



# Rooster

# 鸡

Can you think of someone who possesses similar personality traits?

你知道哪些人的个性和我相似呢？

## Who am I?

### 猜猜我是谁？

**Born in 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018, 2030**

I am loyal, helpful, and sympathetic.  
I am most compatible with Horse and Tiger.

I like to wiggle my tail when I am happy.  
I can be helpful to humans.  
Who am I?



在 1946、1958、1970、1982、1994、2006、2018 和 2030 年出生的人

我对人忠诚，喜欢帮助朋友，有同情心。  
我和马年、虎年出生的人相处得最好。

我高兴时喜欢摇摇尾巴。  
我是人类的好帮手。  
猜猜我是谁？



# Dog

# 狗

Can you think of someone who possesses similar personality traits?

你知道哪些人的个性和我相似呢？

## Who am I? 猜猜我是谁?

**Born in 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019, 2031**

I am caring, giving, and trustworthy.  
I am most compatible with Rabbit and Goat.

I have a short, curly tail and a big snout.  
I am the last animal of the Chinese Zodiac.  
Who am I?



在 1947、1959、1971、1983、1995、2007、2019 和 2031 年出生的人

我关心别人, 愿意付出, 值得信任。  
我和兔年、羊年出生的人相处得最好。

我有一条又短又卷的小尾巴, 我还有两个大鼻孔。  
十二生肖里我排最后。  
猜猜我是谁?



Pig

猪

Can you think of someone who possesses similar personality traits?

你知道哪些人的个性和我相似呢?

Chinese people use the Chinese Zodiac to set the 12 year cycle. This cycle repeats itself every twelve years. The characteristics of these animals are based on legends passed down from generation to generation.

中国人用十二生肖来计算年份，这十二种生肖按顺序每十二年重复一次。这些动物的个性特征都是从古代的传说故事里流传下来的。

How are the characteristics of the 12 animals similar or different from what you know about these animals?

What is your Chinese Zodiac sign? Do you think your personality traits match the descriptions of that animal in the story?

Think of someone whose Zodiac sign you know. How are the person's personality traits similar to the animal's characteristics described in this book?

中国人对这些动物的看法和你的看法一样吗?

你属哪一种生肖呢? 你觉得你的个性和故事里所说的相似吗?

想一想在你所认识的人中, 有谁的个性特征和他所属的生肖特征是一样的呢?



Dear Readers,

Thank you for reading *The Chinese Zodiac: Who Am I?* Allow me to give you a brief introduction about myself. My name is Justin Tsin, and I was born in San Jose, California. My first published book is called *What Would You Imagine?* I was the silver recipient of the 2009 Mom's Choice Award Outstanding Young Author/Illustrator and Children's Picture Book – Bilingual.

I first became interested in origami when I experienced folding at an art fair in 2004. Since then, I have developed a hobby of folding challenging origami figures.

In this book, you might notice the unique background of the scenes. My artwork was inspired by Antonio Gaudí, a Spanish architect, whose style was characterized by using colorful mosaic. For example, the lively and colorful "pig" scene in my book consists of pink, purple, and white crystal-like shapes. If you were wondering how I made the origami animals, see John Montroll's *Mythological Creatures and the Chinese Zodiac in Origami*. The models are extremely difficult for beginners. In fact, the ox, pig, and dragon are the hardest to fold.

I would not be able to make the animals without the amazing origami coaching skills of Linda Tomoka Mihara and the incredible support from my parents. Thank you all for your support!

Thank you again for reading my book. I hope you enjoy it.

Sincerely,

Justin Tsin  
覃正贤



### Art

- ◇ Discuss the history of origami or paper folding.
- ◇ Provide opportunities for children to fold paper into different objects.
- ◇ Provide opportunities for children to write Chinese characters or to use paint brushes to draw the 12 animals of the Chinese Zodiac.
- ◇ Provide opportunities for children to create images of animals based on their interpretation.

### Critical Thinking Skills

- ◇ Compare the meanings or characteristics of the animals in the Chinese culture and other cultures.



### Cultural Competency

- ◇ Understand cultural practices, e.g., compare how the Chinese Zodiac System is similar to or different from the Western astrological calendar.
- ◇ Distinguish between personality traits and animal characteristics.
- ◇ Evaluate how one's personality traits are similar to or different from those described in the story.

### Language

- ◇ Discuss the benefits of knowing more than one language and culture.
- ◇ Explain the fact that the Chinese writing system was in part based on the image of objects.
- ◇ Ask children to use the sentence structures in the story to ask and answer questions using adjectives.



## Connection to Daniel H. Pink's "A Whole New Mind"

1. **Story** – There are stories behind the story of the Chinese Zodiac. One story tells of a child who is passionate about paper folding and eager to share his art work. Another story tells of a mother who supports her son in creating a book that promotes Chinese language and cultural learning and teaching.
2. **Design** – The art work demonstrates a child's interpretation and expression of the Chinese Zodiac which combines origami with the contemporary art style. The book also demonstrates a child's creativity and imagination. Readers can use art to create images or three dimensional figures of the animals of their choice.
3. **Symphony** – Readers are invited to investigate the uniqueness of each animal and to observe the personality traits that are valued in the Chinese culture, which promote the growing appreciation of another culture and diversity.
4. **Play** – Readers are inspired to create their own questions or guessing games on a topic that interests them. Additionally, readers can practice folding animal objects they might choose.
5. **Empathy** – Readers can relate to the challenges of learning a second or third language in an English-speaking country or learning English in a non-English speaking country. Readers can also relate to the joy of creating the art work and the author's sense of accomplishment at seeing the completed book.
6. **Meaning** – This book is a product that symbolizes a shared passion, team work, and labor of love between a child and his mother who is an educator. The story of the author and his mother pursuing their passion is a universal experience that can appeal to children, mothers and educators.

