

RUDE RATSNATCHES VICTORY!

Jade Emperor told all the animals in the land to race in a river to claim a place in the Chinese Zodiac Calendar.

Reported by Faith Larkin

At sunrise, beside the Mekong River, the animals across the land were called to a breath-taking race. Emperor Jade, the organiser of the exciting event, told them they had to race in order to get a place in the Chinese Zodiac Calendar; this was a new way to tell time.

At about 9:30am, animals from across the land began to gather at the Mekong River. While some were stretching to get ready, others were trying to find the safest route to cross. Their challenge was to cross the mighty Mekong River. This race would be quite hard as most animals were unable to swim. On the third chime of the bell they set off and started brainstorming ideas. The first animals to realise they could not cross and needed help was cat and rat. They asked Ox

for help and he agreed so they hopped on Ox's back and they were almost at the end when Rat pushed Cat into the rough waters of the Mekong River. Due to this, Rat came first and Ox came second. Soon tiger came in third place.

Even though Dragon could have come first due to his ability to fly, he decided to help others instead. Farmers claimed he was making rain for the hungry crops so he ended up in fifth place.

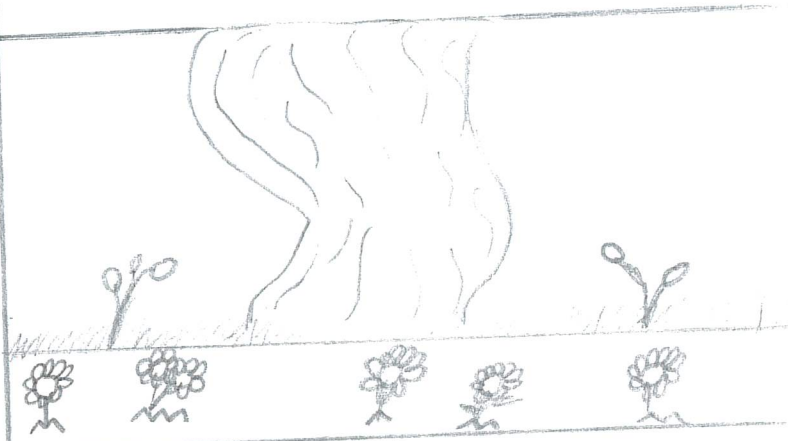
Reporters have claimed that Rat was not the only troublesome animal as snake tripped up horse when he was about to finish the race. This left poor horse in seventh place and snake in sixth because of various

muddy puddles along the way Pig stopped for a little Snooze which was quite a long nap. Because she took so long she came in twelfth. The race ended and the zodiac calendar officially started.

As the race ended we was able to hear from Cat: "I am very angry that rat pushed me off when he knew I could not swim! We had been best friends since forever!" exclaimed cat angrily "I will get my revenge!"

We was also able to hear from Ox. Ox promised he would say no to helping a rat next time

Even though some friendships came to an end, some were made. Goat, Monkey and Rooster have made an unbreakable bond after helping each other by building a raft. Their teamwork made them have a extraordinary bond. Due to Emperor Jades idea we now know how to measure time once and for all. People across China have gathered to celebrate the first proper year



This is an image of the Mekong River.