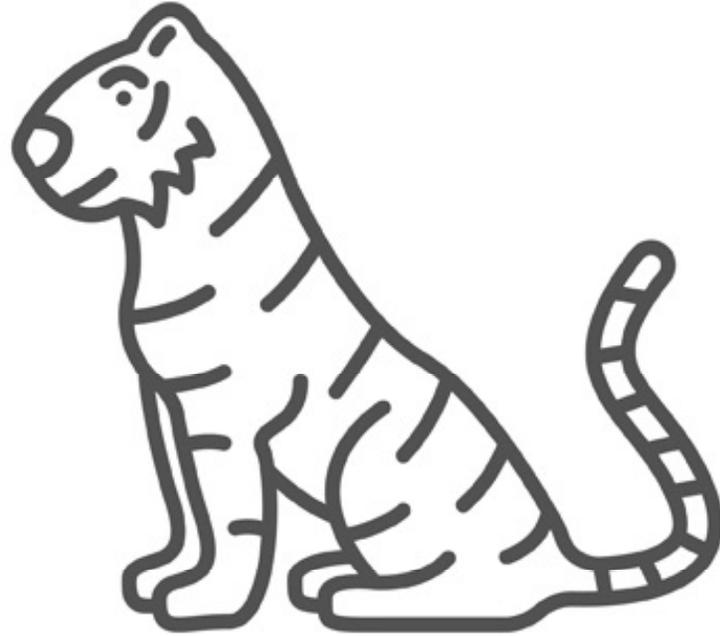


# Chinese Zodiac Ornament



If you spend much time in Chinese restaurants, you've no doubt seen placemats with the signs of the Chinese zodiac. Each year in a 12-year cycle is represented by a particular animal. All children born in a particular year will share traits with the year's animal.

Creating a needlepoint project using one of these animals is a great way to celebrate Chinese New Year, which is usually in February.

Here's a table of the animals and the years associated with them.

ANIMAL	YEARS
dog	1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018, 2030, 2042
dragon	1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012, 2024, 2036
goat	
horse	1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990,

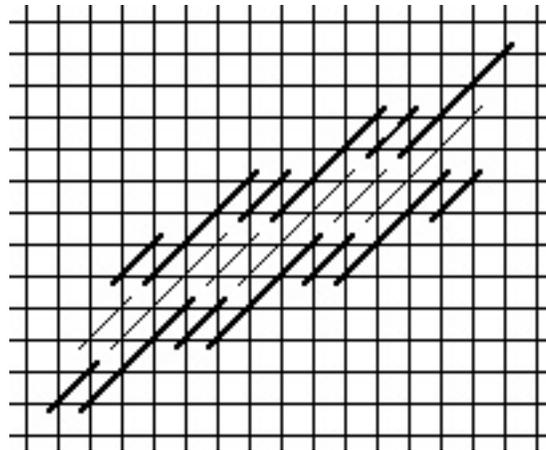
	2002, 2014, 2026, 2038
monkey	1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016, 2028, 2040
rabbit	1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011, 2023, 2035
rat	1936, 1942, 1960, 1984, 1996, 2008, 2020, 2032
rooster	1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017, 2029, 2041
snake	1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013, 2025, 2037
tiger	1968, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010, 2022, 2034
ox	1937, 949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021, 2033
pig	1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019, 2031, 2043

To make your Chinese zodiac design, pick your animal from the outline library (<http://colorfulneedlepoint.com/outline-library/>). Enlarge it so it will fit comfortably in a 4" circle and print it out.

Mark a 4" circle on 18-mesh canvas, center the animal under it and trace the outline of the animal.

Stitch your animal. Stitch the outline in **Tent** using black silk or cotton floss. Fill in the rest of the animal in any stitch you like.

Red is a traditional; color for Chinese New Year. Give your design a red background in **Serenissima**, next page, using red Planet Earth Silk, Pepperpot Silk, or Vineyard Silk.



Finish in a self-finishing round ornament, preferably gold in color (another traditional color for Chinese New Year. I don't have a stitched model for you because I can't decide what animal to stitch.

From Today.com, here are the personality traits associated with each animal:

**RAT:** Quick-witted, resourceful, versatile, kind, private, frugal, critical

**OX:** Diligent, dependable, strong, determined, patient, materialistic, stubborn

**Tiger:** Brave, confident, competitive, magnetic, idealistic, arrogant

**RABBIT:** Quiet, elegant, kind, responsible, sensitive, artistic, romantic

**DRAGON:** Confident, intelligent, enthusiastic, outspoken, energetic, impatient

**SNAKE:** Enigmatic, intelligent, wise, curious, anxious, calculating

**HORSE:** Animated, active, energetic, amusing, enthusiastic, independent

**GOAT:** Calm, gentle, sympathetic, easygoing, creative, cheerful,  
disorganized

**MONKEY;** Sharp, smart, curious, entertaining, sociable, intelligent,  
optimistic

**Rooster:** Observant, hardworking, courageous, adventurous, funny,  
loyal

**DOG:** Helpful, honest, unselfish, prudent, trustworthy, timid

**PIG:** Compassionate, generous, diligent, caring, smart, outgoing