

Name: _____

Chinese Fable: Chinese Zodiac

Long ago in China, the Jade Emperor, the almighty Chinese God, decided to have a race. The Jade Emperor was the ruler of the heavens. He announced that he would set up a system that runs in a 12-year cycle. He called it the Zodiac. He offered to hold a contest on his birthday. The first twelve animals of his kingdom to arrive at the finish line would receive the honor of having a year named after them. All the animals were very excited!



Rat was ambitious. It wanted to win the first prize. Yet, it had two problems. The first was about the timing. Because the race would start at the crack of dawn, Rat was afraid that it could not wake up on time. The second was about the route. As the finish line would be directly beyond a swift river, Rat needed to find a way to cross the current. Just when Rat was contemplating a solution, it bumped into its best friend, Cat. After a lengthy discussion, the two animals came up with a brilliant idea. They decided to solicit help from Ox. Rat and Cat figured that Ox - always being an early riser and a good swimmer - could wake them up before sunrise and carry them across the river. With their minds made up, Rat and Cat went to see Ox. Out of kindness, Ox agreed to help. Hence, the three animals formed an alliance. They promised to help each other, so they could share the first prize.

On the day of the race, Ox woke up Rat and Cat and put them on its back. Just when Ox was half way across the river, Rat had a second thought about the plan. It wondered, "Why should I share the glory with Cat? Look at it! It just lies on Ox's back sleeping! What a lazy animal Cat is! Come to think of it, what if Cat decides not to honor the agreement? It runs fast. Surely, it can get to the finish line before I do, once Ox reaches the bank." Eager to win, Rat decided to get rid of Cat. It quietly crept next to Cat and gave it a push. SPLASH! Cat fell into the river. Not knowing how to swim, Cat called out for help. To its horror, Rat pretended not to hear its pleas and urged Ox to keep on moving.

Finally, Ox reached the other side of the river and climbed ashore. As soon as they were on the dry land, Rat jumped from Ox's back and ran ahead toward the finish line. Ox could not believe its eyes! It called out, "Wait for me! I thought we had a pact! And where is Cat?" Rat didn't stop. It kept on charging ahead. Just as it had dreamed, Rat won the contest! The Jade Emperor congratulated Rat and named the first year "Rat." Before long, Ox also reached the finish line and took the second spot. Ox was furious at Rat. It accused Rat of breaking the deal. Rat

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laughed smugly and said, "How naive you are! Why should I - the smartest of all creatures - share the title with Cat and you? It's your own mistake to trust me!" Ox wanted to argue more, but it was not very good at expressing its opinions. Though upset by Rat's deceitful act, Ox decided to drop the matter.

Then, Tiger arrived and settled for the third prize. The Jade Emperor waited patiently for more animals to come. From a distance, he heard a thumping sound and saw Rabbit leaping toward him. He registered Rabbit as the fourth Zodiac animal. Just as he was recording Rabbit in his book, Dragon descended from the sky and took the fifth place. The Jade Emperor wondered how Rabbit crossed the river and why Dragon came so late. Rabbit answered first. It told the Jade Emperor that, thanks to its powerful hind legs, it was able to jump from one stone to another that were scattered across the riverbed. Dragon apologized to the Jade Emperor for being late. It said that, on the way here, it saw people crying and stopped to ask why. People told Dragon that they wanted to grow rice, but there wasn't enough rain. Feeling compassion, Dragon gathered clouds and made rain for them. The Jade Emperor was happy. He praised Rabbit for its quick wit and Dragon for its unselfishness.

Next to reach the finish line was Snake. It beat Horse by a narrow margin.

The Jade Emperor looked out to the river and saw Monkey, Goat, and Rooster standing on a log and working as a team to maneuver their makeshift raft across the swift current. Once ashore, they helped each other to reach the destination. Goat took eighth place, Monkey ninth, and Rooster took tenth.

After a while, no other animals showed up. Then, suddenly, Dog emerged. It told the Jade Emperor that it could have been here earlier, had it not stopped to play in the water.

Now, just one more spot was left in the Chinese Zodiac. Which animal would come next? Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Chicken, Dog, and the Jade Emperor all fixed their eyes on a black dot that gradually drew closer. Aha! It was Pig. Pig told the Jade Emperor that it overslept. It was happy that it secured the last prize!

The Jade Emperor gathered all twelve winners together and congratulated them. Then, all of a sudden, he heard noises coming from the direction of the river. He turned to look what the commotion was about. It was Cat! Soaking wet and gasping, Cat rushed to the Jade Emperor and called out, "I am here! I am here! Did I win?" The Jade Emperor explained to Cat that it was too late. He only needed twelve animals for the Zodiac, and

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unfortunately, Cat was the 13th animal to cross the finish line. Enraged, Cat charged toward Rat and wanted to kill the betrayer. Yet, Rat was faster. It sought refuge by hiding under the Jade Emperor's chair. Seeing this and not wanting to anger the Jade Emperor, Cat refrained from its pursuit. It vowed that Rat would now be its archenemy. From that point on even until today, Rat always tries to stay clear of Cat!

Chinese Fable: Chinese Zodiac

Questions

- _____ 1. How many animals does the Chinese Zodiac have?
- A. thirteen
 - B. seven
 - C. twenty
 - D. twelve
- _____ 2. Which three animals teamed up to cross the river with a log?
- A. Dragon, Tiger, and Rabbit
 - B. Rat, Cat, and Ox
 - C. Pig, Dog, and Horse
 - D. Rooster, Monkey, and Goat
- _____ 3. Why did Dragon come late?
- A. It stopped on the way to make rain.
 - B. It stopped on the way to burn a forest.
 - C. It stopped on the way to kidnap a princess.
 - D. It stopped on the way to put out a fire.
- _____ 4. Jade Emperor was disgusted by Rat's cheating act, so he disqualified Rat and gave the first prize to Cat.
- A. true
 - B. false
- _____ 5. Rabbit crossed the river by hopping from one stone to another that were scattered across the riverbed.
- A. false
 - B. true
- _____ 6. Which of the following animals represents the seventh year of the Chinese Zodiac?
- A. Pig
 - B. Monkey
 - C. Rabbit
 - D. Horse

How much is this?



Circle the fifth letter.

6, R, 9, A, 8, D, F, X, 9, 1,
2, B, 8, Z, 9, R, A

Chinese New Year

How much is this?



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Xiu Mei's Dragon

Xiu Mei was very happy. Today she would put her paper dragon on the door. It would be on the door for the Chinese New Year.

Xiu Mei and her family had cleaned their house inside and outside. They had swept. They had dusted. They had made everything shine. It was so clean now.

Yesterday Xiu Mei's father had painted their doors and windows bright red. Today the family would put pictures on the doors and windows. They would put wise sayings on the doors and windows. Xiu Mei would put her paper dragon on the door.

Xiu Mei was very proud of her dragon. She had worked very hard on it. It was red. It had blue eyes. It had a long, green tail. It had gold horns.

Finally it was time to put the pictures and sayings on the doors and windows. Xiu Mei gave her dragon to her father. He put it up on the door. It was right where Xiu Mei could see it.

Uh-oh!

The dragon was too long. Its tail would not fit on the door.

What could Xiu Mei do?

"You can cut off its tail," her brother said.

"Please, no," Xiu Mei said. "Its tail is so pretty."

"You can cut off its head," her sister said.

"Please, no," Xiu Mei said. "Its head is so pretty."



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"Maybe you can cut out the middle. You can put the ends back together," her mother said.

"Please, no," Xiu Mei said. "I worked so hard on it."

Xiu Mei wanted to cry.

"Do not cry, Little One," Xiu Mei's grandmother said. "Your dragon will go on the door."

She took Xiu Mei's dragon. She turned it in her hands. She looked at it just so.

"Ah," she said. "Just so."

She took a brush in her hand. She dipped it in paint. She drew some clouds. She painted a bright sun. She cut them out. She put them very high on the door.

"Now, Xiu Mei, it is time for your dragon," her grandmother said.

She put Xiu Mei's dragon on the door. He was standing on his back feet. He was looking up into the sky. His long, beautiful tail went down the door.

"Oh, Grandmother, he is looking up for good luck," Xiu Mei said. "You are the very best grandmother. I have the best family in the whole world!"

Xiu Mei's mother and father smiled. Her brother and sister smiled. Her grandmother smiled, too. Everyone was happy.

That night Xiu Mei's family had a big meal together. They ate so much! They laughed and talked. They played games.

"Such a good day," Xiu Mei's grandmother said. "It is good to have such a loving family."

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Xiu Mei did not hear her grandmother. She was fast asleep. She was dreaming about a dragon. The dragon had a long, green tail and gold horns.

Xiu Mei's Dragon

Questions

- _____ 1. What happened first?
 - A. Xiu Mei made a dragon from paper.
 - B. Xiu Mei's family had a big meal together.
 - C. Xiu Mei's grandmother painted clouds.
 - D. Xiu Mei went to sleep.

- _____ 2. What holiday was Xiu Mei's family celebrating?
 - A. Chinese New Year
 - B. Valentine's Day
 - C. Christmas
 - D. Kwanzaa

- _____ 3. What color was the dragon's tail?
 - A. blue
 - B. yellow
 - C. green
 - D. red

- _____ 4. What color did Xiu Mei's father paint the doors and windows?
 - A. red
 - B. yellow
 - C. blue
 - D. green

- _____ 5. What was wrong with Xiu Mei's dragon?
 - A. It fell apart.
 - B. It did not fit on the door at first.
 - C. It was a bad color.
 - D. It looked silly.

- _____ 6. Who wanted to cut off the dragon's tail?
 - A. Xiu Mei's mother
 - B. Xiu Mei's brother
 - C. Xiu Mei's father
 - D. Xiu Mei's grandmother

- _____ 7. Xiu Mei said that she had the best
 - A. door
 - B. family
 - C. dragon
 - D. teacher

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8. What did Xiu Mei do after the big meal?

- A. She took her dragon off the door.
- B. She went for a long walk.
- C. She sang to her grandmother.
- D. She went to sleep.

8, 10, _____, 14, 16, 18, 20,
22, 24

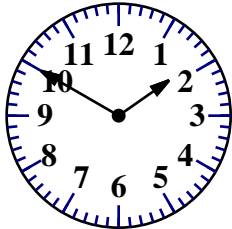
19, 20, _____, _____, _____, 24

Which number should
replace the first blank?

Circle the third number.

2, R, D, 1, A, 8, 7, B, 8, 1,
F, Z, X, D, 4, 3, 2, B

What time is it?



____:____

Emma is reading book 3 of
the My Club series. There
are 9 books in the series.
After she finishes book 3,
how many more books will
she read to finish the
series?

What is ten more than 56?

What is ten less than 58?

How many?



B, F, J, _____, R, V, Z

$$6 + 3 = \underline{\quad}$$

$$7 + 3 = \underline{\quad}$$

57, _____, _____, 60, 61,

Which number should
replace the first blank?

How many?



☐ Imagine a dragon. Draw the dragon. Write about it.

☐ What things does your family do together?

☐ Do you think it is important for families to work together? Why?

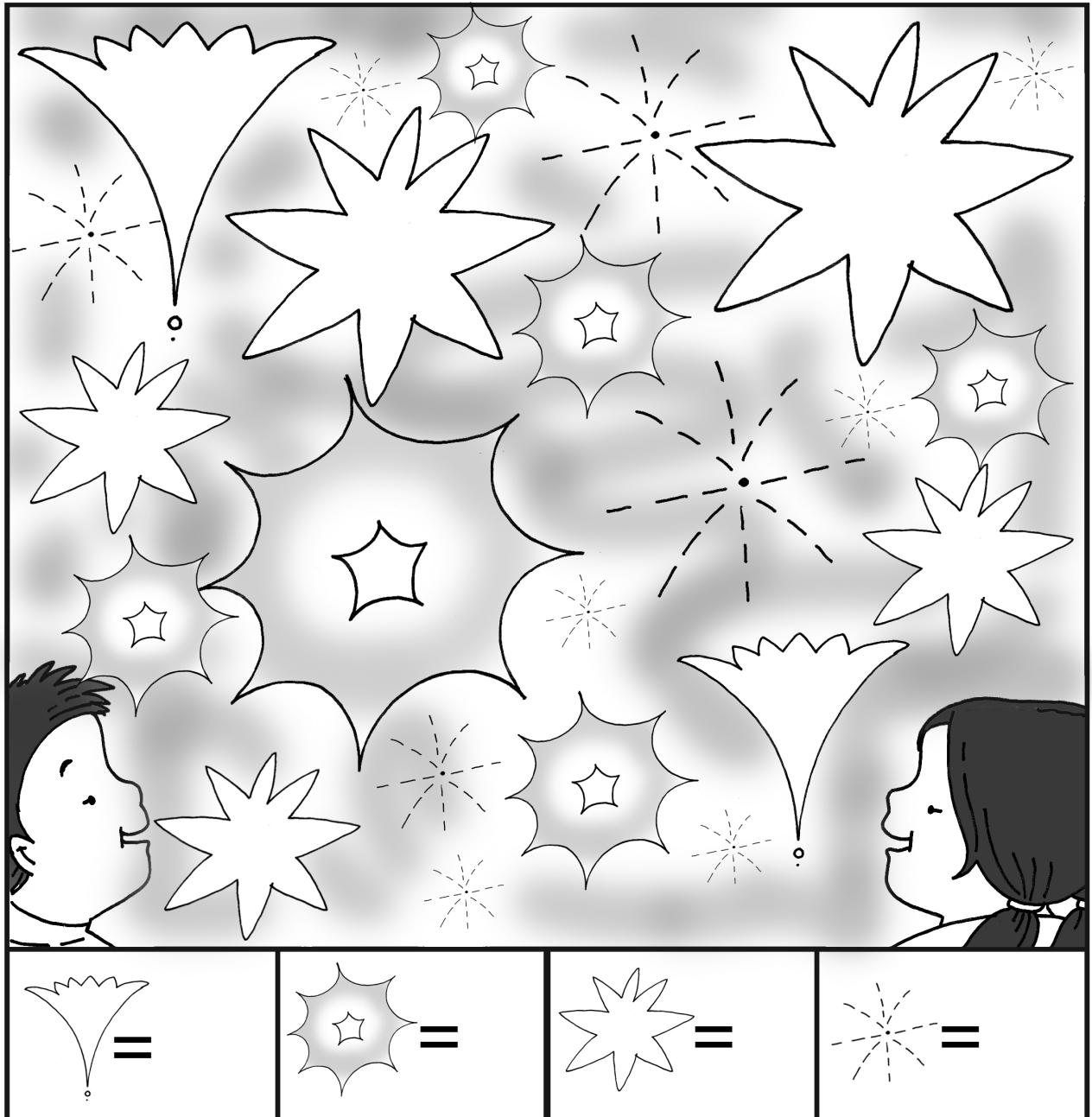
☐ Write about your grandmother.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Name: _____

Fireworks Fun

Look at these beautiful Chinese New Year fireworks!
Count how many there are of each kind. Write those
numbers by the pictures in the boxes below.

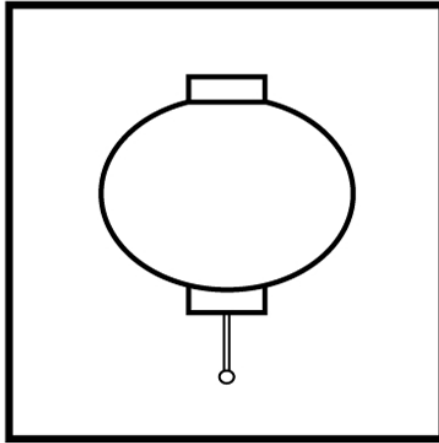
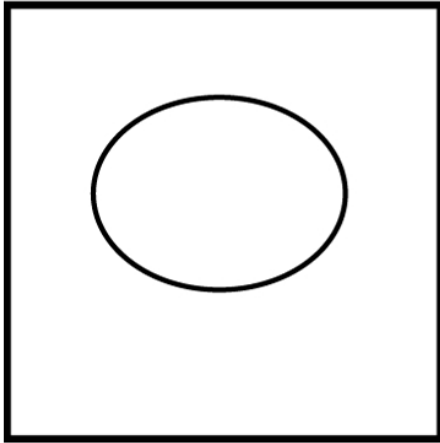


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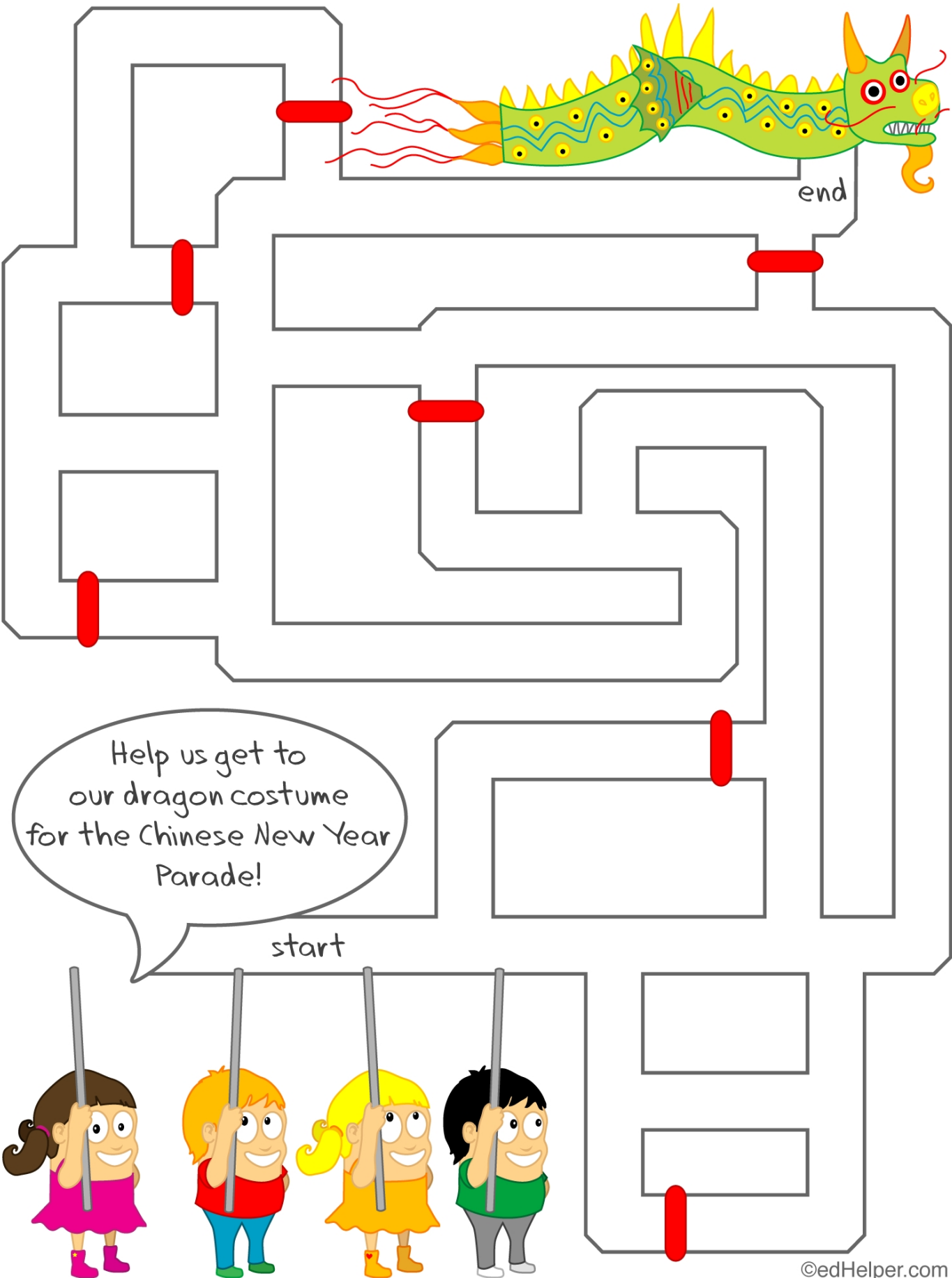
Name: _____

Chinese New Year

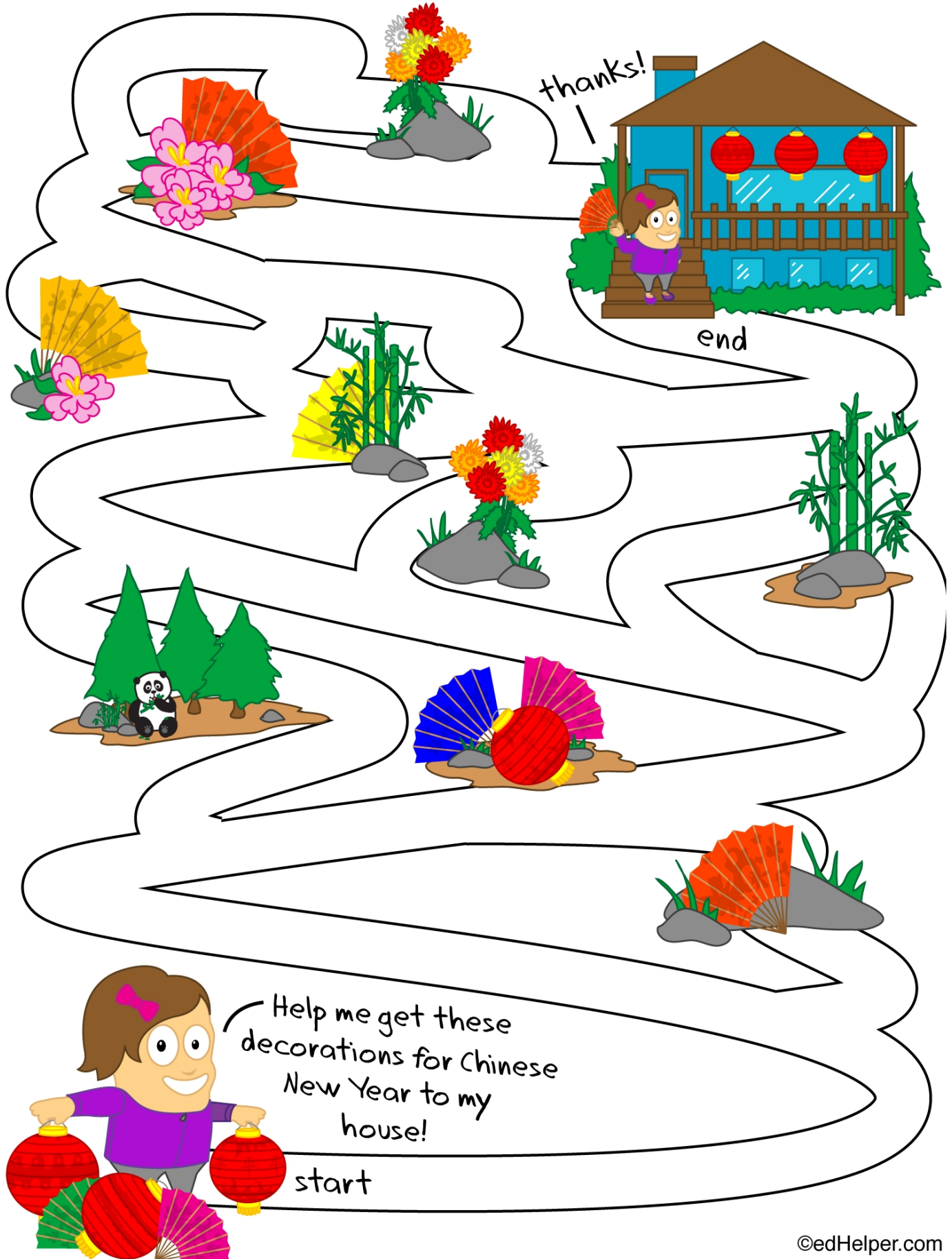
Follow the steps to draw the lantern



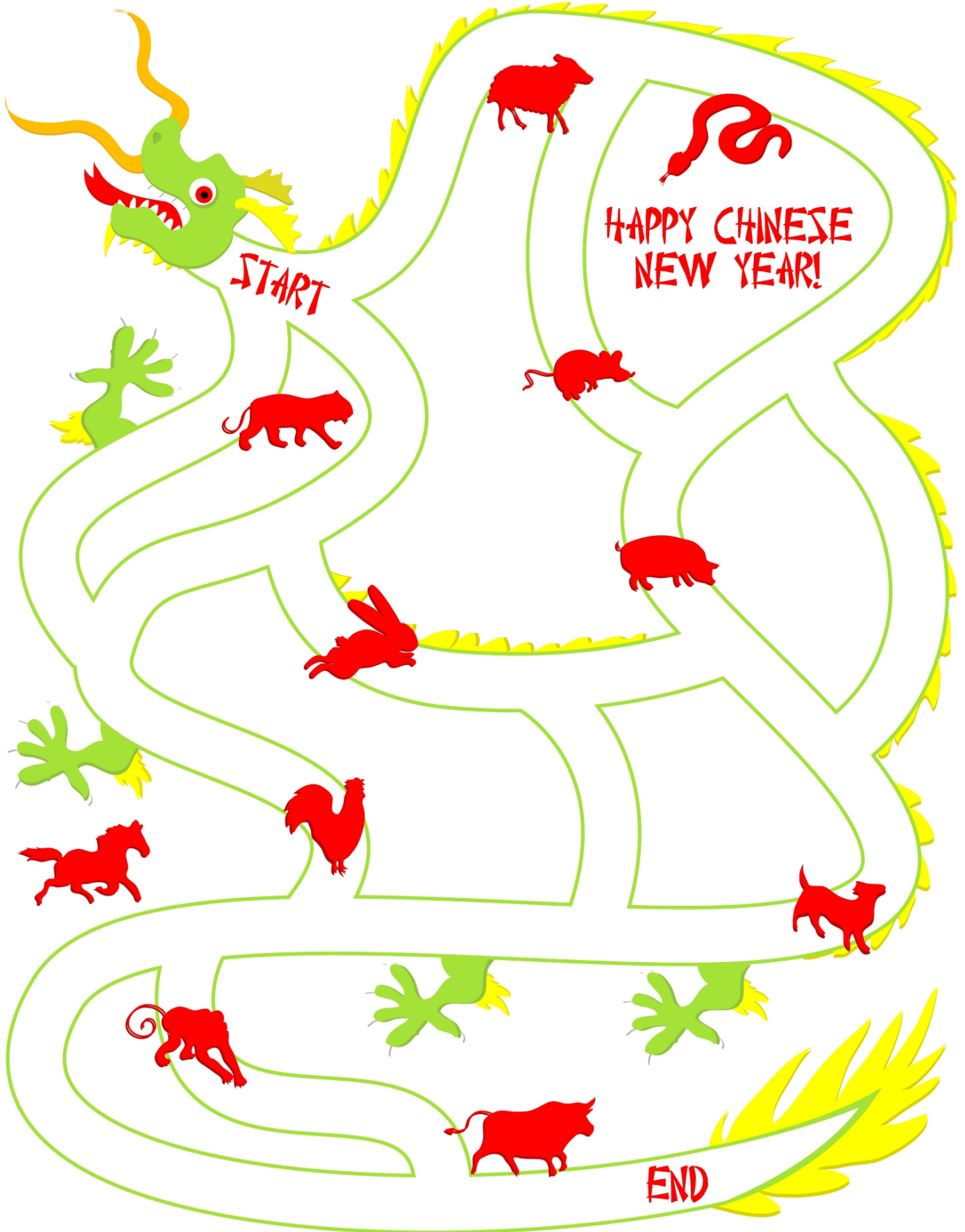
Name: _____



Name: _____



Name: _____

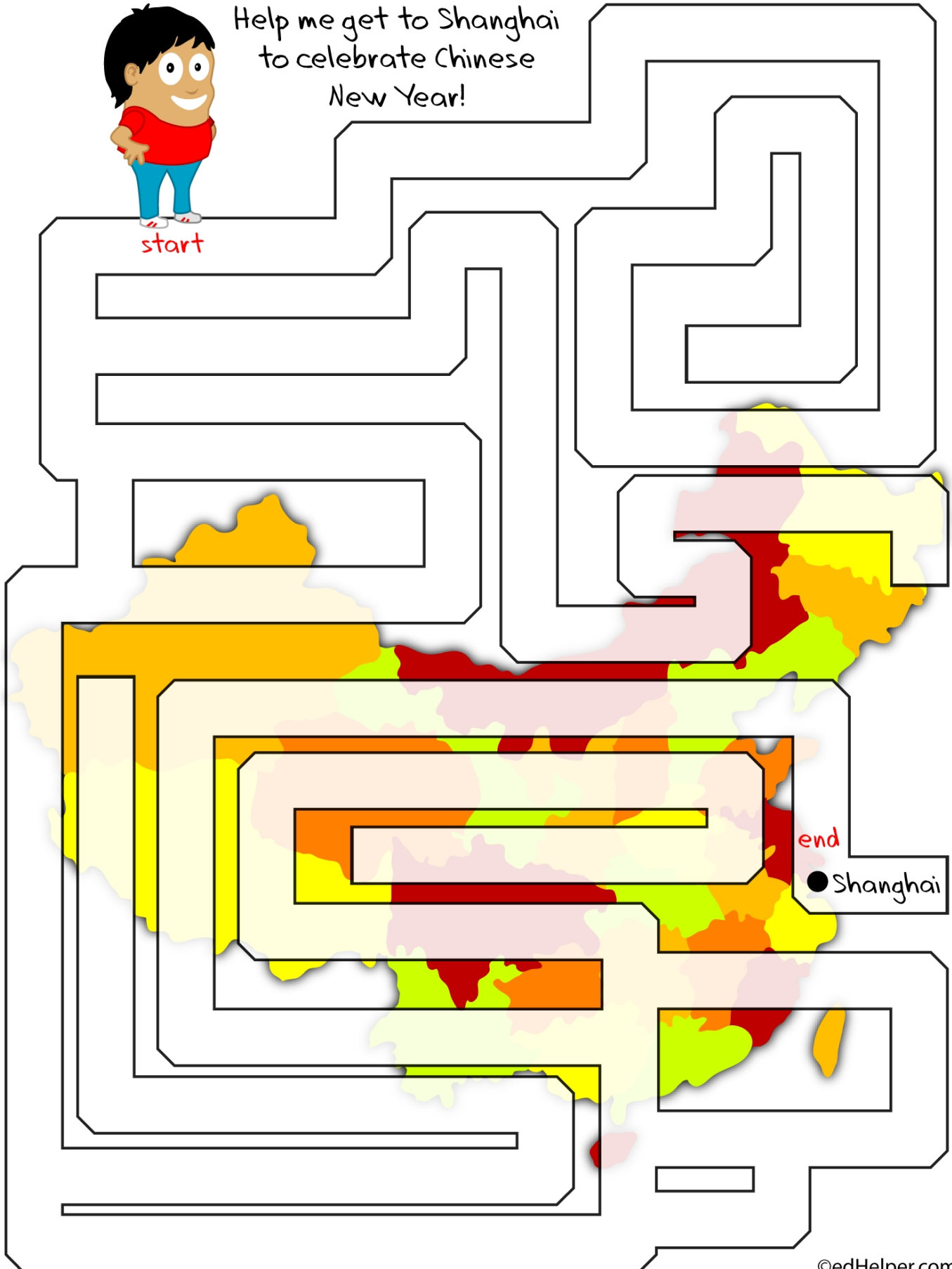


Name: _____



Help me get to Shanghai
to celebrate Chinese
New Year!

start



end

● Shanghai

Name: _____

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Color By Number

$2+3=$ _____ 

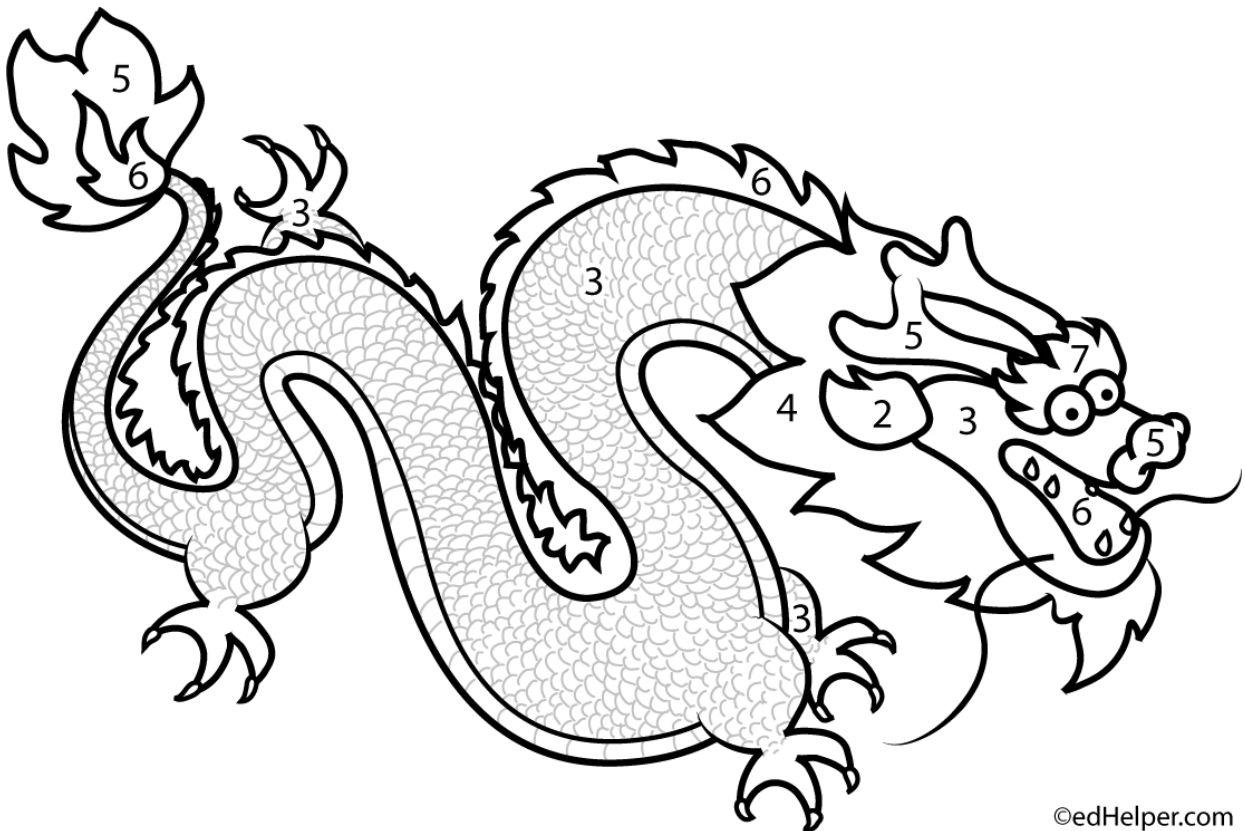
$1+1=$ _____ 

$3+3=$ _____ 

$2+1=$ _____ 

$2+5=$ _____ 

$3+1=$ _____ 



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Chinese New Year

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WHAT'S WRONG?

Describe the things that are wrong in the picture:

Name: _____

★ 2024 ★

1939
1951
1963
1975
1987
1999
2011



RABBIT

1938
1950
1962
1974
1986
1998
2010



TIGER

1937
1949
1961
1973
1985
1997
2009



OX

1936
1948
1960
1972
1984
1996
2008



RAT

1947
1959
1971
1983
1995
2007
2019



PIG

1946
1958
1970
1982
1994
2006
2018

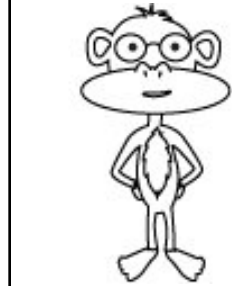


DOG



ROOSTER

1945
1957
1969
1981
1993
2005
2017



MONKEY

1940
1952
1964
1976
1988
2000
2012
2024
2036

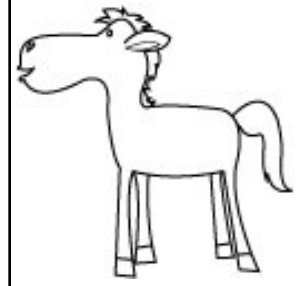


DRAGON



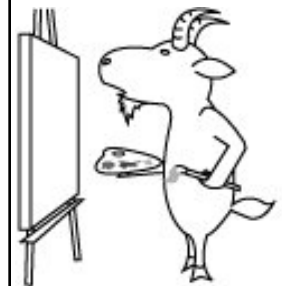
SNAKE

1941
1953
1965
1977
1989
2001
2013



HORSE

1942
1954
1966
1978
1990
2002
2014



SHEEP

1943
1955
1967
1979
1991
2003
2015

What year will it once again be the
year of the dragon? _____

What is next year's animal?

Draw your favorite animal.

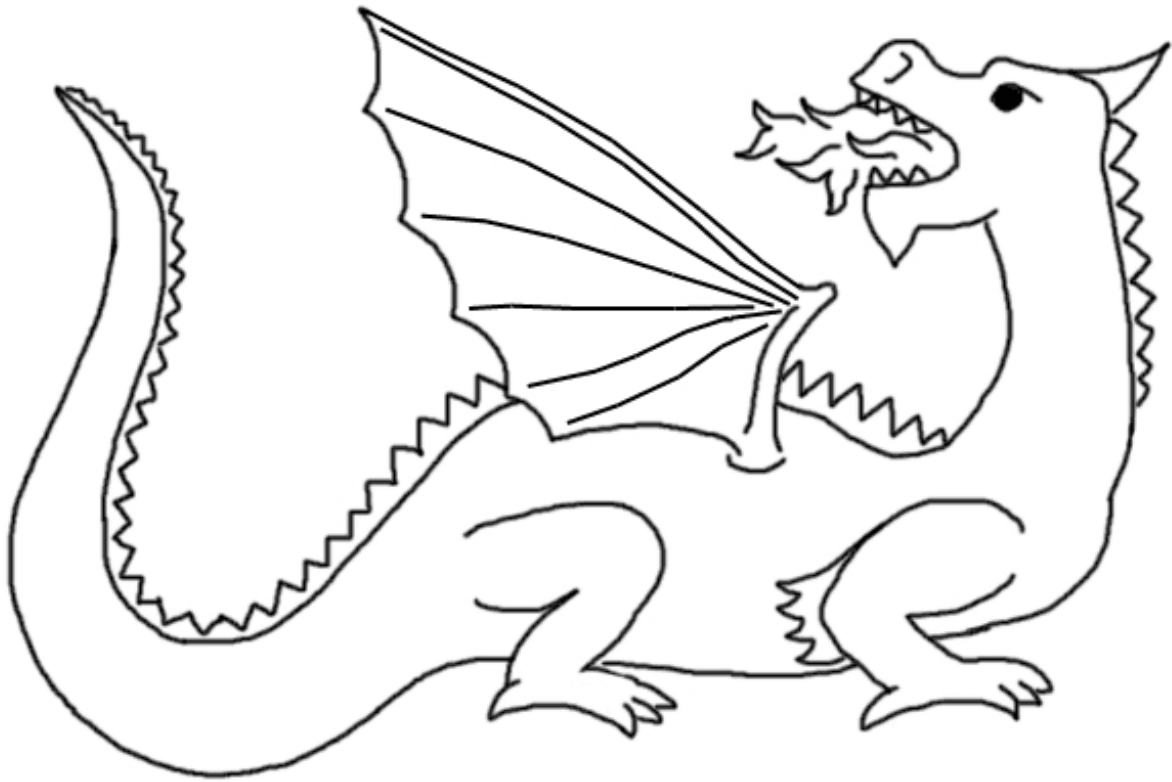
Name: _____

The Dragon



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Name: _____



Dragons are mythical creatures.
This means they are not real.
These large and mythical serpents
Can breathe fire through jaws of
steel.

Name: _____



A dragon can be quite scary.
In China they're thought of as good.
In other parts of the world though,
A dragon might be misunderstood.

Name: _____



Dragons have large, scaly bodies.
Some have wings and a fiery breath.
They are said to be fierce and
vicious,
And could scare us all half to death!

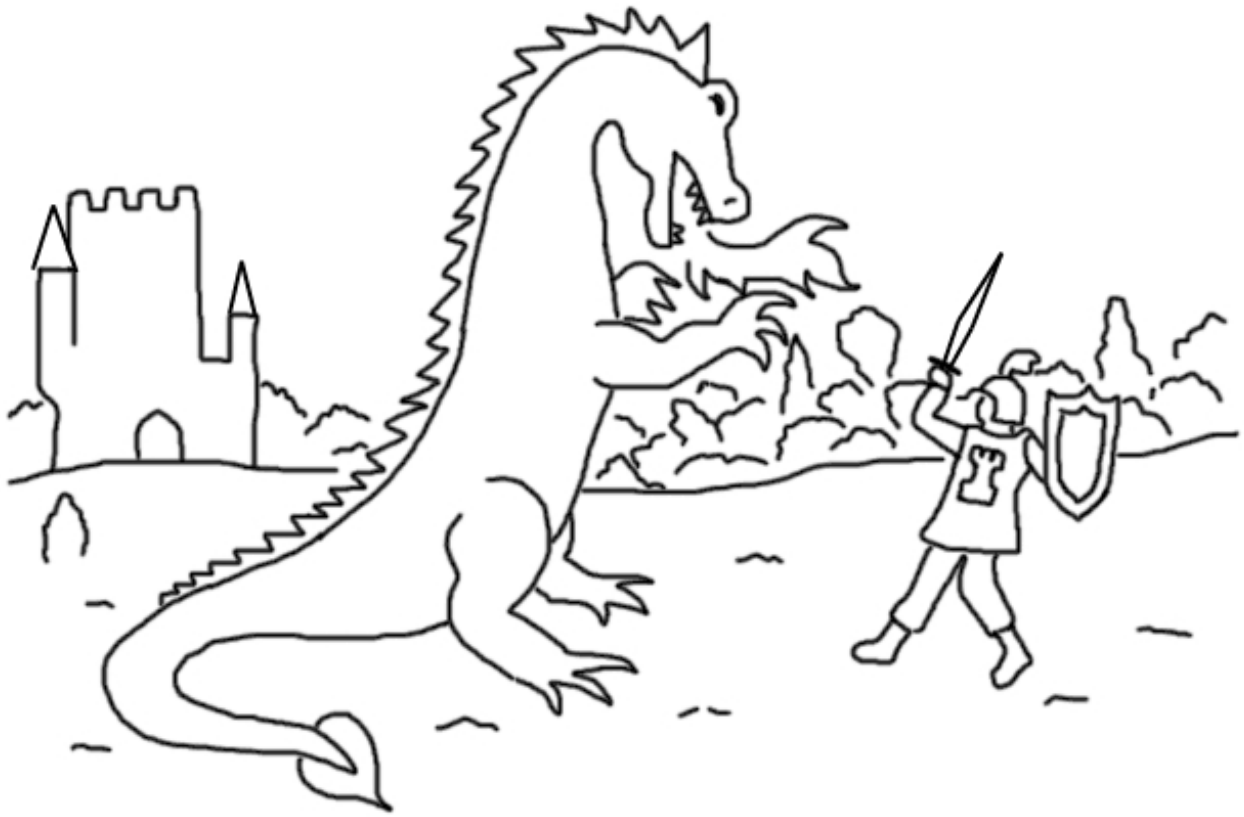
Name: _____



Some dragons have magical powers.
People say they bring good luck and
good health.

In China, the dragon means royalty.
In Indonesia, the dragon means
wealth.

Name: _____



Way back in the Middle Ages,
A dragon was something to be
feared.

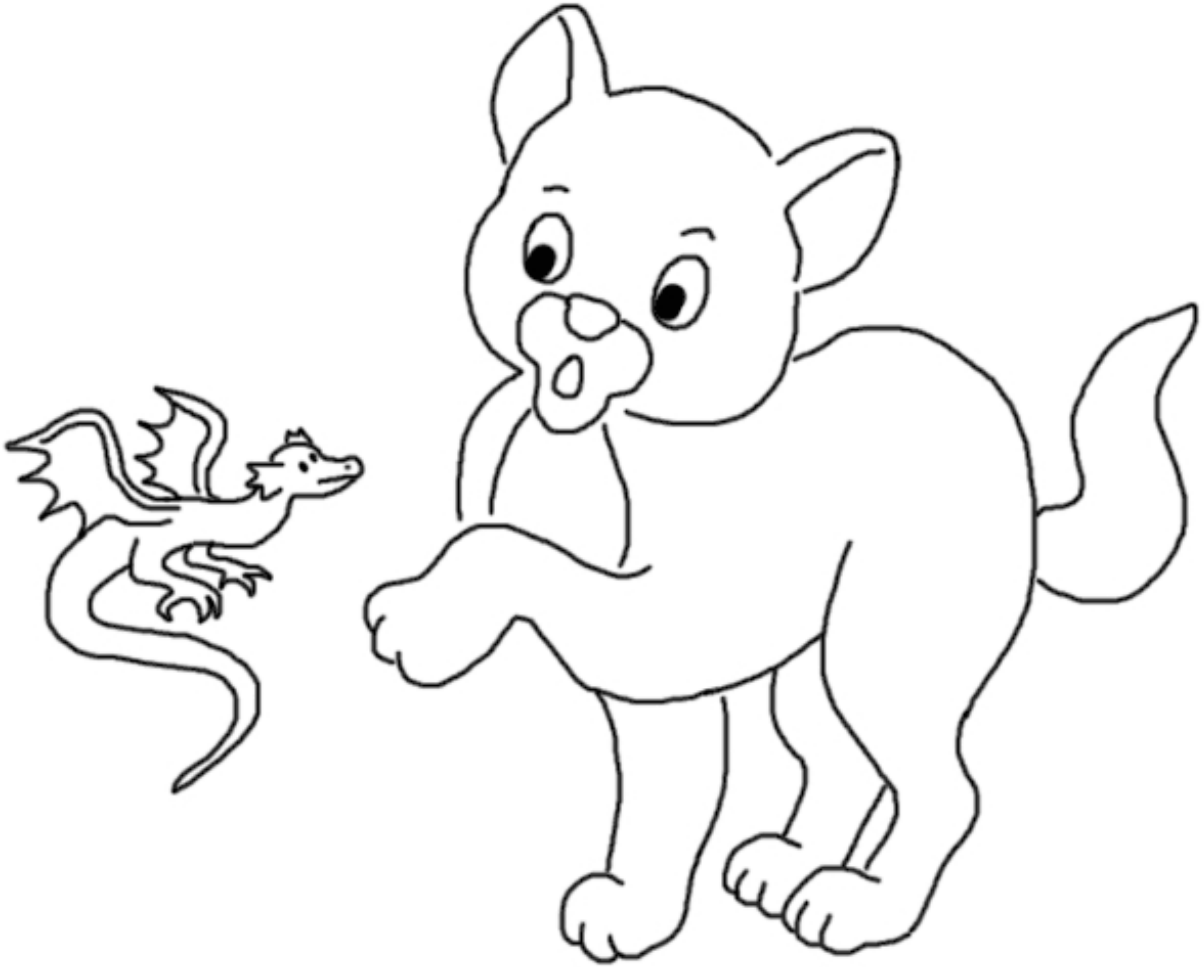
They were thought to cause
people's misfortune,
And their death was a thing people
cheered.

Name: _____



The Year of the Dragon in China
Is the zodiac sign number five.
If you were born in the Year of the
Dragon,
You'd be born with great strength
and drive.

Name: _____



Dragons are magical creatures
That appear in some fanciful tales.
Dragons can be as big as a city,
Or as small and as tiny as snails.

Name: _____



There are Komodo dragons and
dragonflies,
But neither of them can breathe
fire.
So if you ever want to see a dragon
fly
A good imagination it will require.



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puzzles!





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