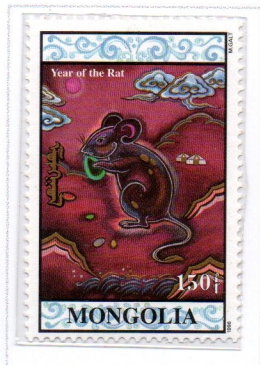


The Chinese Zodiac

by K V V S Sudhakar (Email: sudhakarkvvs@rediffmail.com)

The Chinese zodiac, known as Sheng Xiao, is a traditional classification based on the Chinese calendar that assigns an animal and its reputed attributes to each year in a repeating twelve-year cycle. The animal signs are in the order - Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig. Originating from China, the zodiac and its variations remain popular in many East Asian and Southeast Asian countries.



← Rat



Ox



← Tiger



Rabbit



Dragon



Snake



Horse

Five Elements: Ancient Chinese believed that all things in the world, including the zodiac animals, belonged to five categories – Metal (Monkey, Rooster), Wood (Tiger, Rabbit), Water (Rat, Pig), Fire (Snake, Horse), and Earth (Ox, Dragon, Sheep, Dog).



Monkey



Rooster



Dog



Pig →

Yin Yang: Yin means feminine and negative, while Yang means masculine and positive. Yang applies to Rat, Tiger, Dragon, Horse, Monkey, and Dog, while Yin goes to Ox, Rabbit, Snake, Sheep, Rooster, and Pig.

Animal Trines: Chinese Zodiac is comprised of four Trines. The 1st Trine consists of the Rat, Dragon, and Monkey. The 2nd Trine is the Ox, Snake and Rooster. The 3rd Trine is the Tiger, Horse, and Dog. The final Trine, the 4th Trine, is the Rabbit, Goat, and Pig.