**What to do today**

*IMPORTANT! Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and with any weblinks or use of the Internet required.*

**1. It’s reading time!**

Re-read *The Race Across the River* by Ruth Merttens & Anne Holm Petersen.

* Say which animals feature in the story.

**2. Reading animals’ names**

* Look at the animal names listed in *The Jade Emperor’s Zoo*.
* Use *My Best* *Reading Strategies* to help read new and tricky words.
* Highlight only the names of the animals that are in the story.
* Check by re-reading the story if you are not sure you have got them all.

**3. Sequencing events from *The Race Across the River***

Which animal won the race? Who was second? And third?

* Use the *Race Result Chart* to record the order the animals came in in the race. The first one has been done for you.
* Use a descriptive word for each animal (the tiny rat, the huge ox, etc.).
* Look at *The Emperor’s Twelve Animals* if you need to make sure you got the order right.

**Now try these Fun-Time Extras**

* Think up an alternative set of animals that you would put in the story: the Year of the Hamster, the Year of the Blackbird, etc.
* Go to <https://www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/chinese-zodiac/> and discover which animal is linked to the year you were born.

**The Jade Emperor’s Zoo**

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| --- |
| giraffe elephant ox cat crocodile horse  rat dragon unicorn horse eagle blackbird tiger  monkey caterpillar cat ostrich hippo rooster squirrel  pig rabbit hamstersnake mouse goat dog |

**My Best Reading Strategies**

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|  |
| --- |
| **Slowly sound out and blend the letters**  c a t e r p i l l a r |
| **Break longer words up into syllables**  ca – ter – pill – ar |
| **Look for smaller words you know that are hidden inside the bigger word**  caterpillar |
| **Think if the word makes sense**  A caterpillar is a kind of animal. Yes! It makes sense in a list of animals. |

**Race Result Chart**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Use your best handwriting to write the animals’ names and the numbers 1 to 12. * At the bottom of the page, write a sentence about the animal which is your favourite. | **Macintosh HD:Users:obrienjim:Desktop:Screen Shot 2020-04-16 at 15.14.18.png** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Number* | *Picture* | *Name* |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | **Macintosh HD:Users:obrienjim:Desktop:Screen Shot 2020-04-16 at 15.16.27.png** | *the crafty rat* |
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**The Emperor’s Twelve Animals**

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|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Number* | *Animal* |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | rat |
| 2 | ox |
| 3 | tiger |
| 4 | rabbit |
| 5 | dragon |
| 6 | snake |
| 7 | horse |
| 8 | goat |
| 9 | monkey |
| 10 | rooster |
| 11 | dog |
| 12 | pig |

**Alternative Animals Zodiac**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Number* | *Animal* |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 |  |
| 2 |  |
| 3 |  |
| 4 |  |
| 5 |  |
| 6 |  |
| 7 |  |
| 8 |  |
| 9 |  |
| 10 |  |
| 11 |  |
| 12 |  |