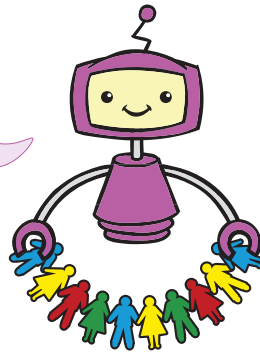


The story of the zodiac

Did you know that Anna and Peter were born in the year of the pig, or the wild boar? Anna does seem typical of someone born in that year, but I would have thought Peter was more like a rooster or a cat. Oh, that's right! The cat didn't make it into the zodiac. Do you know the story, and how it relates to the ancient Chinese calendar? Let's find out ...



LINKS TO:

Stage 3, Module 6

Learning Object 4: *What a year!*

PRIOR LEARNING:

Stage 2

Module 12 Work Sheet 1: *The daring adventures of Fantastic Zak*

Stage 3

Module 12 Work Sheet 4: *I love the spotlight*

1 Are you a rat?

Has anyone ever asked if you were born in the year of the rat? Throughout the world, many people are familiar with the Chinese zodiac, and in particular with the idea that the year you are born in influences your character.

The practice of counting time in 12-year cycles, with each year named after an animal, originated more than 2000 years ago in Asia. As Buddhism spread, so did the popularity of the zodiac. Versions of this system are now found in China, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and indeed, in many countries around the world that are home to people from these ethnic backgrounds.

The earliest records of the Chinese zodiac date back to around 2600 BC, when Chinese astronomers developed a calendar based on the movements of the moon and the sun. The purpose was to provide a guide to the best times for planting and harvesting crops, and for other seasonal activities.

Unlike most calendars, the Chinese calendar did not count years in an infinite sequence. Instead, years had names that were repeated every 60 years. Within each 60-year cycle, every year was given a name consisting of two separate components. The first component was one of the 10 'heavenly stems', and the second component was one of the 12 'earthly branches'. The 10 heavenly stems were expressed as numbers, and the earthly branches were expressed using 12 animal names.

One drawback of this calendar was that it was too scientific and complicated for ordinary people to follow. Eventually, the calendar was simplified to a 12-year cycle of 'earthly stems', and folktales were developed as a way of remembering the order in which the years passed.

Associating stories about the 12 animals to the 'earthly branches' made it easier for people to count the years, and to keep track of their age. Some people believe that the characteristics of the animal associated with the year in which you were born influences your personality.

In order, the 12 animals in the Chinese zodiac calendar are the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and the pig.

What time is it?

The 12 'earthly branches' provided one way for the Chinese to calculate time. This system was based on Chinese astronomers' observations of the orbit of Jupiter. Chinese astronomers divided the celestial circle into 12 sections to follow the orbit of Jupiter. From their observations, they calculated that it took 11.86 years for Jupiter to orbit the sun. This figure was later rounded up to 12 years, and became the basis of the 12-year calendar.

2 As time goes by

The Gregorian calendar or *Kalender Masehi* is the calendar that is commonly used in Indonesia now. However, it is not the only calendar that is used. There are several others that are based either on the solar or lunar movements, although these calendars are normally used for religious reasons, and other things such as selecting a 'good day' to do anything from deciding when to fish, to when to hold a wedding, and to finding out whether two people are a suitable match, based on their birthdays.

The Islamic calendar or *Kalender Hijriah* is a calendar used by Muslims in Indonesia to determine dates or months connected to certain times for worship or other important occasions. It is called *Hijriah* because the calendar started in the year that the Prophet Muhammad *hijrah* or 'moved' from Mecca to Medina. This year coincided with the year 622 in the *Kalender Masehi*. *Kalender Hijriah* is based on the movement of the moon and, although it is used as the main calendar in several Muslim countries, in Indonesia it is only used to determine important days related to Islamic worship, such as the beginning and end of Ramadan, the Islamic new year, the birth of the Prophet Muhammad, and so on.

Apart from *Kalender Hijriah*, there is also another calendar called *Primbon* or 'the Javanese calendar' used mostly by Javanese. Even though it is not the same, there are similarities between *Kalender Hijriah* and *Primbon*. For example, both calendars are based on lunar movements, but instead of determining day 1 in a particular month according to the sightings of the moon (as in *Kalender Hijriah*), *Primbon* determines

the numbers of days in a month. Originally, the cycle systems used by old Javanese culture to determine the number of days in a week were many and complicated. These days, however, there are two that are commonly used — *Pancawara* or *Pasaran* that uses a five-day week, and *Saptawara* or *Padinan* that uses a seven-day week. *Saptawara* is used because it is considered universal and because the Javanese people believe that the world was created in seven stages, with Sunday as the first day, whereas *Pancawara* is used because the Javanese believe it represents their identity.

Within *Primbon* there is also a calendar system called *Pranata Mangsa*, which relates especially to agricultural activities and fishing. It tells people when to start planting, for example, and other things important in farming, including the times when farmers can expect certain natural events, such as drought or prolonged rain. *Pranata Mangsa*, however, is based on the solar movement and one cycle consists of 365 or 366 days.

Primbon, however, is not only used as a calendar. It includes things like palmistry, numerology, and horoscopes, and is used to predict one's soul mate, auspicious days for weddings and business, and human characteristics. The Javanese believe that a person is born with their own *rezeki* or 'good fortune' and ways of obtaining that fortune, such as one's talents or ability and the types of work suitable for them. Consulting the *Primbon* will provide a person with this knowledge and, therefore, success in life.

3 Simply irresistible

An adverb is a word that modifies a verb, an adjective or another adverb. In English, adverbs are usually formed by adding 'ly' to adjectives: 'simple' becomes 'simply', 'happy' becomes 'happily', 'bold' becomes 'boldly', and so on.

In Indonesian, there are several ways to form adverbial phrases. Three of these are:

- by using the word *dengan*
- by using the word *secara*
- by doubling the adjective.

Forming adverbs using *dengan*

The word *dengan*, meaning 'with' must be placed before the adjective.

➡ For example:

Dia menunggu dengan sabar.

He waited patiently.

Mereka bersorak dengan gembira.

They cheered joyfully.

Forming adverbs using *secara*

The word *secara*, meaning 'in a manner', can be used to form an adverbial phrase when it precedes an adjective.

➡ For example:

Berbagi secara adil

To share equally

Berbicara secara singkat

To speak briefly

Secara can also be used in the following statements:

Saya harus aktif secara fisik.

I have to be physically active.

Saya harus sehat secara fisik.

I have to be physically healthy.

In referring to our physical, mental and spiritual health, Indonesians talk about being *sehat secara jasmani, jiwani dan rohani* or just *sehat secara jasmani dan rohani* (healthy in body, mind and spirit).

Forming adverbs by doubling adjectives

Not all adjectives can be doubled to form adverbial phrases, but a few examples include:

Anak itu makan cepat-cepat.

That boy ate quickly.

Dia pergi diam-diam.

He left quietly.

Notice that the position of the adverb is flexible, although you have to be careful because different positioning of the verbs and adjectives might change the meaning too. These changes in meaning are often more significant in Indonesian than they are in English.

➡ For example:

Anak itu cepat-cepat makan.

That boy quickly ate.

Special Note:

In the first example above, the meaning is simply that the boy ate with speed. Here the placement of the adverb changes the sense to mean that the boy did not waste any time, but chose to eat before doing something else.

Dia diam-diam pergi.

He quietly left.

Special Note:

In the first example above, the meaning is that he left without making any noise. Here the placement of the adverb changes the sense to mean that he subtly slipped away.

4 Roaring success

Onomatopoeiae are words that sound like the things they describe. In the story you are about to read, each of the animals makes a distinctive sound. Let's look at how the sounds made by the animals in the Chinese zodiac are represented in Indonesian.

rat	<i>Cit-cit-cit</i>
ox	<i>Muu-muu</i>
tiger	<i>Aum / Aung</i>
rabbit	<i>Ck-ck-ck</i>
dragon	<i>Zzzzz</i>
snake	<i>Sssss</i>
horse	<i>Hihik-hihik</i>
ram (or sheep)	<i>Mbek-mbek</i>
monkey	<i>Uuk-aak</i>
rooster	<i>Kukuruyuk</i>
dog	<i>Guk-guk</i>
pig (or wild boar)	<i>Ngok-ngok</i>

Exercise 1



Do you know which animal sign you are? I am sure that I was born in the year of the dragon. Powerful, smart, golden and shiny — yes, that's me!

Read the chart to discover which animal symbolises the year in which you were born, and some of the personality traits associated with this animal sign, and answer the questions that follow.

	Year of birth	Characteristics
tikus	1984, 1996, 2008	Gesit, cerdas, sederhana, berhati-hati, lembut, gembira, penuh ingin tahu. Kadang-kadang terlalu percaya diri, sedikit nakal.
kerbau	1985, 1997, 2009	Sabar, jujur, tulus, pekerja keras, penuh pengertian. Sedikit pemalu, keras kepala dan kadang-kadang lekas tersinggung.
macan	1986, 1998, 2010	Berani, punya rasa keadilan dan nalar, percaya diri, teratur. Kadang-kadang mementingkan diri sendiri.
kelinci	1987, 1999, 2011	Optimis, baik hati, lembut, menyenangkan, populer. Kadang-kadang iri hati.
naga	1988, 2000, 2012	Ambisius, penuh motivasi, antusias, murah hati, pintar, kurang sabar, pemboros.
ular	1989, 2001, 2013	Cerdik, licik, lucu, artistik, pandai menghasilkan uang. Kadang-kadang mementingkan diri sendiri, haus uang, iri hati.
kuda	1990, 2002, 2014	Lincih, terbuka, pintar, terus terang, jujur, pandai bicara. Kadang-kadang kurang sabar dan sangat keras kepala.
kambing	1991, 2003, 2015	Lemah lembut, stabil, baik hati, cinta keluarga, tekun. Kadang-kadang cenderung tidak mandiri.
monyet	1992, 2004, 2016	Nakal, cerdik, lincih, penuh rasa humor, kreatif, percaya diri, terbuka. Kadang-kadang mementingkan diri sendiri.
ayam	1993, 2005, 2017	Bisa diandalkan, pekerja keras, tepat waktu, halus, rendah hati, banyak bicara. Kadang-kadang sombong dan terlalu banyak menuntut.
anjing	1994, 2006, 2018	Jujur, bisa diandalkan, polos, pekerja keras, hormat kepada orang yang dituakan dan pemimpin mereka. Kadang-kadang memiliki kesulitan bergaul dengan orang lain dan cenderung tidak stabil emosinya.
babi	1995, 2007, 2019	Lugu, imut, ceria, penuh kasih sayang, mudah mendapat kesuksesan. Kadang-kadang kurang sabar dan tidak mau mendengarkan pendapat orang lain.

1.1 What animal sign is a person born in 1929? Answer in English.

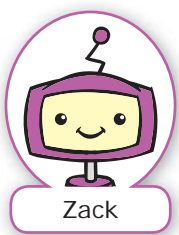
1.2 According to the chart, what is your animal sign? Answer in English.

1.3 Use the information from the chart to write a paragraph, in Indonesian, describing the personality traits of a person born in the year of your animal sign.

1.4 Do you agree or disagree with the description of your personality? Give reasons to support your answer. Write your answer in Indonesian.

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Exercise 2



Peter and Anna, have you ever heard the folktale about how the 12 animals were chosen for the Chinese zodiac? There are several variations of this story, but this one is my favourite.

Read the story and then answer the questions that follow.

Legenda Shio Cina

Pada suatu hari, Raja Dewa memanggil semua binatang dan mengatakan pada mereka bahwa Beliau ingin mengadakan sebuah perlombaan untuk melihat binatang mana yang berhasil menyeberangi sungai dulu. Duabelas binatang pertama yang berhasil mencapai garis akhir akan diberi hadiah yaitu bahwa

mereka akan menjadi binatang yang melambangkan shio. Dengan begitu, penduduk Cina bisa dengan mudah mengingat shio kalau ingat perlombaan tersebut. Semua binatang sangat menanti-nantikan perlombaan itu.

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Si kucing bilang, 'Aku takut air, aku tidak bisa berenang, bagaimana aku bisa menyelesaikan perlombaan itu?'

Si kerbau bilang, 'Penglihatanku kurang jelas, bagaimana aku bisa tidak tersesat waktu menyeberangi sungai?'

Si tikus dan si kucing berteman baik, tetapi mereka berdua agak khawatir mengenai keberhasilan mereka dalam perlombaan itu. Si tikus punya sebuah gagasan.

Si tikus bilang, 'Hei kerbau, aku akan menunjukkan jalan padamu kalau kamu menggendongku dan si kucing menyeberangi sungai.' Si kerbau berpikir ini gagasan yang baik, jadi dia setuju

Perlombaan itu mulai. Si kucing dan si tikus duduk di punggung si kerbau. Ketika mereka sampai di tengah sungai, si kucing, sambil menunjuk ke daratan, mengatakan, 'Lihat! Binatang yang lainnya belum mulai menyeberangi sungai! Kita pasti akan menang perlombaan ini!' Si kucing dan si tikus merasa sangat gembira, dan karena terlalu bersemangat, si kucing jatuh ke air. Si tikus tertawa pada temannya, dan mengatakan, 'Ma'af, saudaraku! Aku tidak bisa berhenti dan harus menyelesaikan perlombaan ini!'

Si kerbau terus berenang dan berenang. Dia tidak sadar bahwa si kucing sudah jatuh ke air. Akhirnya, si kerbau mendekati garis akhir. Ketika mereka sudah dekat daratan, si tikus meloncat dari punggung si kerbau ke tepian; dia adalah binatang pertama yang sampai ke daratan! Si kerbau adalah pemenang kedua.

Macan, yang basah kuyup, adalah pemenang ketiga.

Kelinci putih yang kecil menduduki tempat keempat.

Si Naga terbang ke garis akhir, sambil berteriak: 'Akhirnya sampai juga!'

Si kuda sebenarnya hampir sampai setelah itu, tetapi tiba-tiba si ular melata ke tepian terlebih dulu.

Si kuda dan kemudian si kambing mencapai tepian setelah si ular.

Setelah itu si monyet yang berceloteh sampai, diikuti oleh si ayam dan si anjing. Perlombaan itu hampir selesai ...

Raja Dewa menghitung semua binatang yang berhasil sampai ke darat: tikus, kerbau, macan, kelinci, naga, ular, kuda, kambing, monyet, ayam, anjing ... hanya ada sebelas ekor binatang! Siapa yang ke duabelas?

Akhirnya, si babi perlahan-lahan menyeret dirinya naik ke tepian sungai, sambil terus mengatakan, 'Aku lapar!'

Raja Dewa baru saja akan mengumumkan hasil akhir perlombaan itu ketika seekor kucing yang basah kuyup tertatih-tatih naik ke tepian sungai. Dia bertanya pada Raja Dewa, 'Apakah aku salah satu pemenang?'

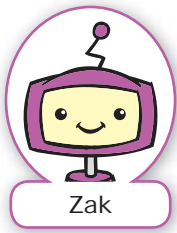
Raja Dewa bilang, 'Ma'af, kamu bukan salah satu pemenang perlombaan dan tidak akan diikutsertakan di dalam shio.' Dengan marah si kucing bilang, 'Tikus mendorongku ke sungai! Kalau bukan karena dia, aku tidak akan terlambat! Aku tidak akan pernah memaafkannya!'

Sejak itu, si kucing dan si tikus tidak lagi berteman. Tikus sangat takut pada kucing. Setiap kali tikus melihat seekor kucing, dia lari bersembunyi di gua dan tidak berani keluar lagi sampai jauh malam.

2.1 What can you infer from this story about the personality of the rat? What character traits does the rat have? Answer in English.

3.3 Based on what you have learnt in this work sheet, and any prior knowledge you have, what differences and similarities are there between the calendars or other time measurement systems used in China and Indonesia?

Exercise 4



Peter and Anna, I have a great idea. I bet you could turn the story of the Chinese zodiac into a really funny skit for your class concert.

Write your skit in the space below, in Indonesian. Your skit should be at least 300 words in length, and should include an example of onomatopoeia for each of the animals in the race!

Title: _____

Character list: _____

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Scene 1: _____

Scene 2: _____

(continued on following page)

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Scene 3: _____

Scene 4: _____

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Scene 5: _____
