**The Great Race**

How did people count the years in the old days? Listen to a story about the Chinese Zodiac to find out.

(Video link: <https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/short-stories/the-great-race>)

**Teacher’s Notes / Lesson Plan**

* The main activity is based on a narrative text (traditional story/myth) explaining how the twelve animals of the Chinese Zodiac were chosen. It fits into the module“*We Love Hong Kong*”.
* Language items/structures:
* Simple past tense to describe activities or events in a story
* Simple future tense to make promises
* Vocabulary items: e.g. rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog, pig; ordinal numbers 1st – 12th

**Warm-up**

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| **Duration** | 5 minutes |
| **Aim** | * To introduce some key vocabulary items |
| **Teaching Steps** | 1. Display pictures and names of the twelve animals of the Chinese Zodiac on the board. 2. Invite students to come up and match the words and pictures. 3. Ask students to say the words aloud. Listen for any pronunciation errors and correct them. |

**Main Activity**

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| **Duration** | 10 minutes |
| **Aims** | * To activate students’ prior knowledge * To develop students’ ability to pronounce words correctly * To develop students’ ability to listen for the gist or main ideas |
| **Teaching Steps** | 1. Ask students if they know the myths about choosing the Chinese Zodiac. 2. Ask them about the order of the Chinese Zodiac. Write their guesses on the board. Have students practise saying the ordinal numbers. Listen for and correct pronunciation errors. 3. Play the video and stop to check whether students understand why the Jade Emperor arranged the race (*to keep track of time*). 4. Ask students to start the race by shouting “Ready, steady, GO!” before playing the second part of the video. 5. Go back to the list of animals suggested by students and check to see if their guesses are correct. 6. Ask students to complete the worksheet, which checks and consolidates their understanding of the story, and the meaning and spelling of the key vocabulary items. Play the video again if necessary. |