

Unit 2: Animals People Love and Take Care of as Pets  
 Lesson 2: Animals of the Chinese Zodiac

**Room Environment**

The language classroom should be rich with literacy, with visuals, words, charts, diagrams, timelines, etc., figuratively dripping from the walls. Ideally, a high proportion of these visuals should be created in front of the students' eyes for "brain imprinting" and a "vested interest" in the charts, so the beginning of the year or series will have fewer visuals than the end.

**Standards**

World Language Content Standards (California Department of Education)	Standards for Foreign Language Learning (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages)
<p>Content 1.1 Students address discrete elements of daily life, including animals.</p> <p>Cultures 1.0 Students use appropriate rehearsed cultural situations.</p> <p>Settings 1.0 Students use language in highly predictable common daily settings.</p>	<p>Communication 1.1 Students engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions.</p> <p>Comparisons 2.1 Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the culture studied.</p>

**Objectives**

Students will understand that the Chinese calendar is divided into cycles of 12-years and each year is represented by an animal.

Students understand that each animal of the calendar symbolizes certain character traits.

Students know their own signs within the Chinese zodiac.

**Student Work**

Interpersonal	Presentational	Interpretive
Students can ask others about and share their own signs in the Chinese zodiac.	Students can express their own sign in the Chinese zodiac.	Students recognize 12 Chinese zodiac animals and corresponding characters.

**Domains of Language**

Listening	Speaking	Reading	Writing
Listen to the pronunciation of the word for each zodiac animal.	Pronounce the 12 Chinese zodiac animals.	Recognize the Chinese characters of zodiac animals.	Practice Chinese character writing for the names of the Chinese zodiac animals.

**Evidence of Learning - Assessment**

<u>Informal</u> or Formal (Underline the appropriate form of assessment)
1. Whether students can express their Chinese zodiac signs and their parents' or siblings'. 2. Whether students can recognize Chinese zodiac animals.

**Greetings at the Door**

**Always begin with a smile.** Every student is greeted by the teacher in the target language and is encouraged to respond in the target language, too. These greetings should be charted and kept near the door, so students can refer to the chart to remember how to respond. The chart should indicate at least two settings: common, casual settings and a more formal setting. The chart stays up or is accessible all year and new ideas are added.

Casual Everyday Greetings	Formal, Polite Greetings
你好！  早上好！	你好吗？  我很好。 马马虎虎。 我不好。

**Warm Up with Language Through Repetition-Rhythm-Rhyme**

Repetition of songs, chants, and poems should be a daily routine in the world language classroom. Ideally, the song or chant should be related to the content or cultural aspects being studied, although some that are just for fun will also be useful. Authentic chants, poems, and songs from the home culture of the target language should be used whenever appropriate, although Stage I learners may need to start with simplified chants based on songs or patterns they already know in their home language.

**Preview the Lesson in Primary Language, if Necessary**

Give the big picture and/or bridge to prior knowledge so the students know what to expect in the lesson in the target language. Pre-teach vocabulary, too. Introduce today's **Signal Word**.

Review the previous lesson. Then show the class pictures of animals including Chinese zodiac animals and other animals. Ask students to select the Chinese zodiac animals from all animals.

**Teacher Modeling of Communication Followed by Student's Structured Practice**

Message Functions/Structures	Key Vocabulary/Phrases	Strategies for Oral Practice
In Chinese, verbally share the names of the Chinese zodiac animals.	鼠，牛，虎，兔，龙，蛇，马， 羊，猴，鸡，狗，猪。	Repetition of pronunciation.  Use animal pictures and vocabulary cards.

Message Functions/Structures	Key Vocabulary/Phrases	Strategies for Oral Practice
Describe someone's specific Chinese zodiac sign.	你属什么？  我属狗（鸡，虎，兔……）	Pair students and practice the dialogue.

**Teacher Bridges to the Content Connection or Builds Schema for Students (Direct Instruction: Age and Stage-appropriate)**

- 1) Teacher explains to the students that animals are used as symbols in the Chinese calendar. Teacher asks the students why some animals, such as the giraffe, are not in Chinese zodiacs.
- 2) Teacher shows students the pictures of Chinese zodiac animals and introduces corresponding characters.
- 3) Teacher puts students into 12 groups and each group gets a picture. Teacher pronounces a sound and the group should hold up the picture.
- 4) Teacher introduces the legend of the Chinese zodiac animals and answers questions.
- 5) Teacher shares and models the phrases which express how to ask about an individual's Chinese zodiac sign and how to answer the question.
- 6) Students, in pairs, ask and answer each other's questions regarding the Chinese zodiac.

**Debrief in English**

Debrief in English what was learned in the target language and have students plan what they will teach their parents or siblings for homework. Have a "School-Home Connection" form for parents to document and students to sketch and write what they talked about together. The teacher will have created a prompt for the student to discuss with family members so the words in the target language will be connected to the learning.

Lesson allows focus on which specific connections, similarities, and differences?

- Go over some of the confusing words, such as “属”.
- Answer questions that students might have regarding the lesson.

**Extend the Learning: School-Home Connection**

- Have students find out their family members' Chinese zodiac animals and teach these to their family members.
- Research what the zodiac animals symbolize and whether these qualities relate to the student, friends and family members.

**End with a Good-bye Chant or Song! “See You Next Time!”**

再见。

明天见！

**Instructional Resources & References**

Pictures of Chinese zodiac animals  
 Index cards