

## Unit 11 What comes after the dragon?

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 Guessing the meaning of various Chinese characters, and thinking about how to say them in English.

### Unit Aims

Animals may be considered as an activity theme for lower grade children, but this unit provides a topic which even upper grade children will show interest in. Children must think about what animals various *kanji* characters describe. As they listen to the hints in English and try to figure out what animal each character describes, they will realize that *kanji* characters are ideographs. Children learn what the English names of the twelve signs in Chinese astrology are, while working on activities dealing with what time and directions these signs stand for. Also, an activity for the children to design their own *kanji* combinations for animals they know in English has been added.

### Vocabulary

jellyfish starfish shrimp walrus goat  
 mouse cow tiger rabbit dragon snake horse sheep monkey  
 chicken dog wild boar

### Classroom English

What's this *kanji*?  
 What comes after the mouse?  
 Which way is the mouse?  
 What time is the hour of the horse?

### Step of Activities

(1) Learning what the animals found on the page are called in English and finding the *kanji* character for each of the animals. P.49

- (2) Learning what the 12 signs in Chinese astrology are called in English and finding the matching *kanji* characters. P.50
- (3) Learning about the clock and compass using the 12 signs in Chinese astrology. P.51
- (4) Creating original *kanji* character combinations for animals they know and doing a quiz. P.52

### Reference

(For Japanese teachers) The custom of using the 12 signs in Chinese astrology for time and directions remains in some of the words we still use. The word “*shigosen*” (the meridian) which describes the north and south of the earth and other planets is a combination of “*shi*” (mouse) which is north and “*go*” (horse) which is south. The word “*shougo*” (noon), used in our daily lives, is the middle point of “*go*”, the seventh sign that stands for the time between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., in other words 12 noon. The time before “*go*” is called “*gozen*” (before noon / morning) and the time after “*go*” is “*gogo*” (afternoon).

### Other Possible Activities

Do an activity talking about daily routines and schedules using the Chinese astrological time system. Each animal (sign) covers two hours, so the questions will be asking about activities that take place during these two hours.

What do you do in the hour of the horse?  
 Do you eat lunch in the hour of the horse?  
 What time do you go to bed?  
 Do you go to bed in the hour of the wild boar?