













and hit the finish line first, while the disappointed ox had to settle for second place. The indolent pig finished last in the race, and accordingly was assigned to the final year of the cycle. The following is a list of the twelve animal signs and the years in recent decades that each of them represents:

- |     |   |   |      |                  |                                    |
|-----|---|---|------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1.  |    | 鼠 | shǔ  | rat              | 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008 |
| 2.  |    | 牛 | niú  | ox; cow          | 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009 |
| 3.  |    | 虎 | hǔ   | tiger            | 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010 |
| 4.  |   | 兔 | tù   | rabbit; hare     | 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011 |
| 5.  |  | 龙 | lóng | dragon           | 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012 |
| 6.  |  | 蛇 | shé  | snake; serpent   | 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013 |
| 7.  |  | 马 | mǎ   | horse            | 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014 |
| 8.  |  | 羊 | yáng | sheep; goat; ram | 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015 |
| 9.  |  | 猴 | hóu  | monkey           | 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016 |
| 10. |  | 鸡 | jī   | rooster; chicken | 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017 |
| 11. |  | 狗 | gǒu  | dog              | 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018 |
| 12. |  | 猪 | zhū  | pig; boar        | 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019 |