

# The Heavenly Gate Race

A long time ago, the *Jade Emperor* wanted to select 12 animals to be his guards. The animals set off on a race towards the Heavenly Gate.

Cat and Rat got up very early and started the race. On their way to the gate, they encountered a big river and had to stop. They were tired and fell asleep. The **clever** Rat woke up and noticed Ox about to cross the river. He and jumped on Ox's head and left Cat behind.

The **hard-working** Ox did not mind and simply continued. After crossing the river, Rat raced towards the palace of the Jade Emperor and won first place. Ox was second.

Tiger was **fast** and came in third. **Competitive** Rabbit got across the river by hopping on floating logs and came right after in fourth place.

**Brave** Dragon was fifth and was immediately noticed by the Jade Emperor. Just then, **determined** Snake came forward and said Dragon was his adoptive father, so Snake was sixth.

**Kind** Horse and **modest** Goat arrived. They each let the other go first. The Jade Emperor saw how **polite** they were and ranked them seventh and eighth.

**Confident** Monkey jumped between trees and stones and arrived in ninth place. Last were **talented** Rooster, **loyal** Dog, and **honest** Pig. These 12 animals became guards of the Heavenly Gate.

Write each animal's personality trait according to the text:

			
			
			