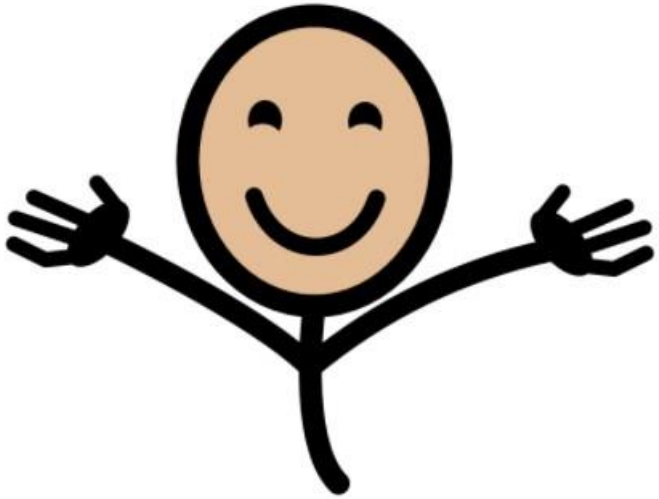






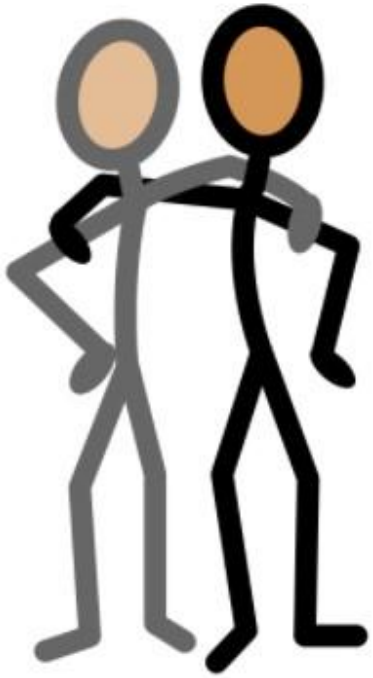






Selina Squirrel was very excited.







Polly Pigeon had a friend visiting her.







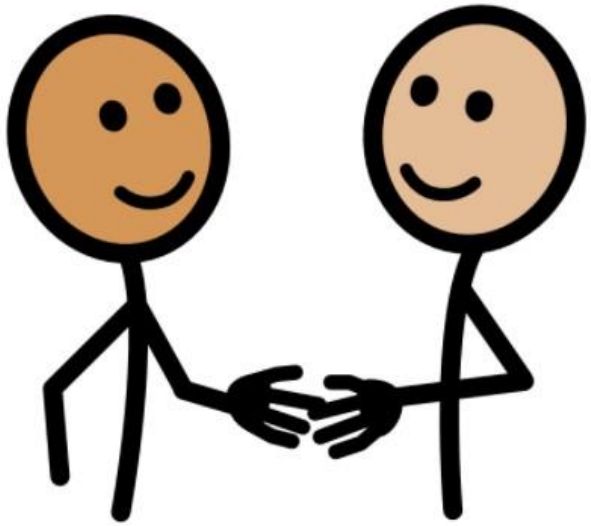
Fa is a crested myna bird and her family came from China.





Selina rushed to the big fir tree to meet all her friends.



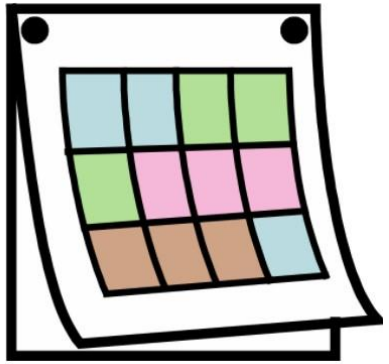




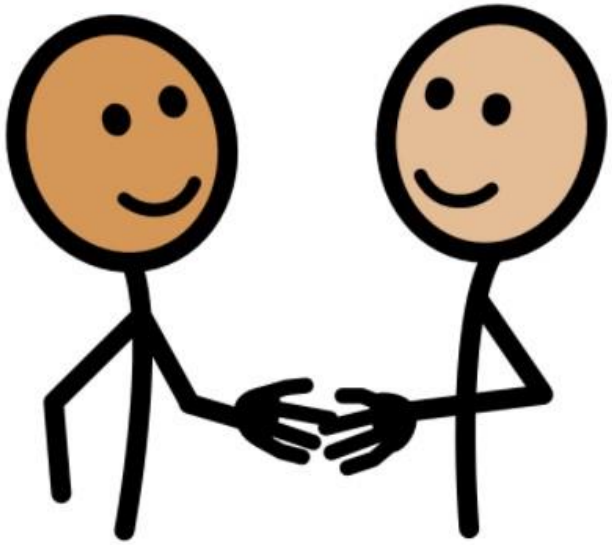
“Hello everyone!” says Polly “Let me introduce you to my friend Fa.







"She is visiting family to celebrate Chinese New Year".



One by one the friends said hello to Fa.



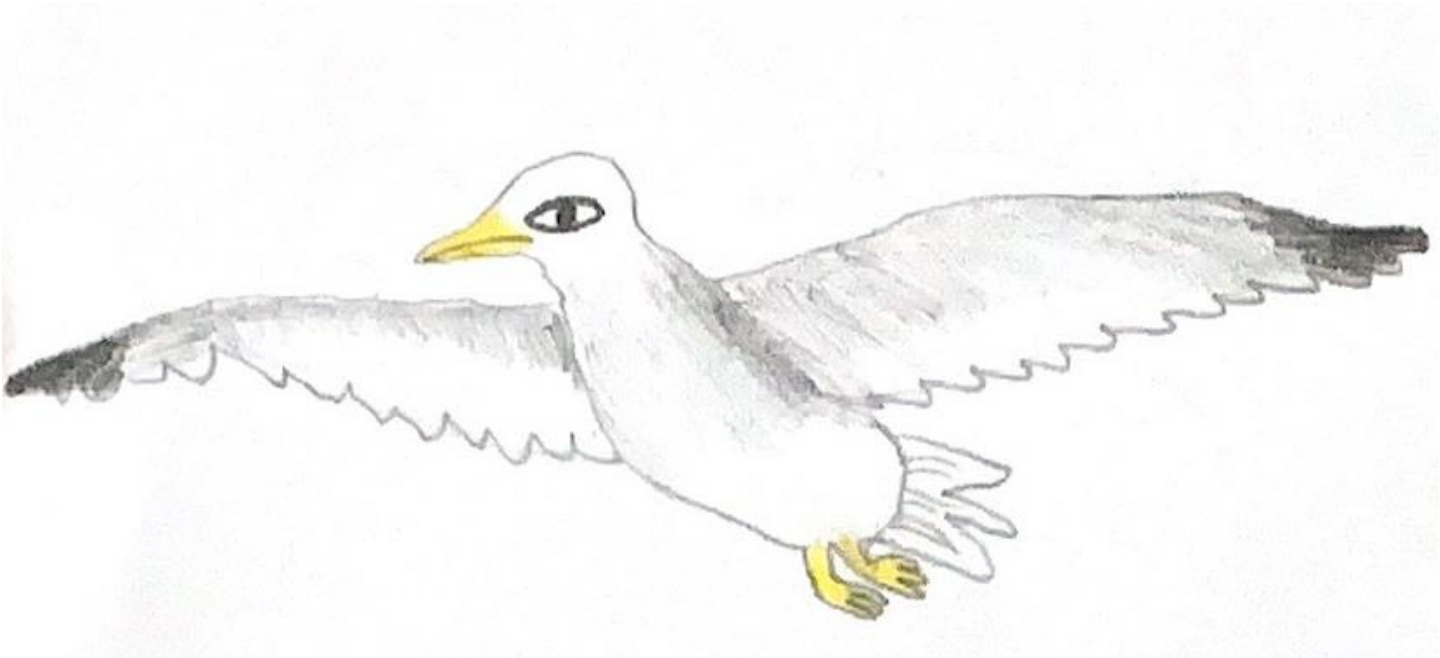
Selina Squirrel.



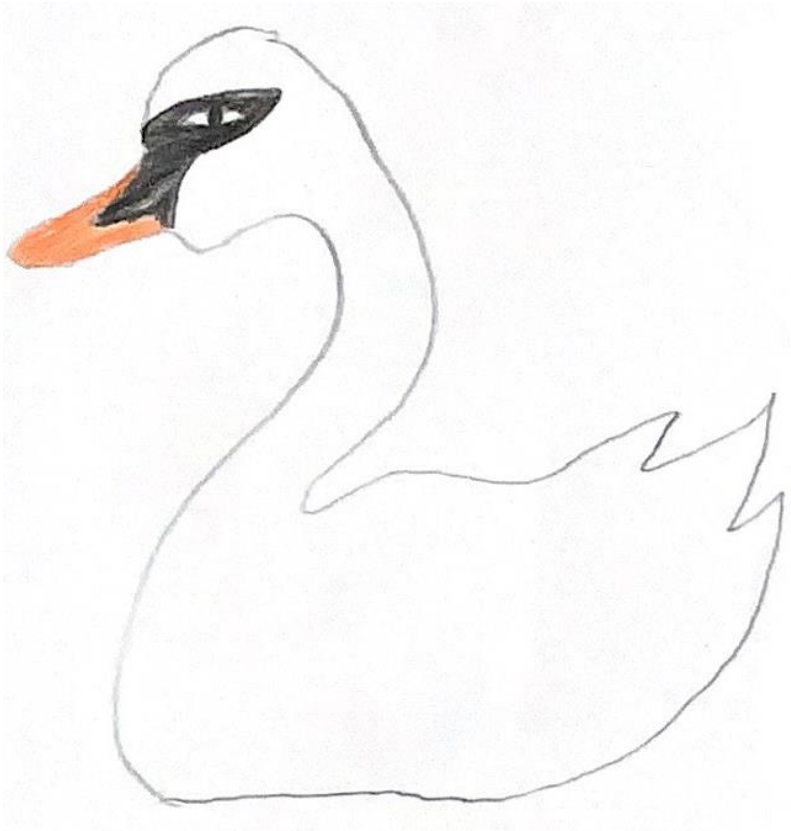
Henrietta Hedgehog.



Robbie Robin.



Stevie Seagull.



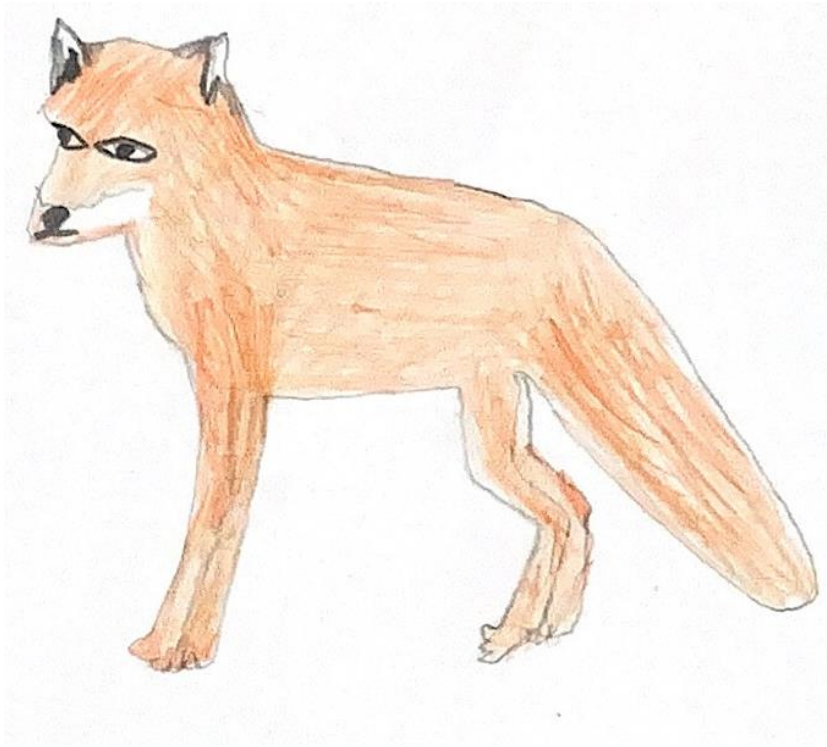
Susie Swan.



Oliver Owl



Molly Mouse



Felix Fox



Tommy Squirrel

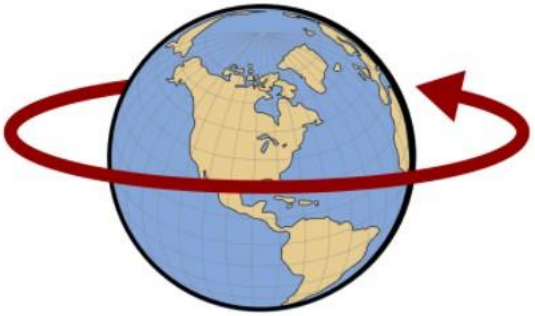


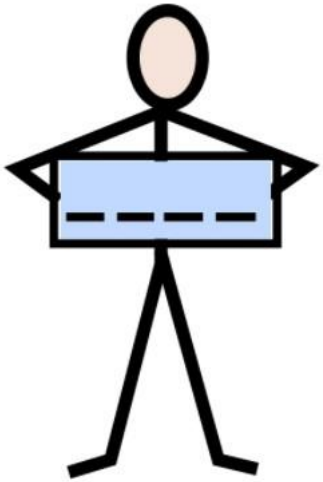




On 1 February 2022 it will be the Lunar New Year or in China, called Chinese New Year or Spring Festival.







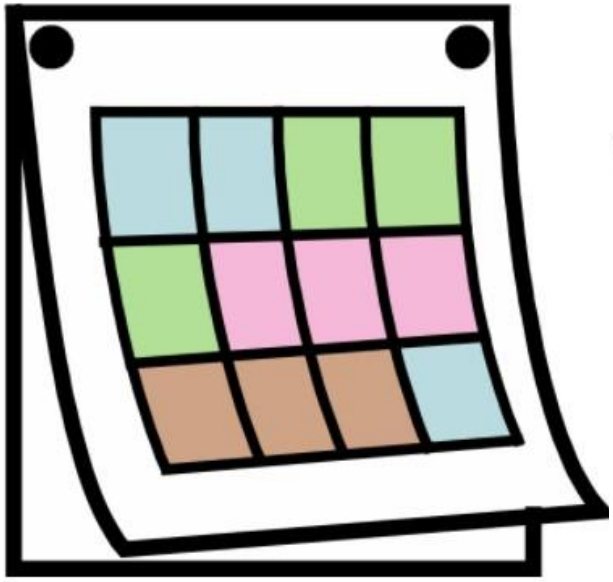


The Lunar New Year is celebrated by many people across the world. It is called different names in different countries.



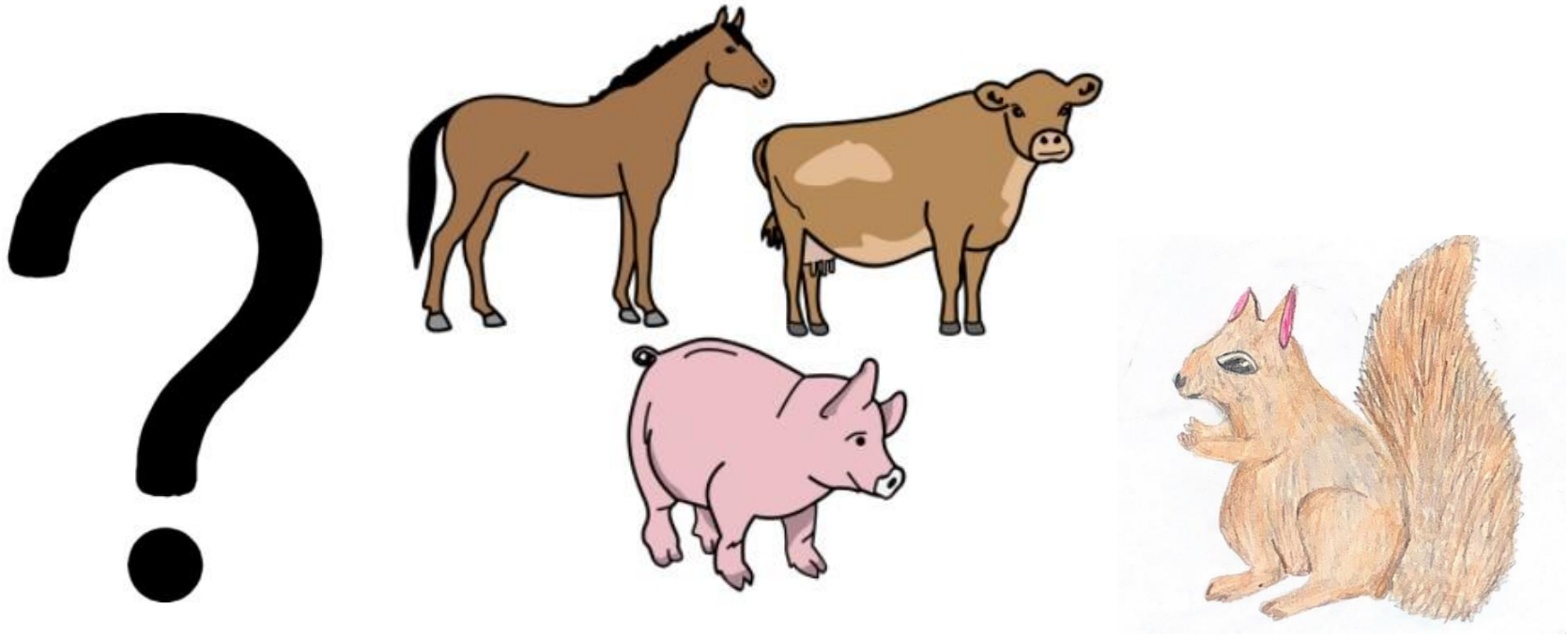


It is the first full moon of the lunar calendar.

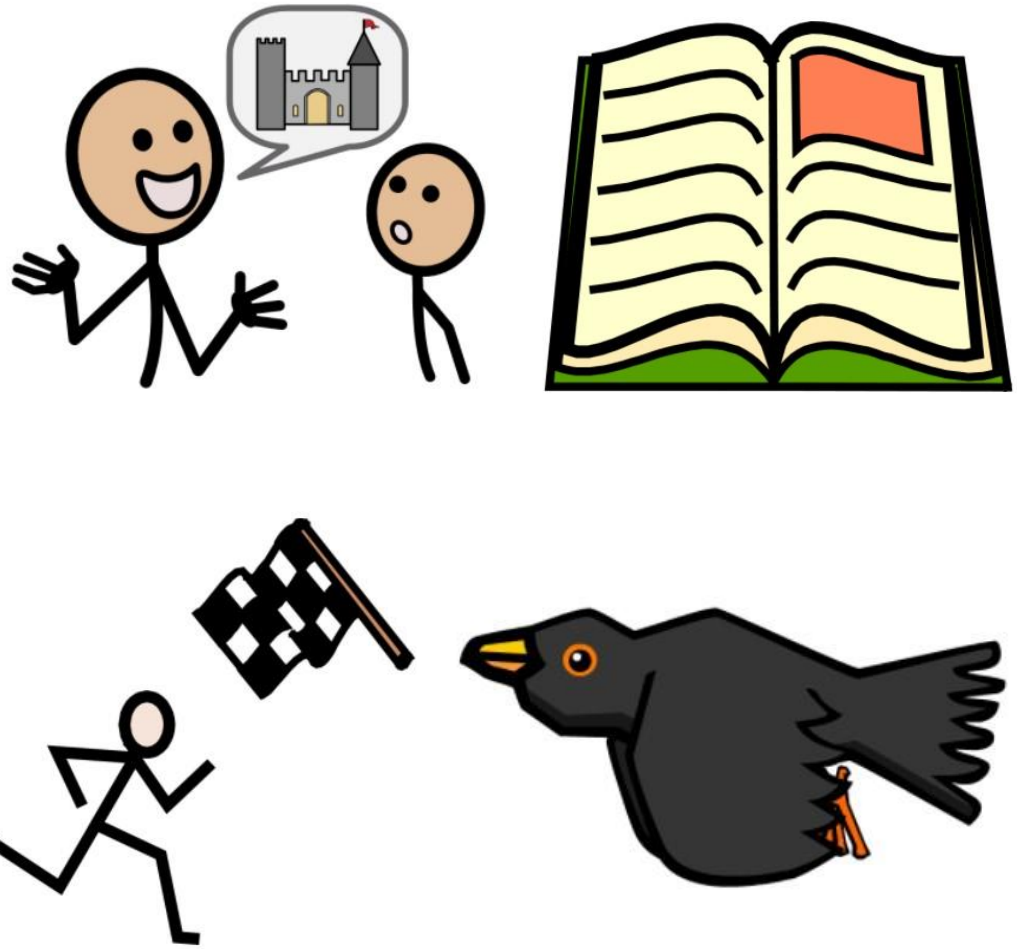




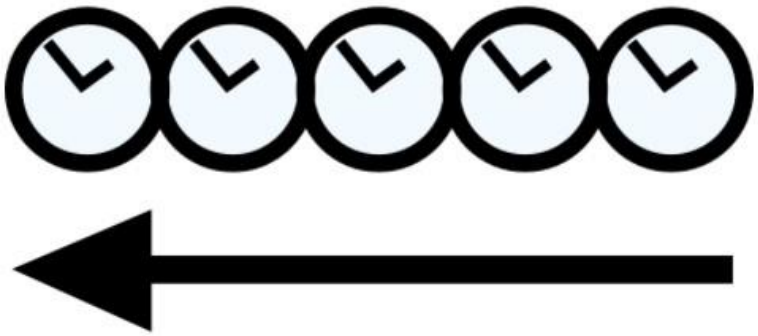
This year it is the Year of the Tiger.



"Why are the years named after animals?" asked Selina

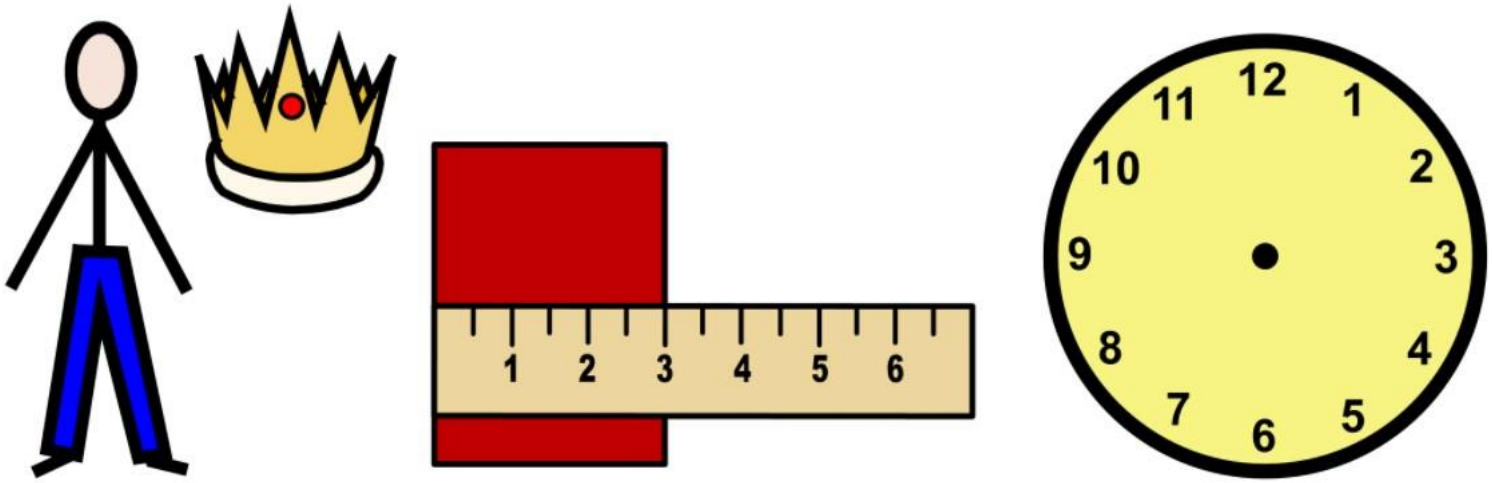


"Let me tell you the story of The Great Race" says Fa



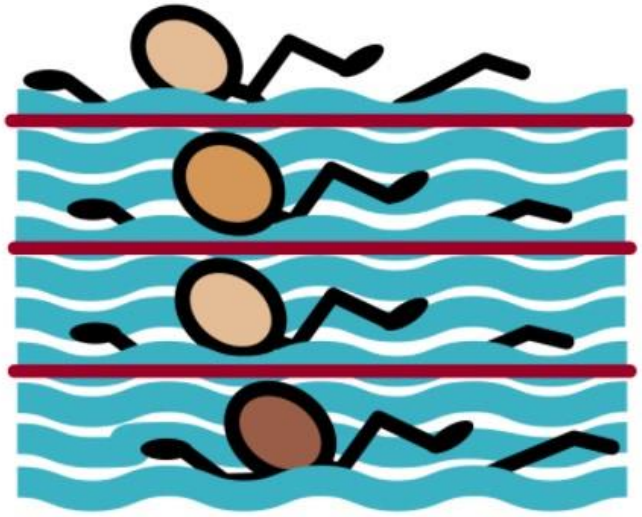


A long time ago in China.

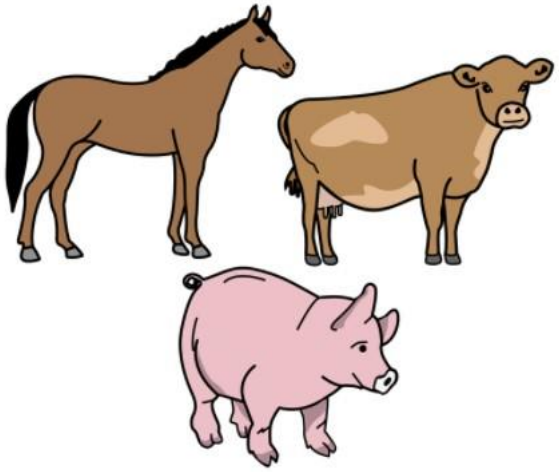


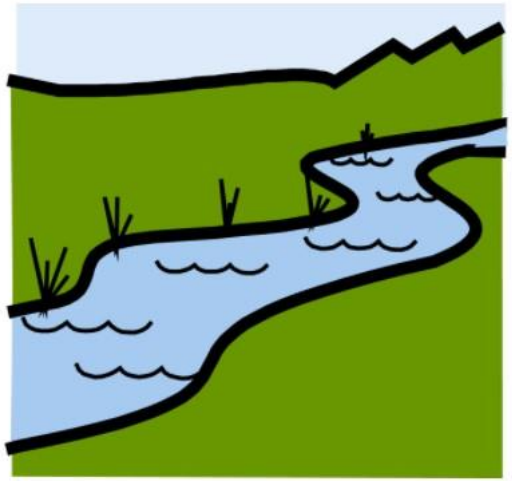
The Jade Emperor decided there should be a way of measuring time.





On his birthday he told the animals that there was to be a swimming race.

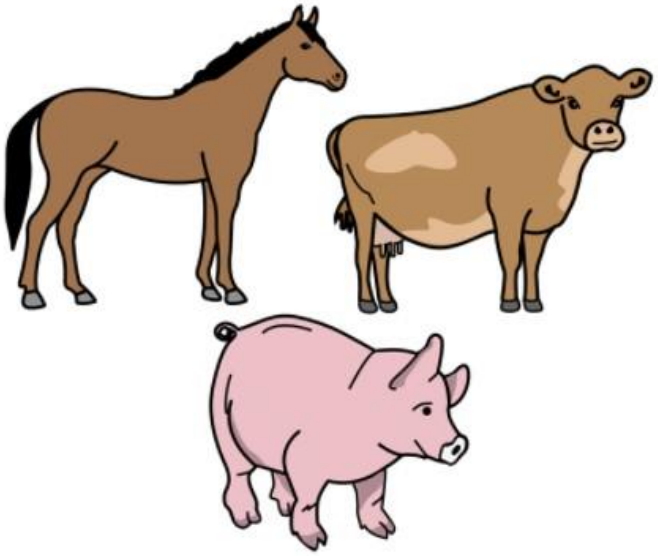




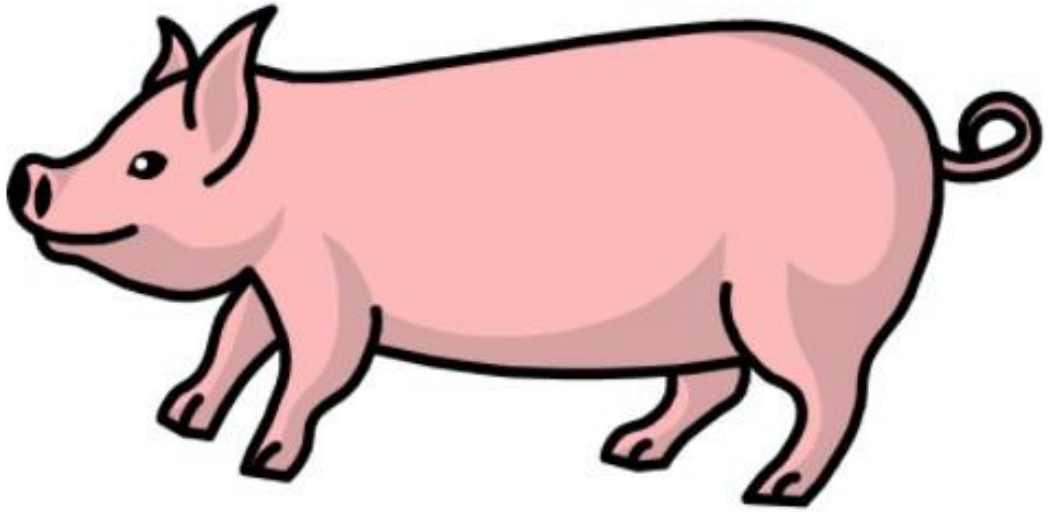


The first twelve animals across the river would be the winners and they would each have a year of the zodiac named after them.

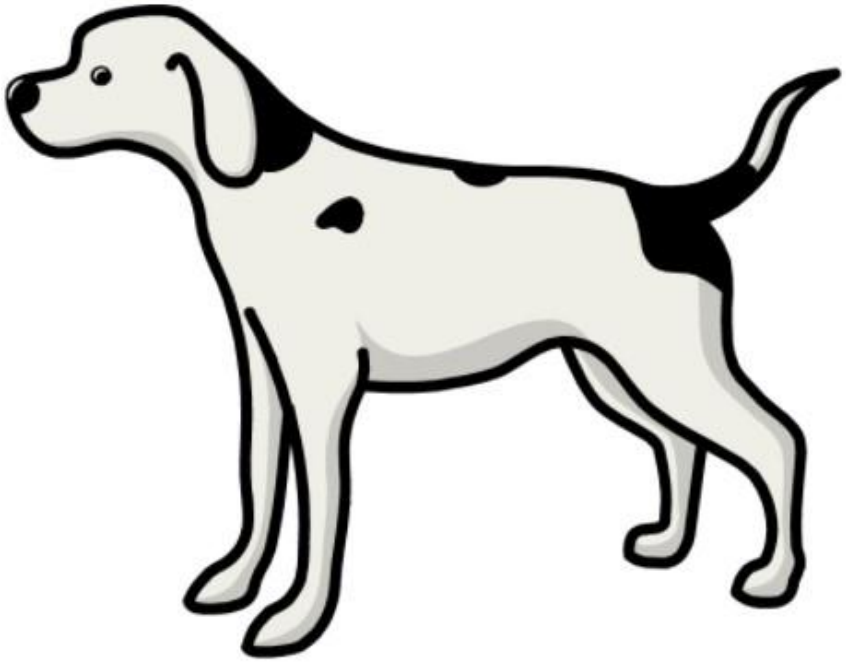
12



Twelve animals turned up at the start line:



a pig,



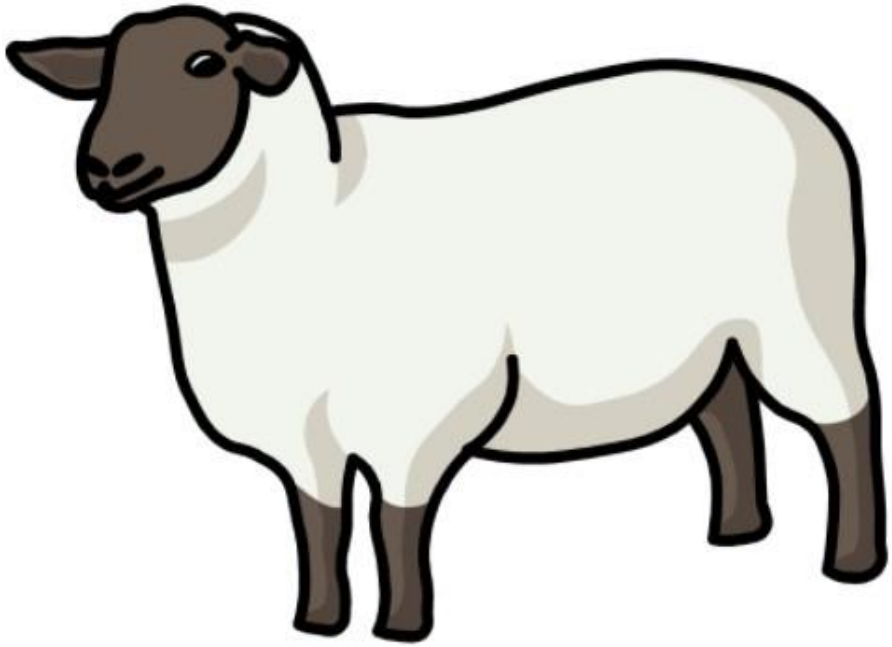
dog,



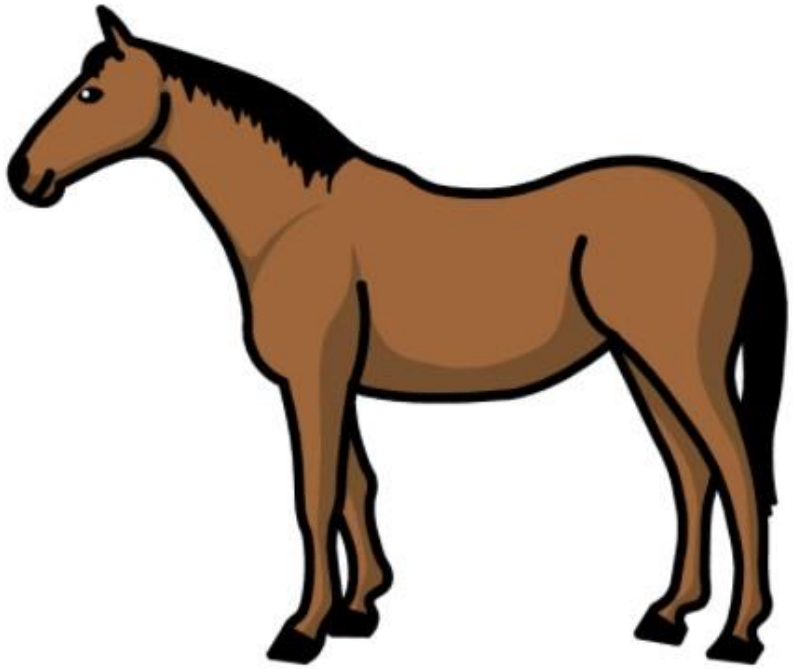
rooster,



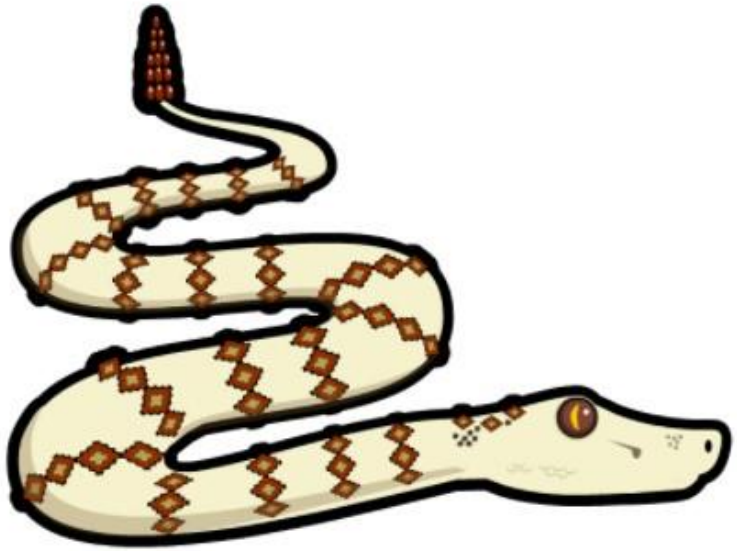
monkey,



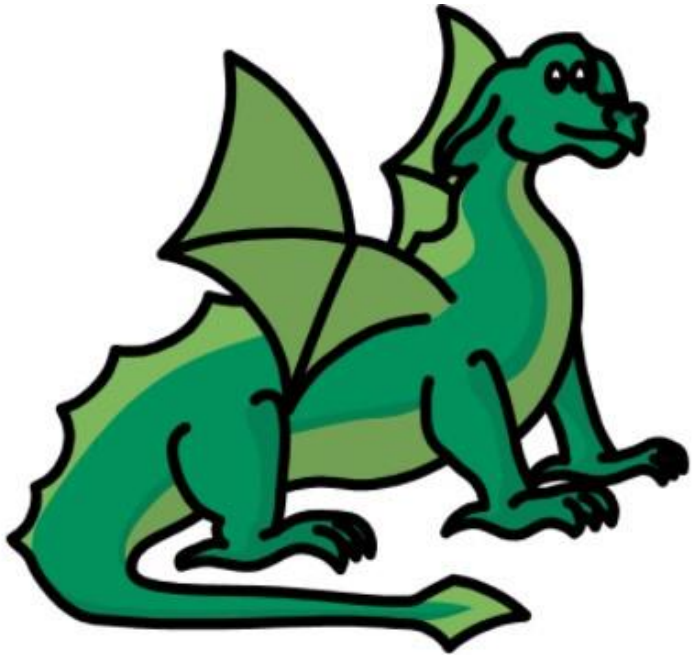
sheep,



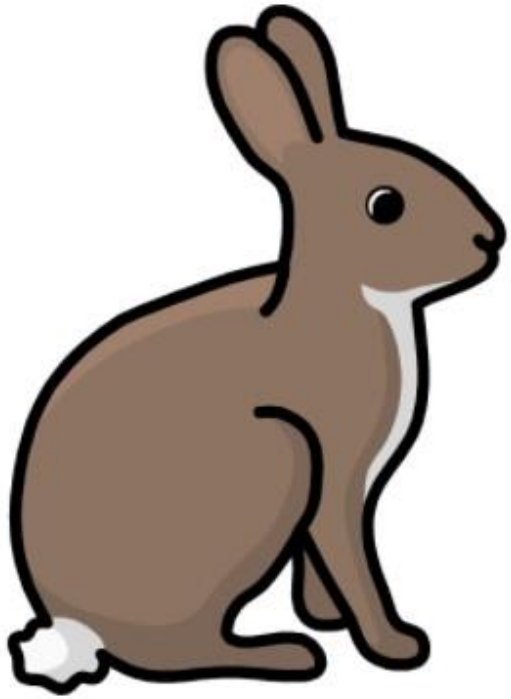
horse,



snake,



dragon,



rabbit,



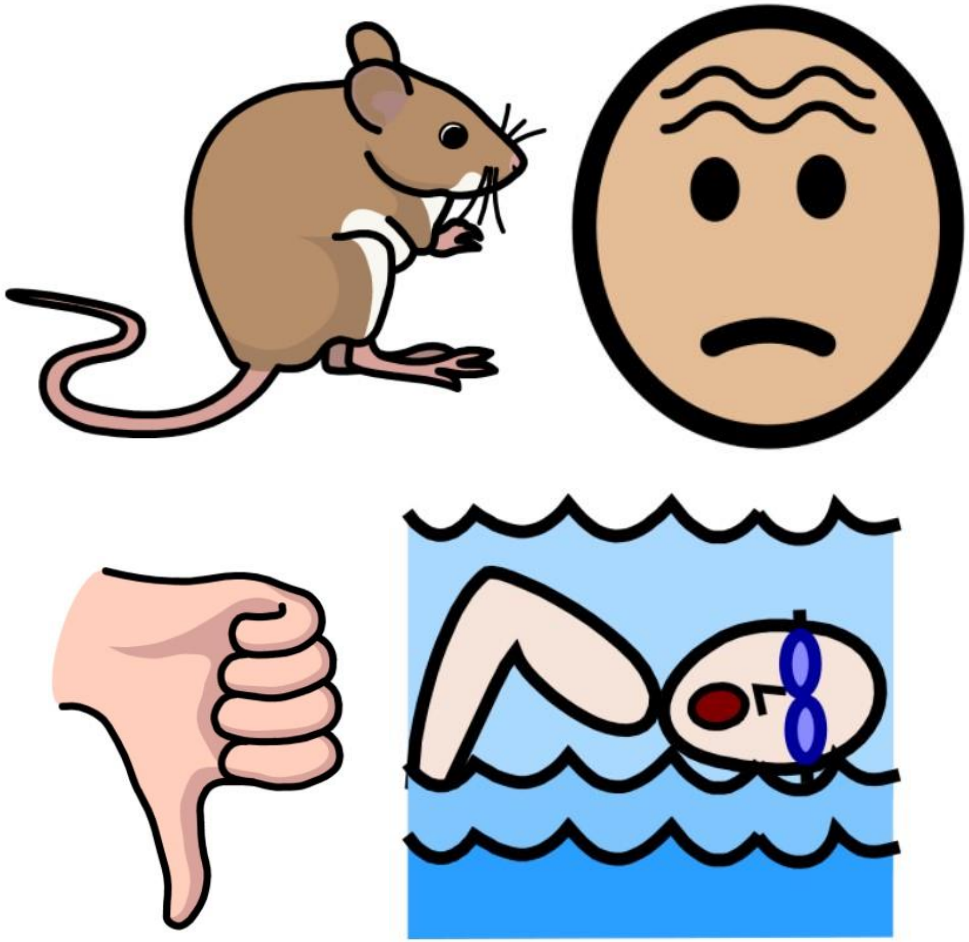
tiger,



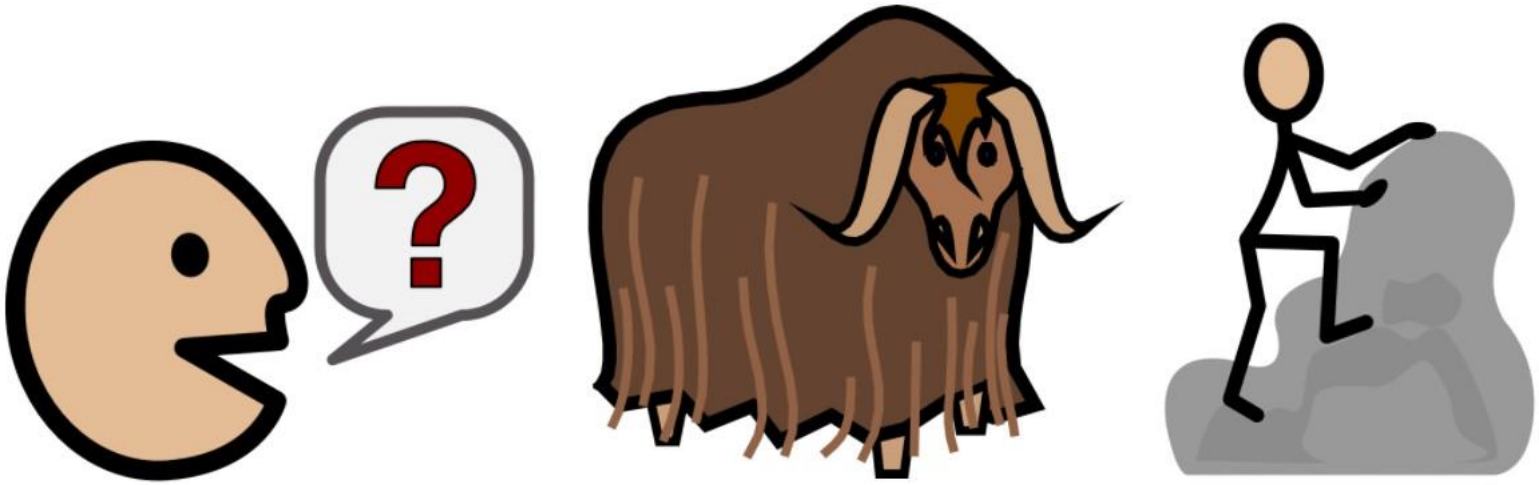
ox



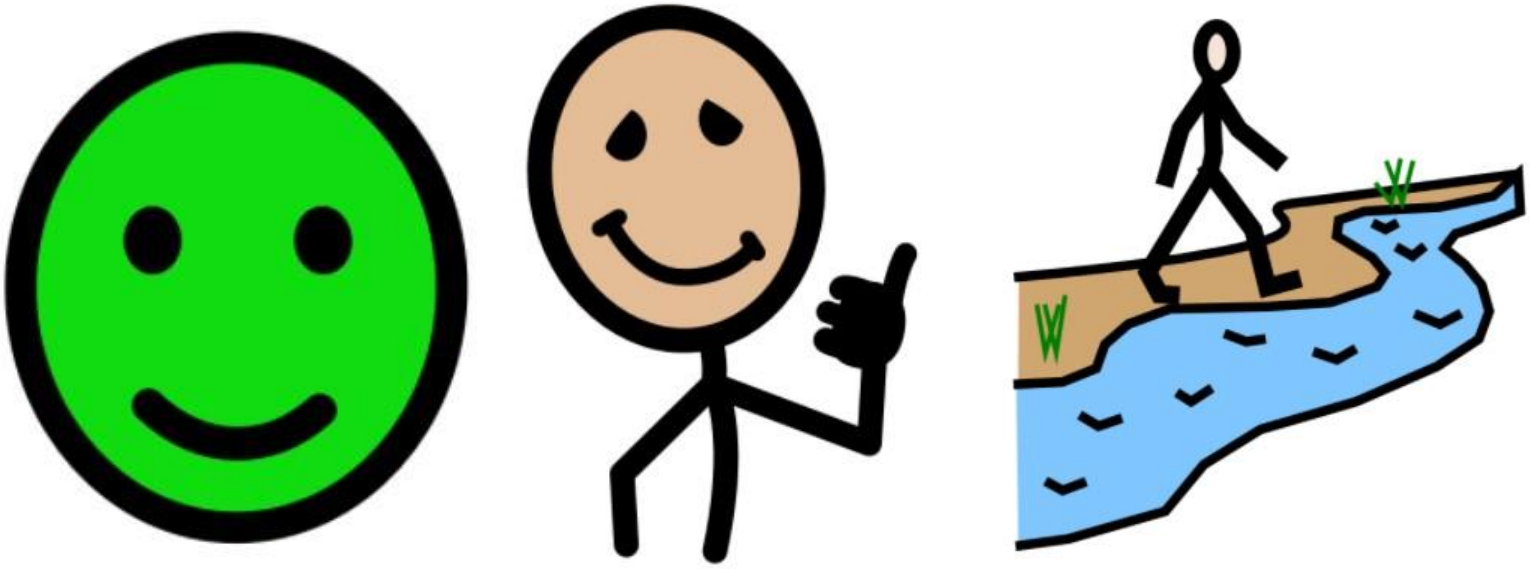
and rat.



The rat was worried as he was not good at swimming.



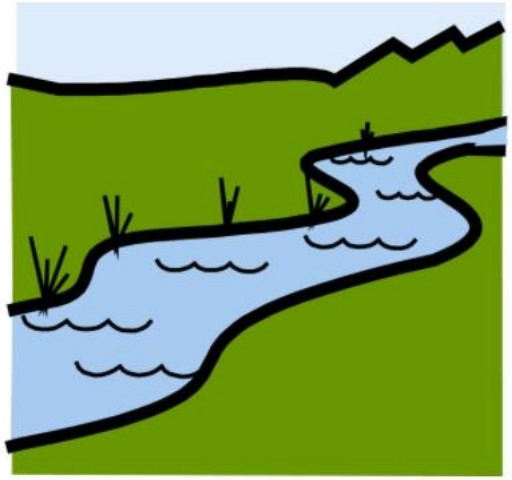
He asked the ox whether he can climb on his back to carry them across the river.



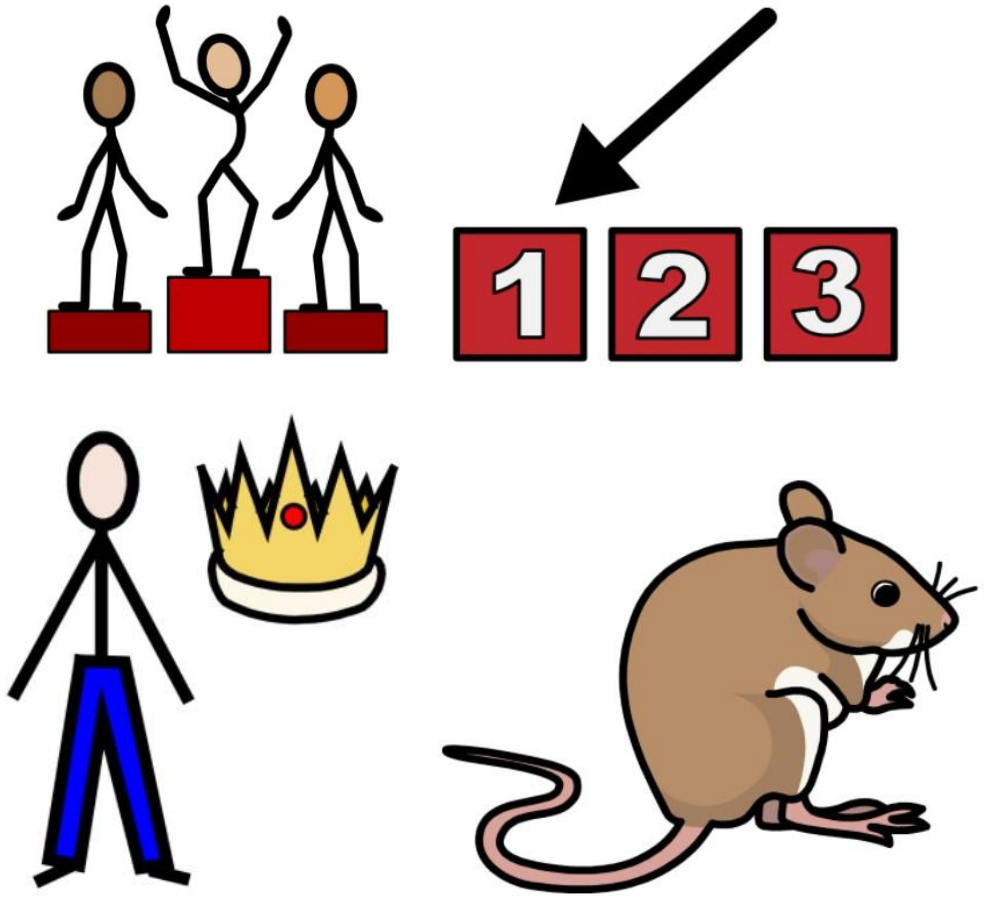
“Of course” said the kind ox “Just climb on my back and I will take you across”.



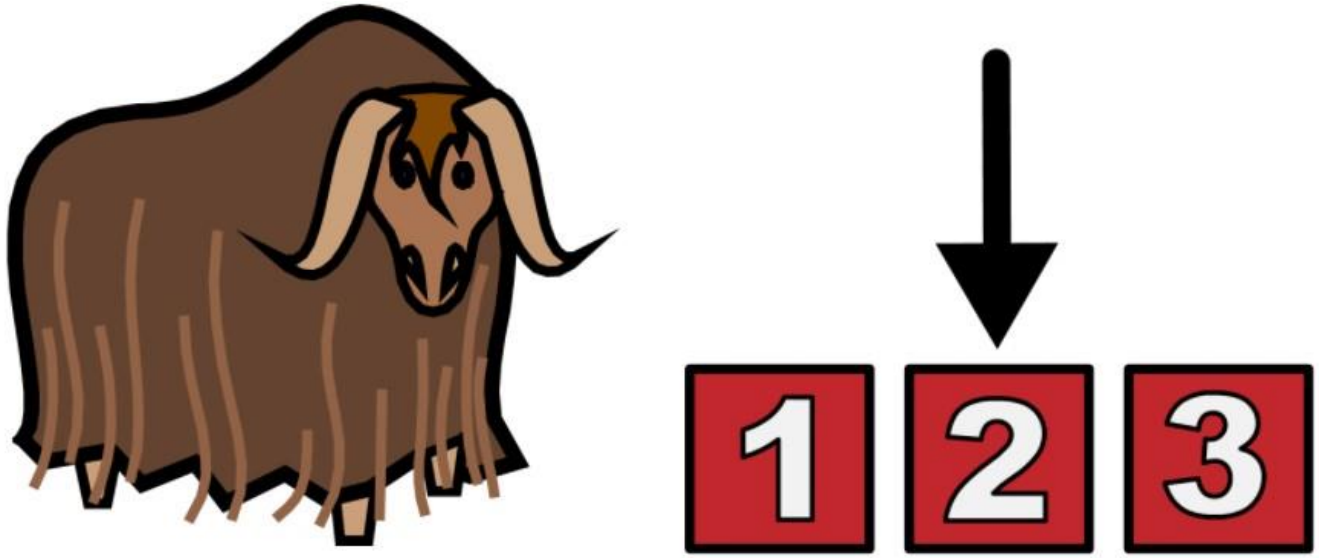




Just at the moment when they were about to reach the other end of the river the rat jumped up on the ox's head and leapt across to the other side of the river bank.



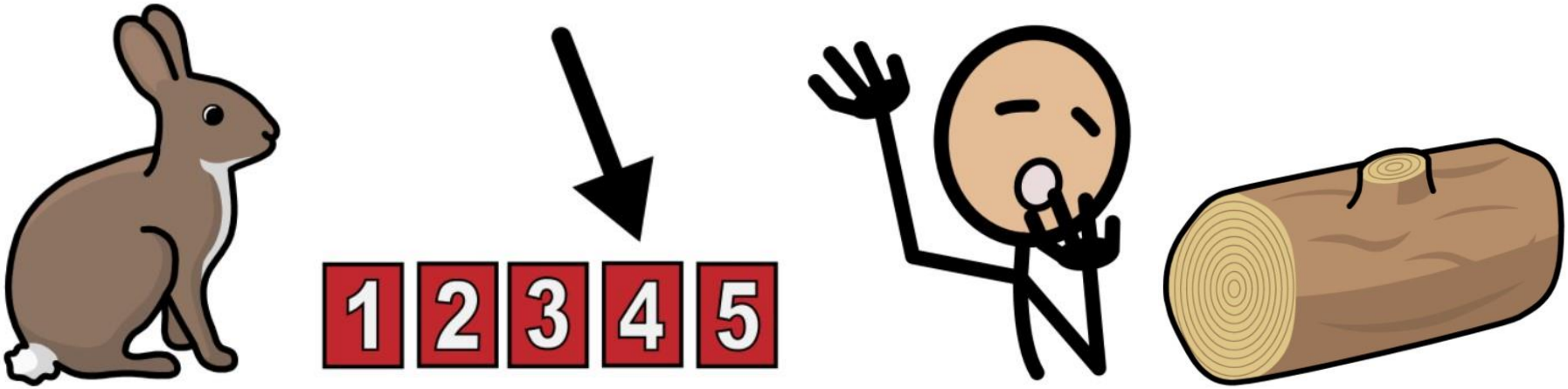
“Well done” says the Jade Emperor to the rat “You came in first, you will be the first animal sign in my zodiac”.



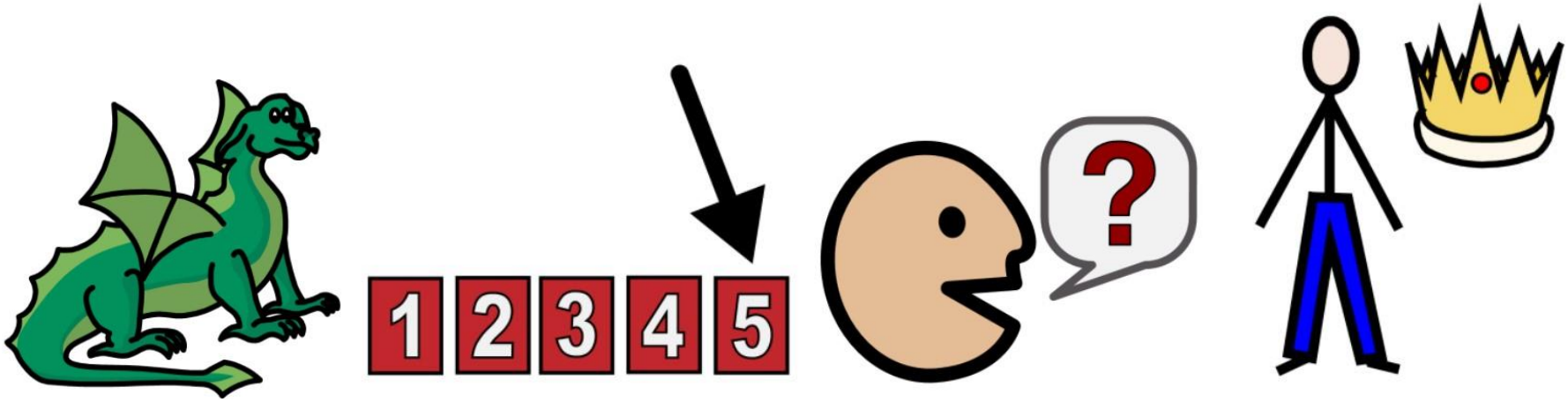
The poor ox was tricked into second place by the cunning rat and became the second year in the zodiac.



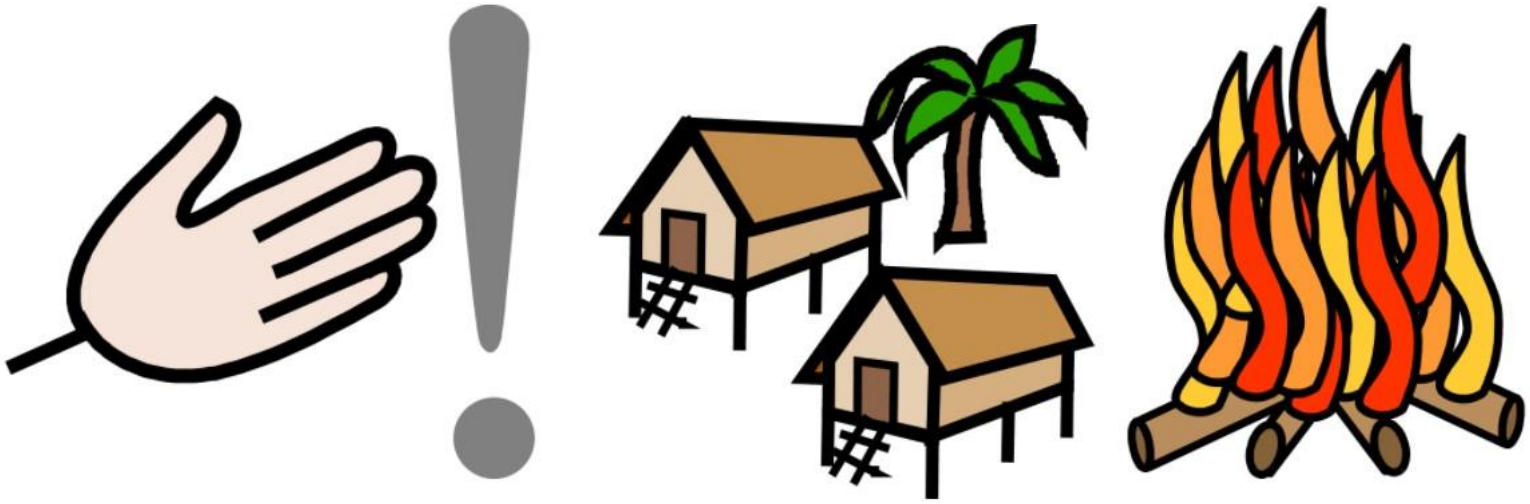
In third place was the tiger



and in fourth was the rabbit. The rabbit became very tired from the race and managed to climb onto a log to get to the shore.



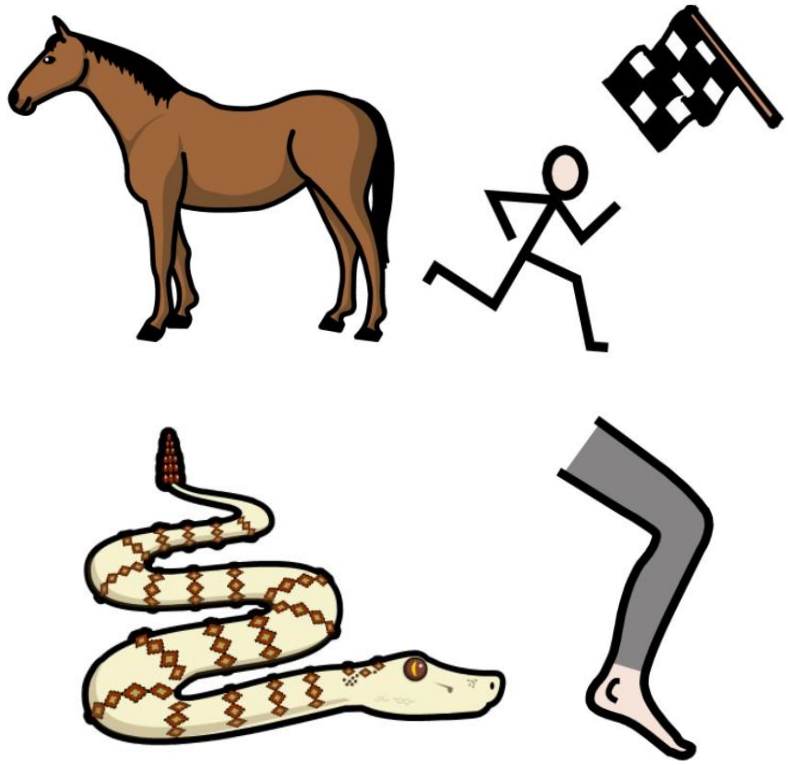
In fifth place was the dragon who managed to fly down to finish the race. “What took you so long?” asked the Jade Emperor.



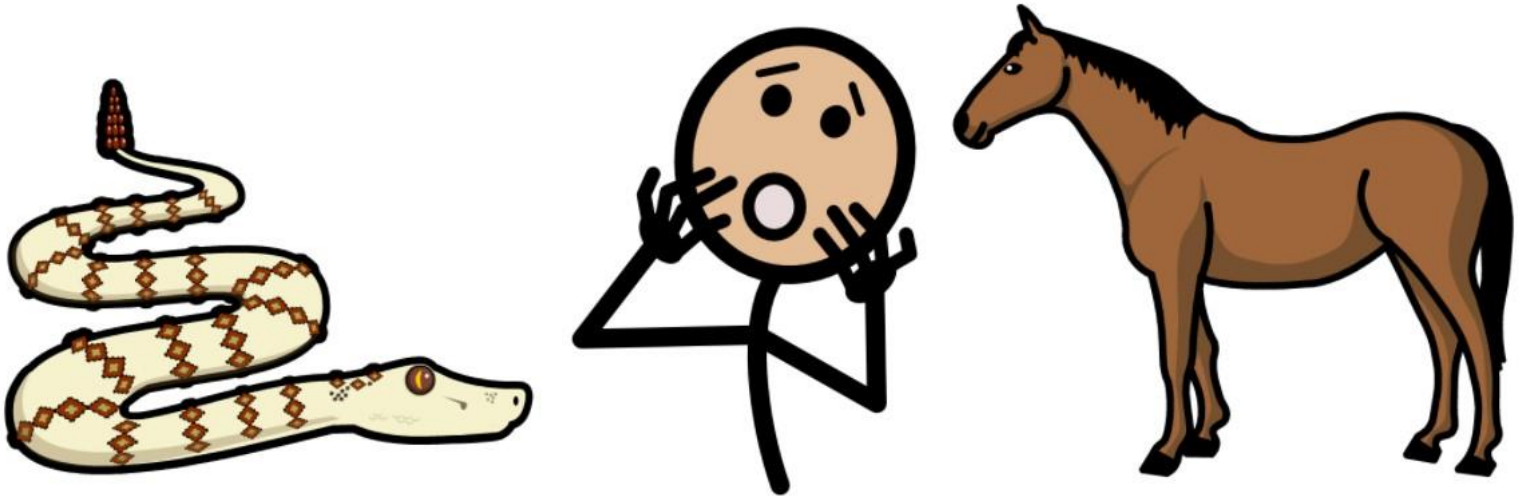
The dragon explained that he had to put out a fire in a nearby village and save the villagers before re-joining the race.



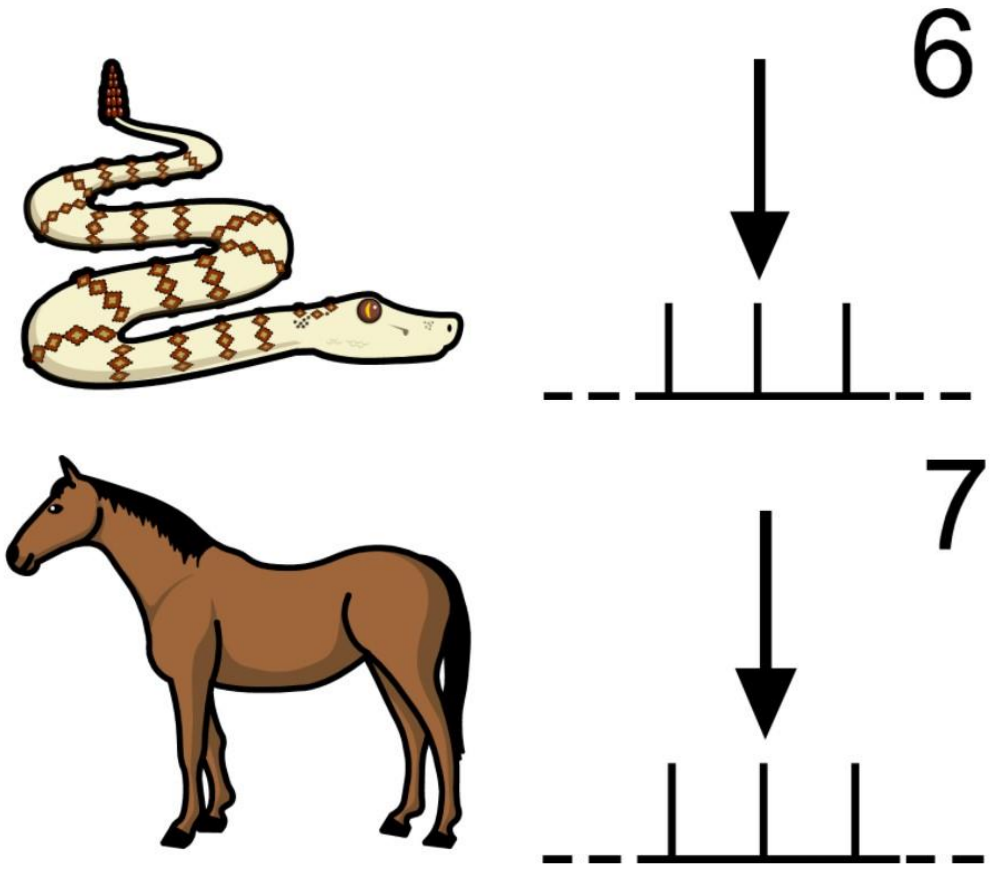
The Jade Emperor was impressed by the Dragon's kindness and compassion for others and awarded the Dragon fifth place in the zodiac.



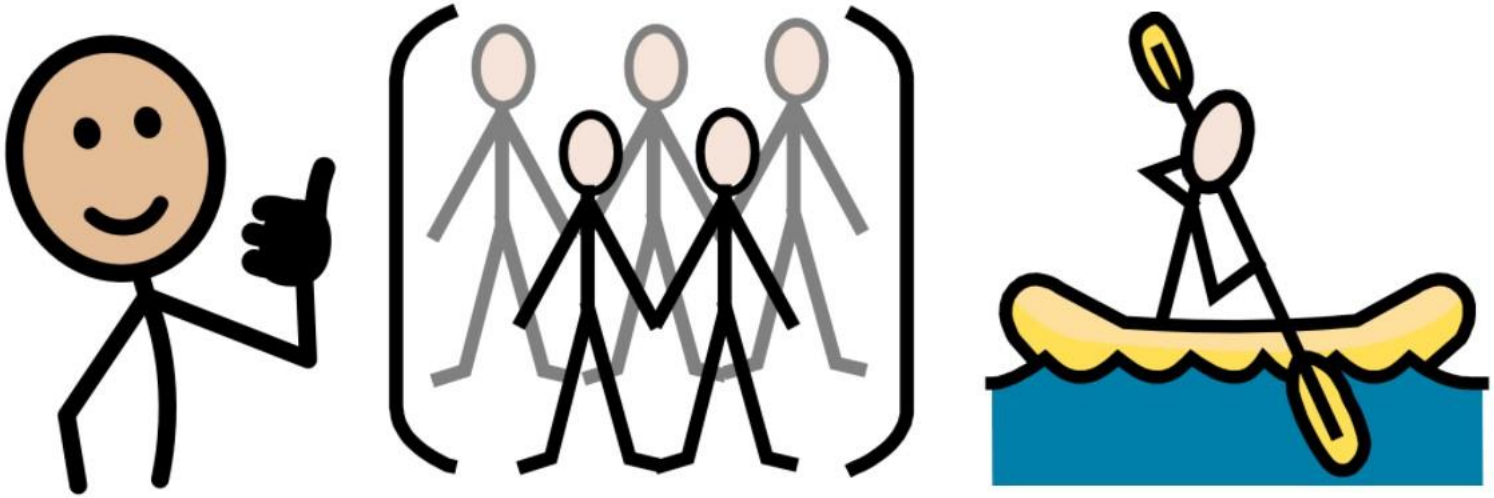
The horse was not far behind the Dragon but did not notice the snake was saving energy by wrapping itself around the horse's leg to hitch a ride.



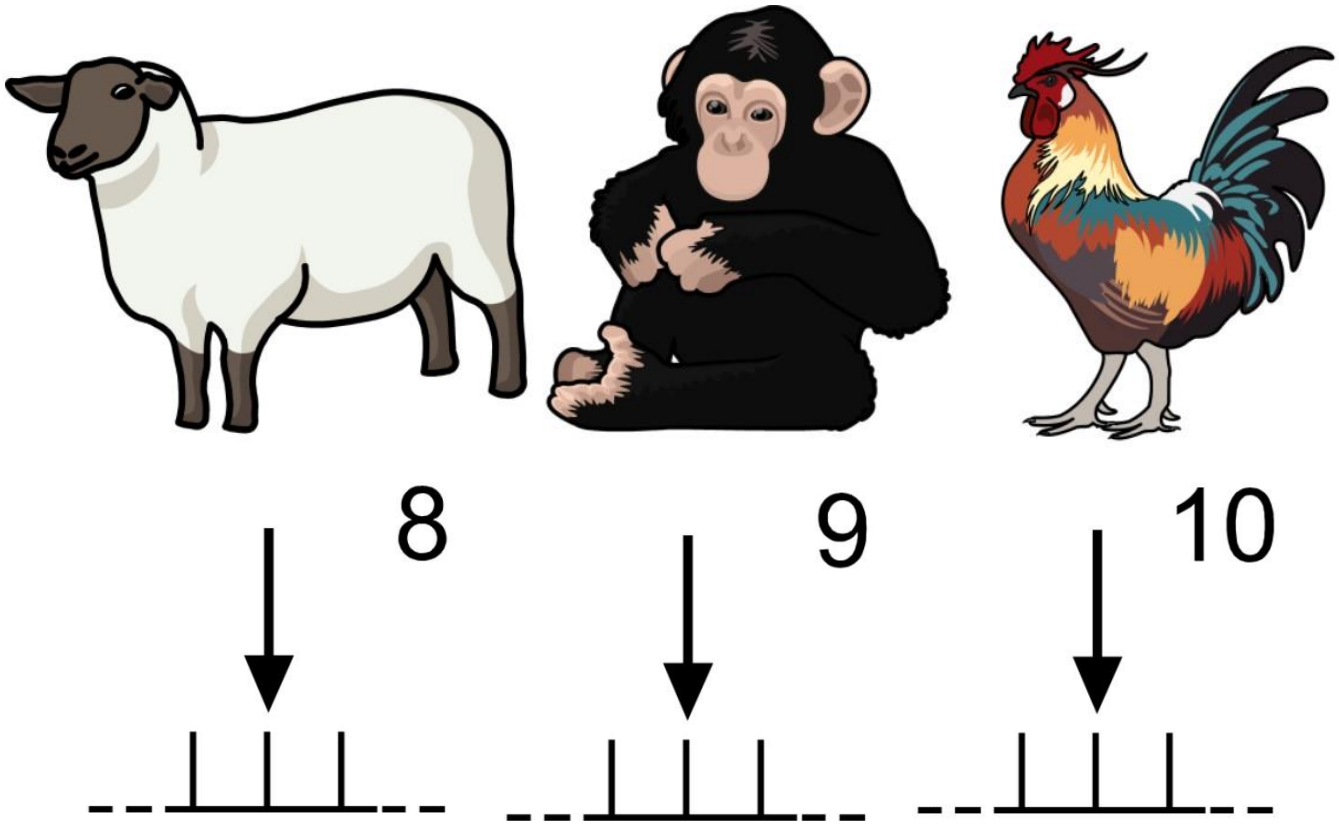
Right at the end of the race the snake uncoiled itself but gave the horse a fright



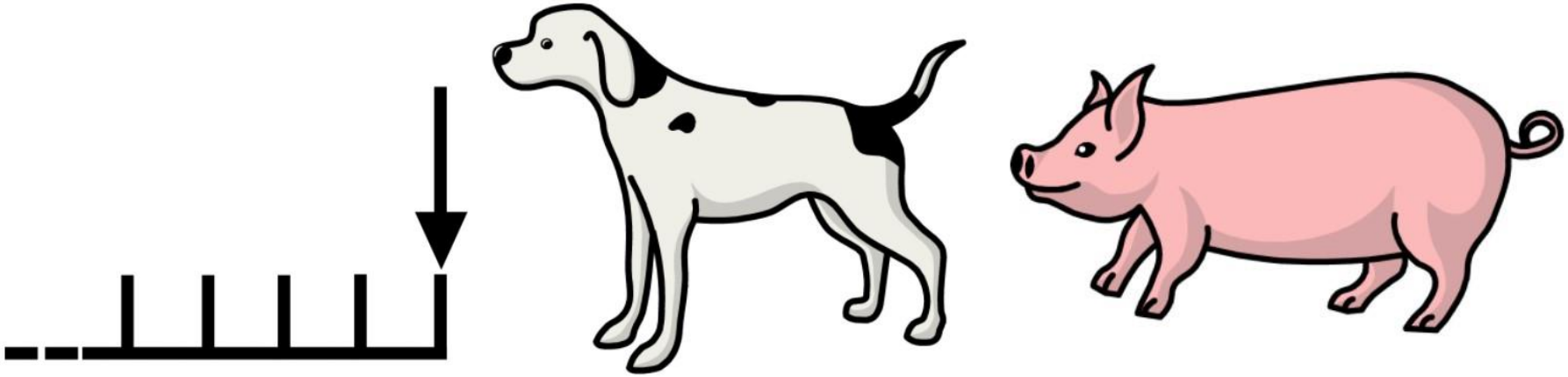
and so the snake took sixth place and the horse was in seventh place.



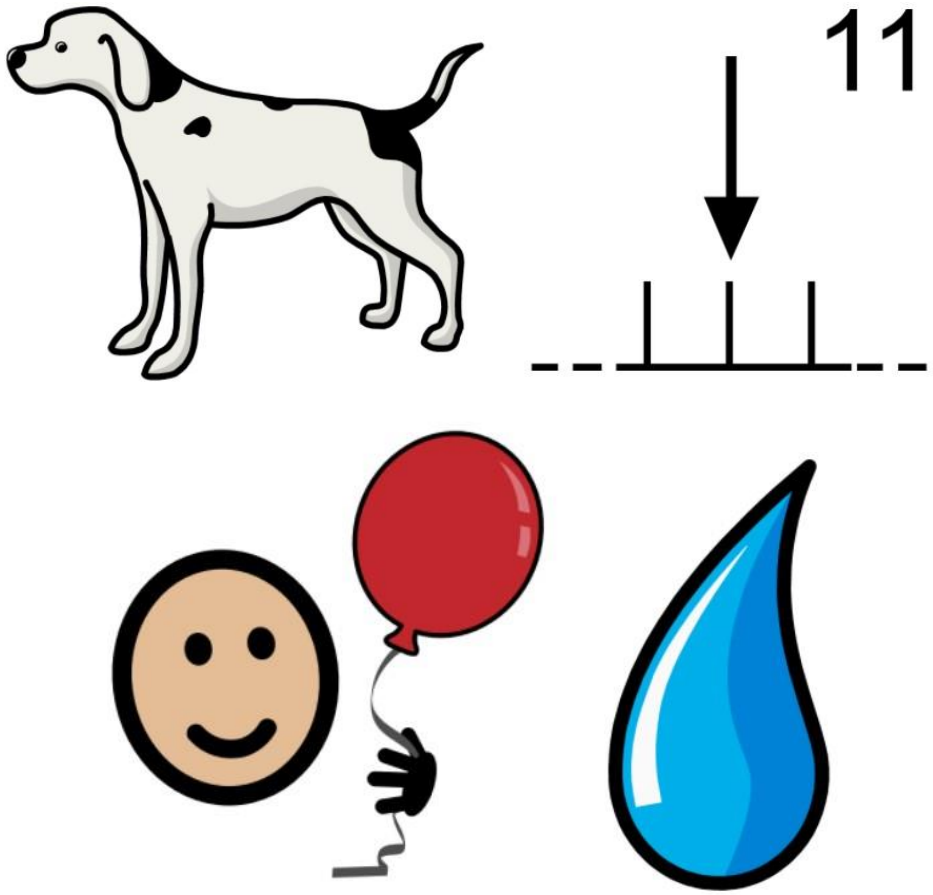
Finishing eighth, ninth and tenth were the sheep, monkey and rooster was a perfect example of teamwork. The three animals had got themselves onto a raft to get across the river safely.



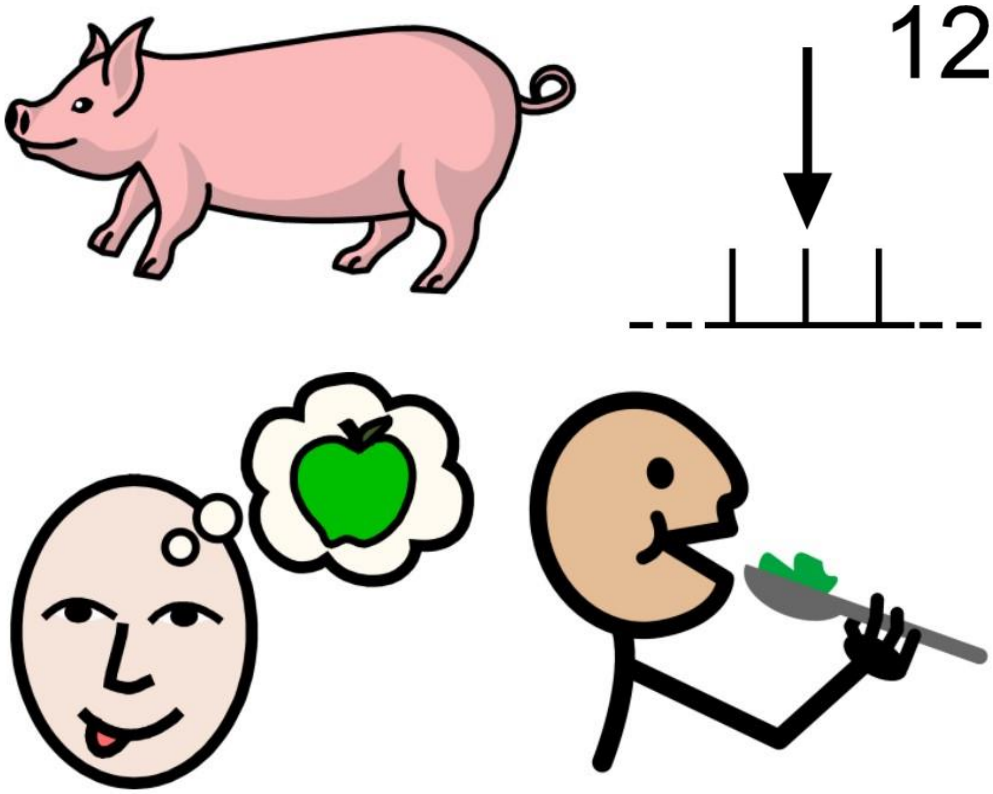
Once on the other side it was a dash to the finish with the sheep first, followed by the monkey and then the rooster.



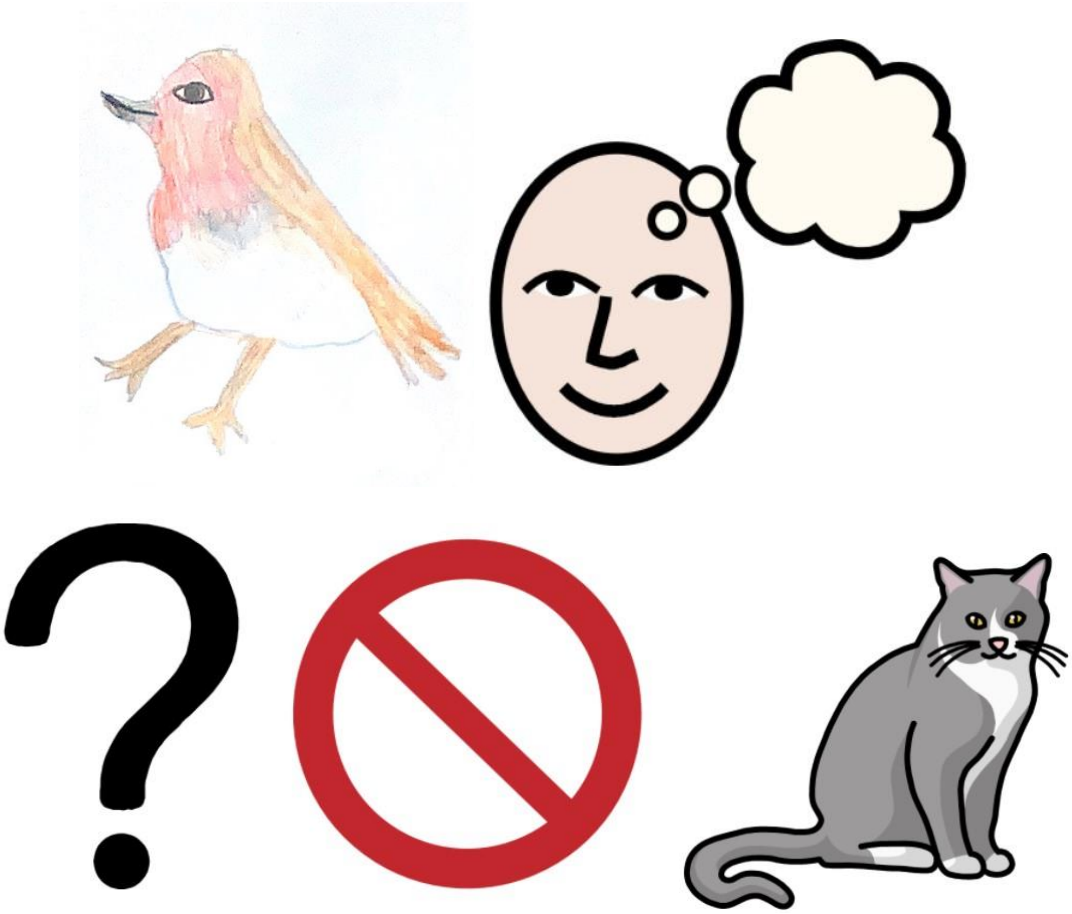
The final two left were the dog and the pig.



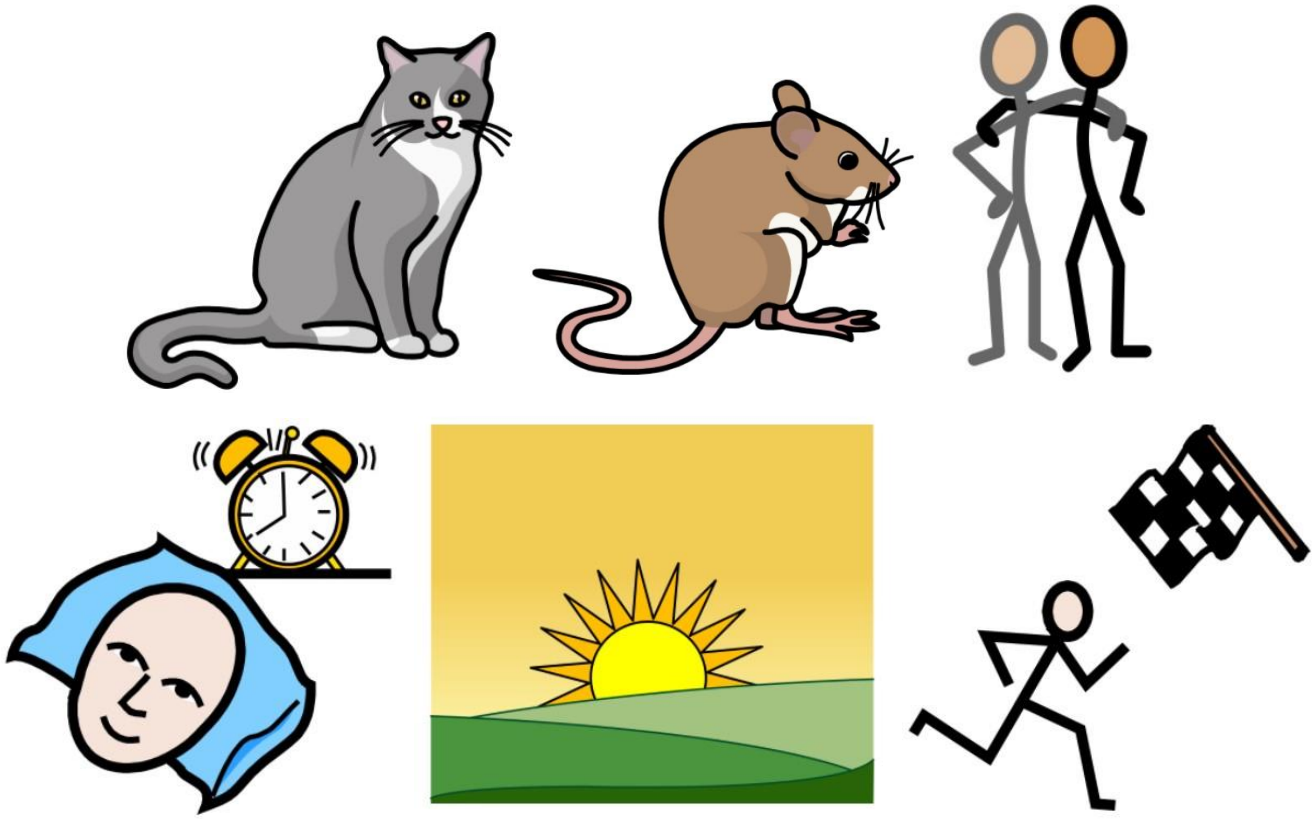
The dog was too interested in splashing in the river rather crossing it and took eleventh place.



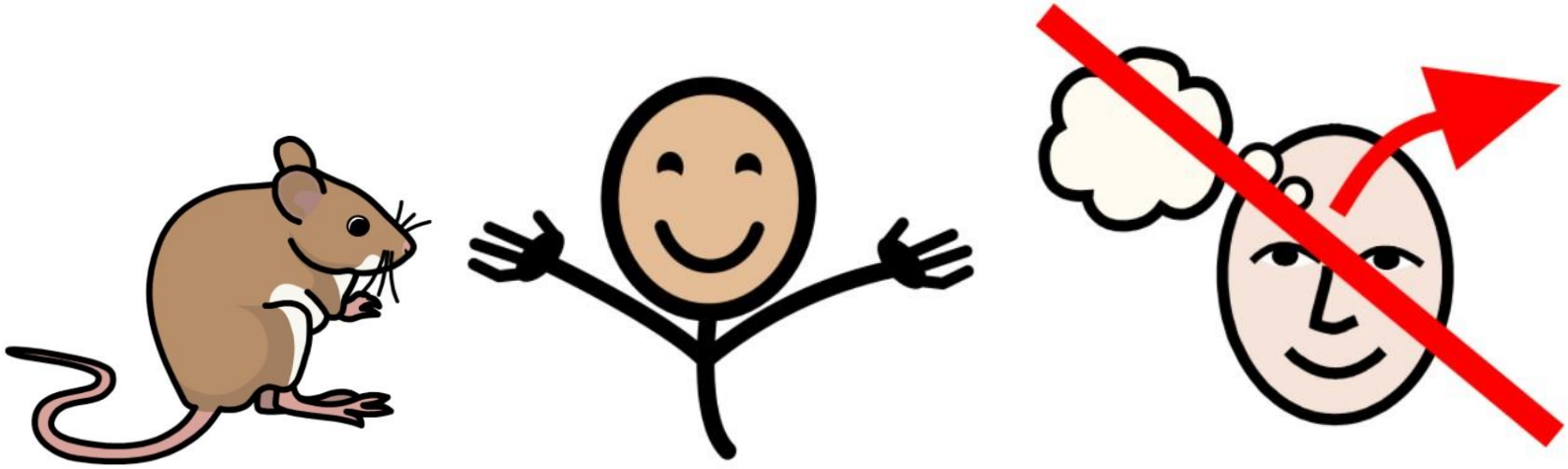
The pig became hungry during the race and stopped for food but it finally managed to finish the race coming in last which is twelfth place.



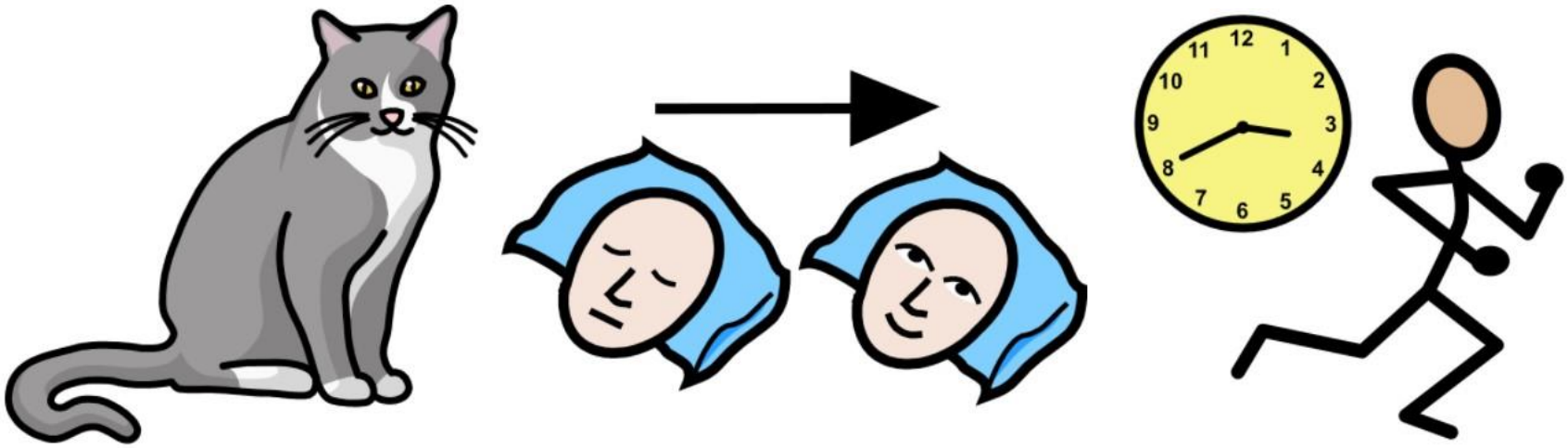
Robbie Robin was wondering "Why are there no cats in the race?



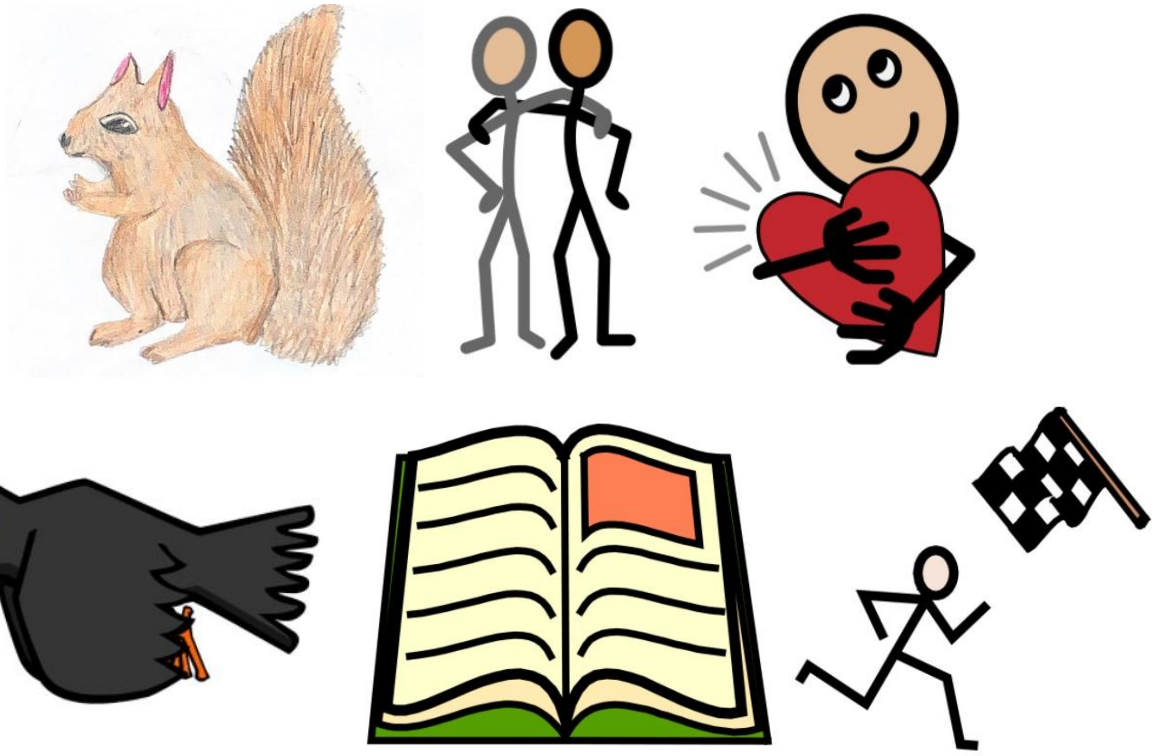
Fa explained that the cat and rat were friends and the cat asked the rat to wake the cat up in time for the race in the morning.



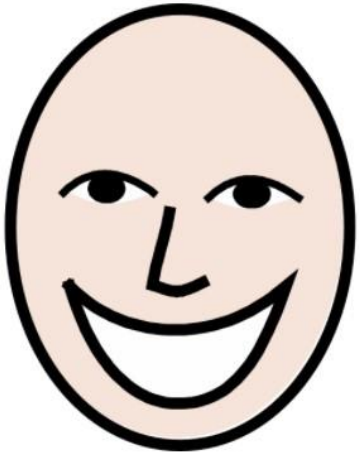
The rat got too excited and forgot about it.

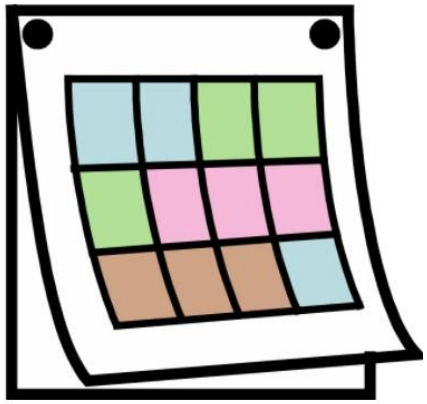


By the time the cat woke up it was too late to enter the race.



Selina Squirrel and her friends loved hearing Fa's story about The Great Race.





And they all wished each other a Happy Chinese New Year.

This book was made by Sense Scotland: Early Years, Partners and Communication and Arts Team.

Story by Tina Yu

Illustrations by Bella Geldart

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