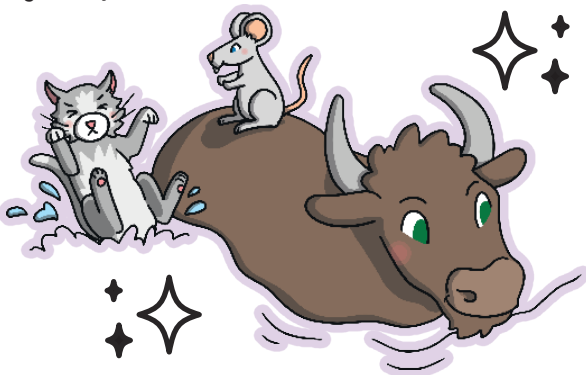


## How the Rat Won the Race

7 There are many different versions of the  
14 story that explains how the zodiac animals  
16 were chosen.

24 Most versions tell of how the animals raced  
33 across a river and that the first 12 animals  
41 to cross would have a year named after  
49 them. Here is one version of the story.

58 The rat and cat rode on the ox's back  
64 because they were not good swimmers.  
72 When they were almost at the other side,  
80 the sneaky rat pushed the cat into the  
88 water. The rat jumped onto the bank to  
90 finish first  
93 and so the  
95 first year  
97 was named  
99 after them.



## Questions



1. How many animals would have a year named after them? Tick one.

- ☐ 14  
☐ 12  
☐ 13



2. Find and copy the adjective that is used to describe the rat.

\_\_\_\_\_



3. How do you think the ox felt about the rat winning the race?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



4. Do you think the cat and rat were still good friends after the race?

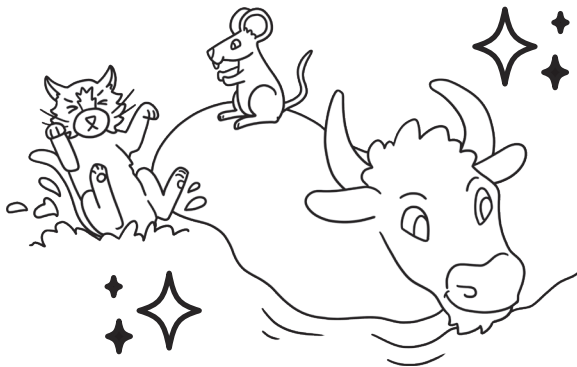
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## Answers



1. How many animals would have a year named after them? Tick one.

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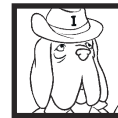
☒ 12

☐ 13



2. Find and copy the adjective that is used to describe the rat.

**sneaky**



3. How do you think the ox felt about the rat winning the race?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the ox would have been cross that the rat won after he had helped it across the river.**



4. Do you think the cat and rat were still good friends after the race?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the cat would have been upset with the rat for pushing him into the water so they were no longer friends.**