Unit 1

Chinese Calendar

With the piercing wind, it feels even colder.

Section One Focus-based Reading

Passage A

24 solar terms: 9 things about Winter Solstice

The traditional Chinese lunar calendar divides the year into 24 solar terms. The Winter Solstice (冬至), the 22nd solar term of the year, begins this year on Dec. 22 and ends on Jan. 5.

The occasion came after the practice of Twenty-Four Solar Terms was officially included on the UNESCO world intangible cultural heritage list on Nov. 30 that year, and a variety of traditional folk activities to celebrate the Winter Solstice were held across the country. "It is a ceremony of gratitude to the ancestors. Through offering sacrifices to winter, it conveys gratitude to nature, highlights the moral concepts of advocating ancestral virtues, respecting the old and loving the elderly, and realizes family harmony and cohesion."

On the first day of Winter Solstice, the Northern Hemisphere experiences the shortest day and the longest night in the year, as the sun shines directly at the Tropic of Capricorn (南回归线). From then on, the days become longer and the nights become shorter. The Winter Solstice also marks the arrival of the coldest season in the year. The Winter Solstice, which falls on Thursday this year, thus marks the sun's northward return, and the days in the Northern Hemisphere will become longer. The traditional Chinese culture regards, in a broad sense, that the daytime is yang and night yin. The Winter Solstice gives rise to yang, and the balance between yin and yang enters a new cycle. The solar term is not only a node, but also a starting point, representing the beginning of reincarnation (再生).

Here are nine things you should know about the Winter Solstice.

The Winter Solstice Festival

There was a saying in ancient China, "The Winter Solstice is as significant as the Spring Festival."

As early as the Zhou Dynasty (c.11th century–256BC), people worshipped the gods on the first day of the Winter Solstice, which also was the first day of the new year. The Winter Solstice became a winter festival during the Han Dynasty (206 BC–AD 220). The celebratory activities were officially organized. On this day, both officials and common people would have a rest.

During subsequent dynasties, such as the Tang (618–907), Song (960–1279) and Qing dynasties (1644–1911), the Winter Solstice was a day to offer sacrifices to Heaven and to ancestors.

Eating nuts

When midwinter arrives, vital movement begins to decline and calm down. In this period, eating an appropriate amount of nuts, such as peanuts, walnuts, chestnuts, hazelnuts (榛子) and almonds (杏仁), is good for one's body. Traditional Chinese medical science teaches that the quality of a nut is tepidity (微热) and most nuts have the function of nourishing the kidneys (肾) and strengthening the brain and heart.

Eating dumplings

During the Winter Solstice in North China, eating dumplings is essential to the festival. There is a saying that goes "Have dumplings on the first day of the Winter Solstice and noodles on the first day of Summer Solstice." There is a great difference in the food eaten on the day of the Winter Solstice between the north and the south. Eating glutinous (黏的) rice dumplings is the norm in the south, whereas in the north it is mainly flour-made dumplings and wontons. The rice dumplings are also called "Winter Solstice balls" in the south. Southerners use glutinous rice to wrap various vegetables and meat as fillings. It not only serves as an offering to the ancestors but also a gift for relatives and friends. The custom dates back to the Ming Dynasty when women got up early in the morning on that day to start making glutinous rice balls, and the whole family ate them for breakfast to mark that the daytime was about to get longer. Later, the custom was added with a new symbolic meaning as the round shape of the rice balls also signifies reunion.

Eating wontons (馄饨)

People in Suzhou, Jiangsu province, are accustomed to eating wontons in midwinter. According to legend, during the midwinter feast 2,500 years ago, the King of Wu (one of the states during the Western Zhou Dynasty and the Spring and Autumn Period) was disgusted with all kinds of costly foods and wanted to eat something different. Then, the beauty Xishi came into the kitchen to make wontons to honor the king's wish. He ate a lot and liked the food very much. To commemorate Xishi, people of Suzhou made wontons the official food to celebrate the festival.

» Eating tangyuan

In places such as Shanghai, people eat tangyuan, a kind of stuffed small dumpling ball made of glutinous rice flour, to celebrate Winter Solstice.

» Eating mutton and vermicelli (细面条) soup

In Yinchuan, Ningxia Hui autonomous region, people call midwinter the "Ghost Festival". On that day, it is customary for people there to drink mutton and vermicelli soup and eat the dumplings in the soup. They give the midwinter soup a strange name "brain" and share it with their neighbors.

» Eating rice cakes

During the Winter Solstice, Hangzhou residents traditionally eat rice cakes. In the past, before the approach of the winter solstice, every household would make the cakes to worship their ancestors or use as gifts for relatives and friends. Today, though fewer families eat homemade cakes, people there still buy rice cakes for the Winter Solstice Festival.

» Offering nine-layer cakes to ancestors

Taiwan residents keep the custom of offering nine-layer cakes to their ancestors. People with the same surname or family clan gather at their ancestral temples to worship their ancestors in order of their ages. After the sacrificial ceremony, there is always a grand banquet.

» Eating red bean and glutinous rice

In some regions south of the Yangtze River on the first day of the Winter Solstice, the whole family gets together to have a meal made of red beans and glutinous rice to drive away ghosts and other evil things.

资料来源：http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202212/22/WS5dfea3f0a310cf3e3557fc30.html.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202212/22/WS63a39fa7a31057c47eba591d_4.html.

Ⅰ. Vocabulary

Directions: *Deepen your understanding of vocabulary by writing notes on the lines in the box using familiar words or symbols.*

calendar	occasion	intangible	highlight	advocate
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
subsequent	nourish	essential	reunion	ancestor
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Directions: *Fill in the blanks with the words from the box above. Change the form where necessary.*

1. The Spring Festival is the most important festival celebrated by the Chinese people at the beginning of every lunar _____ year.

2. Mr. Williams is a conservative who _____ fewer government controls on business.

3. Your _____ are the people from whom you are descended.

4. Being the particular icons of Chinese culture, traditional festivals are also precious _____ cultural heritage that we have carried down from our ancestors.

5. This report _____ some of the problems faced by old people in winter.

6. _____ events confirmed our doubts.

7. By investing in education, we _____ the talents of our children.

8. Good sleep is _____ for maintaining optimal physical and mental health.

9. A _____ is a party attended by members of the same family, school, or other group who have not seen each other for a long time.

10. Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets to mark the _____.

Ⅱ. Reading Comprehension

Directions: *Read the following statements and then decide whether each of them is true (T) or false (F) based on the information in the text.*

1. Winter Solstice is a ceremony of gratitude to the ancestors, conveying gratitude to nature, highlights the moral concepts of advocating ancestral virtues through offering sacrifices to winter. (　　)

2. On the first day of Winter Solstice, the Northern Hemisphere experiences the longest day and the shortest night in the year. (　　)

3. The Winter Solstice became a winter festival during the Zhou Dynasty. (　　)

4. People in different places have different customs in Winter Solstice. (　　)

5. People across the country use red beans and glutinous rice to drive away ghosts and other evil things. (　　)

Ⅲ. Discussion

Directions: *As the capital of Heilongjiang province, Harbin has long been a popular winter destination for snow tourism and skiing experiences. Please find its location on the map of China. Discuss with your partner what Harbin impresses you most. If necessary, other languages or nonverbal codes such as body language can be used to complement your expression.*

Passage B

The Chinese calendar

Chinese New Year is the main holiday of the year for more than one quarter of the world's population. Although China uses the Gregorian calendar for civil purposes, a special Chinese calendar is used for determining festivals. Various Chinese communities around the world also use this calendar.

The beginnings of the Chinese calendar can be traced back to the 14th century BC. Legend has it that the Emperor Huangdi invented the calendar in 2637 BC.

The Chinese calendar is based on exact astronomical observations of the longitude of the sun and the phases of the moon. This means that principles of modern science have had an impact on the Chinese calendar.

» What does the Chinese Year look like?

The Chinese calendar—like the Hebrew (希伯来人的)—is a combined solar/lunar calendar in that it strives to have its years coincide with the tropical year and its months coincide with the synodic months (阴历月份). It is not surprising that a few similarities exist between the Chinese and the Hebrew calendar:

- An ordinary year has 12 months, a leap year has 13 months.
- An ordinary year has 353, 354, or 355 days, a leap year has 383, 384, or 385 days.

When determining what a Chinese year looks like, one must make a number of astronomical calculations:

First, determine the dates for the new moons. Here, a new moon is the completely "black" moon (that is, when the moon is in conjunction with the sun), not the first visible crescent (新月) used in the Islamic and Hebrew calendars. The date of a new moon is the first day of a new month.

Second, determine the dates when the sun's longitude is a multiple of 30 degrees. (The sun's longitude is 0 degrees at Spring Equinox, 90 degrees at Summer Solstice, 180 degrees at Autumnal Equinox, and 270 degrees at Winter Solstice.) These dates are called the Principal Terms and are used to determine the number of each month:

- Principal Term 1 occurs when the sun's longitude is 330 degrees.
- Principal Term 2 occurs when the sun's longitude is 0 degrees.
- Principal Term 3 occurs when the sun's longitude is 30 degrees.(etc.)
- Principal Term 11 occurs when the sun's longitude is 270 degrees.
- Principal Term 12 occurs when the sun's longitude is 300 degrees.

Each month carries the number of the Principal Term that occurs in that month.

In rare cases, a month may contain two Principal Terms; in this case the month's numbers may have to be shifted. Principal Term 11 (Winter Solstice) must always fall in the 11th month.

All the astronomical calculations are carried out for the meridian (子午线) 120 degrees east

of Greenwich. This roughly corresponds to the east coast of China. Some variations in these rules are seen in various Chinese communities.

What years are leap years?

Leap years have 13 months. To determine if a year is a leap year, calculate the number of new moons between the 11th month in one year (i.e., the month containing the Winter Solstice) and the 11th month in the following year. If there are 13 new moons from the start of the 11th month in the first year to the start of the 11th month in the second year, a leap month must be inserted.

In leap years, at least one month does not contain a Principal Term. The first such month is the leap month. It carries the same number as the previous month, with the additional note that it is the leap month.

How does one count years?

Unlike most other calendars, the Chinese calendar does not count years in an infinite sequence. Instead years have names that are repeated every 60 years. (Historically, years used to be counted from the accession year of an emperor, but this was abolished after the 1911 revolution.)

Within each 60-year cycle, each year is assigned a name consisting of two components:

The first component is a Celestial Stem. These words have no English equivalents.

1	jia	6	ji
2	yi	7	geng
3	bing	8	xin
4	ding	9	ren
5	wu	10	gui

The second component is a Terrestrial Branch. The names of the corresponding animals in the zodiac (生肖) cycle of 12 animals are given in parentheses.

1	zi (rat)	7	wu (horse)
2	chou (ox)	8	wei (sheep)
3	yin (tiger)	9	shen (monkey)
4	mao (hare, rabbit)	10	you (rooster)
5	chen (dragon)	11	xu (dog)
6	si (snake)	12	hai (pig)

Each of the two components is used sequentially. Thus, the 1st year of the 60-year cycle becomes jia-zi, the 2nd year is yi-chou, the 3rd year is bing-yin, etc. When we reach the end of a component, we start from the beginning: The 10th year is gui-you, the 11th year is jia-xu (restarting

the Celestial Stem), the 12th year is yi-hai, and the 13th year is bing-zi (restarting the Terrestrial Branch). Finally, the 60th year becomes gui-hai.

» When did the current cycle start in the Chinese calendar?

The current 60-year cycle started on Feb. 2, 1984. That date bears the name bing-yin in the 60-day cycle, and the first month of that first year bears the name gui-chou in the 60-month cycle.

This means that the year wu-yin, the 15th year in the current cycle, started on Jan. 28, 1998. The 20th year started on Feb. 1, 2003.

» What was the early Chinese calendar?

In China, the calendar was a sacred document, sponsored and enacted by the reigning monarch. For more than two millennia, a Bureau of Astronomy (钦天监) made astronomical observations, calculated astronomical events such as eclipses, prepared astrological (占星的) predictions, and maintained the calendar. After all, a successful calendar not only served practical needs, but also confirmed the consonance (一致，调和) between Heaven and the imperial court.

Analysis of surviving astronomical records inscribed on oracle bones (甲骨文) reveals a Chinese lunisolar calendar, with intercalation of lunar months, dating back to the Shang Dynasty of the 14th century BC. Various intercalation schemes were developed for the early calendars, including the 19-year and 76-year lunar phase cycles that came to be known in the West as the Metonic cycle and Callipic cycle.

资料来源：https://www.webexhibits.org/calendars/calendar-chinese.html.

Ⅰ. Vocabulary

Directions: *Deepen your understanding of vocabulary by writing notes on the lines in the box using familiar words or symbols.*

determine	community	exist	ordinary	conjunction
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
multiple	correspond	calculate	insert	previous
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
additional	count	infinite	component	equivalent
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Directions: *Fill in the blanks with the words from the box above. Change the form where necessary. There are 5 extra choices you don't need.*

1. Not only guests of the resort, but also _____ tourists can relax in the waters of the largest pool.

2. He _____ the key into the lock, but found it was a wrong key.

3. You alone should _____ what is right for you.

4. Never lose your heart and continue to explore life since it is full of _____ possibilities.

5. That's _____ to the size of eight rugby fields.

6. Natural resources are things that _____ in nature and can be used by people.

7. Of all the _____ of a good night's sleep, dreams seem to be least within our control.

8. If one number is a _____ of a smaller number, it can be exactly divided by that smaller number.

9. The written record of the conversation doesn't _____ to what was actually said.

10. She has two children by a _____ marriage.

Ⅱ. Translation

Directions: *Translate the following sentences into Chinese.*

1. The beginnings of the Chinese calendar can be traced back to the 14th century BC. Legend has it that the Emperor Huangdi invented the calendar in 2637 BC.

2. The Chinese calendar is based on exact astronomical observations of the longitude of the sun and the phases of the moon. This means that principles of modern science have had an impact on the Chinese calendar.

3. Leap years have 13 months. To determine if a year is a leap year, calculate the number of new moons between the 11th month in one year (i.e., the month containing the Winter Solstice) and the 11th month in the following year.

4. After all, a successful calendar not only served practical needs, but also confirmed the consonance between Heaven and the imperial court.

5. Analysis of surviving astronomical records inscribed on oracle bones reveals a Chinese lunisolar calendar, with intercalation of lunar months, dating back to the Shang Dynasty of the 14th century BC.

Ⅲ. Discussion

Directions: *Think and discuss the following questions with your partner.*

1. What are China's 24 Solar Terms?
2. Which solar term do you like best? Why?

Section Two Practice-based Reading

Passage A

China's 24 solar terms

A) Solar terms, also called Jieqi in Chinese, are days marking one of the 24 time buckets of the solar year in traditional Chinese calendar, and were used to indicate the alternation of seasons and climate changes in ancient China. It is a unique component and creative invention of Chinese traditional calendar.

B) China's 24 solar terms were added to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) world intangible cultural heritage list on November 30. The announcement was made during the 11th session of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritages in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital. China currently has 43 different items on the intangible cultural heritage list of UNESCO. Since 2008, 35 items have been included on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

» Origin of the 24 solar terms

C) The Yellow River Basin, in northern China, is believed to be the cradle (发源地) of the solar terms system. Ancient Chinese farmers used astronomical signs, changes in temperature and precipitation as the basis to create the calendar, which was later adopted by multiple ethnic groups in different regions across China.

D) As early as the Spring and Autumn Period (770–476 BC), Chinese ancestors had already established two major solar terms, ri nan zhi (日南至 "Sun South Most") and ri bei zhi (日北至 "Sun North Most"). As of the end of the Warring States Period (475–221 BC), eight key solar terms (Beginning of Spring, Vernal Equinox, Beginning of Summer, Summer Solstice, Beginning of Autumn, Autumnal Equinox, Beginning of Winter and Winter Solstice) marking the four seasons, were established according to the different positions of the sun and changes in natural phenomena. The rest of the solar terms were initiated in the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC–AD 24). Hence most terms refer to the climate of Xi'an, capital of the Han Dynasty.

» General introduction

E) China's 24 solar terms are a knowledge system and social practice formed through observations of the sun's annual motion, and cognition of the year's changes in season, climate and phenology (生物气候学).

F) Ancient Chinese divided the Sun's movement through the sky into 24 segments, with each segment equaling one roughly two-week-long solar term. The 24 solar terms each suggests the position of the sun every time it travels 15 degrees on the ecliptic longitude. The 24 solar terms include Beginning of Spring, Rain Water, Awakening of Insects, Spring Equinox, Clear and Bright, Grain Rain, Beginning of Summer, Grain Buds, Grain in Ear, Summer Solstice, Minor Heat, Major Heat, Beginning of Autumn, End of Heat, White Dew, Autumn Equinox, Cold Dew, Frost's Descent, Beginning of Winter, Minor Snow, Major Snow, Winter Solstice, Minor Cold and Major Cold.

» Classification of the 24 solar terms

G) Beginning of Spring, Beginning of Summer, Beginning of Autumn, and Beginning of Winter are used to reflect the change of seasons, dividing the year into four seasons of exactly three months. The solar terms of Vernal Equinox, Autumnal Equinox, Summer Solstice and Winter Solstice are divided from an astronomical aspect, reflecting the turning point of the variation of the altitude of the sun. Minor Heat, Major Heat, Limit of Heat, Minor Cold, and Major Cold reflect the changes of temperature in different periods. Clear and Bright, Rain Water, Grain Rain, Minor Snow, and Major Snow, White Dew, Cold Dew, and Frost's Descent reflect the phenomenon of precipitation, indicating the time and intensity of rainfall, snowfall, dew and frost. Small Full (Grain) and Grain in Ear reflect the maturity and harvest time of crops, while Awakening of Insects reflects observed insect activity.

» Application of the 24 solar terms

H) Based on the sun's position in the zodiac, the 24 solar terms were created by farmers in ancient China to guide the agricultural affairs and farming activities. The 24 solar terms reflect the changes in climate, natural phenomena, agricultural production, and other aspects of human life, including clothing, food, housing and transportation. They serve as an instruction manual of sorts for farmers, enabling them to know what conditions to expect or

what agricultural activities to carry out during certain periods of the year.

I) They are often called China's "fifth great invention" after papermaking, printing, gunpowder and the compass. Besides its role as an almanac (年历), many of these solar terms have become associated with Chinese customs over the centuries, such as honoring one's ancestors for Qingming (Bright and Clear) in April or eating dumplings for Lidong (The Start of Winter). For example, the solar term Qingming, or Bright and Clear, is deeply tied to China's tradition of paying respects to one's ancestors and visiting the family tomb. For this reason, the Qingming Festival is often known as the Tomb-Sweeping Festival in English.

» Contemporary significance

J) In the current time of technology-based modern farming, traditional solar terms remain relevant. It is also an important cultural existence in modern Chinese social life, serving as a reference in daily life, ancestor worship and others around seasons. Although in modern times it is not regarded as the major guiding knowledge in agriculture production, it remains the symbol of the evolving farming civilization relationship between people and nature. It can recall our memories and remind us that the nature is changing at its own pace. The 24 solar terms are the crystallization of Chinese people in the relationship between human and nature.

K) To sum up, the 24 solar terms are an indispensable component of the traditional Chinese calendar, serving as a time-frame for agricultural activities and daily life. In international circle of meteorology, this cognitive system has been honored as the Fifth Great Invention of China. This legacy reflects the Chinese people's respect for nature and tradition, their unique understanding of the universe, their wisdom to live in harmony with nature, and the world's cultural diversity, said Zhang Ling, an official of the Ministry of Culture, who attended the UNESCO meeting in Addis Ababa.

资料来源：https://www.cma.gov.cn/en2014/20150311/20170119/201701/t20170119_388239.html.

Ⅰ. Reading Comprehension

Directions: *Now you are going to read ten statements. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs in Passage A above. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter.*

1. The sun's movement was divided by Ancient Chinese through the sky into 24 parts. ( )

2. Farmers in ancient China guided the agricultural affairs and farming activities based on the sun's position in the zodiac. ( )

3. Over the ages, many of these solar terms—in addition to their use as an almanac—have come to be connected with Chinese traditions. ( )

4. The 24 solar periods of China are a knowledge system and social practice. ( )

5. In ancient China, the 24 solar terms were used to denote the alternation of seasons and climatic variations. ( )

6. On November 30, China's 24 solar terms became a part of UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritages. ( )

7. There are five classifications of the 24 solar terms. ( )

8. Ancient Chinese farmers developed a calendar based on astrological signals, temperature shifts and precipitation that was eventually adopted by several ethnic groups in various parts of China. ( )

9. The traditional solar terms are absolutely essential in the traditional Chinese calendar and serve as a time-frame for agricultural activities and daily life. ( )

10. Eight key solar terms that mark the beginning of each season had been established in accordance with the sun's various positions and variations in the course of nature. ( )

Ⅱ. Vocabulary in Context

Directions: *From the three choices marked A, B and C, choose the one that has the best meaning for each italicized word in the sentence.*

1. Ancient Chinese farmers used astronomical signs, changes in temperature and *precipitation* as the basis to create the calendar, which was later adopted by multiple ethnic groups in different regions across China. ( )

A. rainfall B. participation C. weather

2. China's 24 solar terms are a knowledge system and social practice formed through observations of the sun's annual *motion* and cognition of the year's changes in season, climate and phenology. ( )

A. change B. action C. movement

3. Ancient Chinese divided the sun's movement through the sky into 24 *segments*, with each segment equaling one roughly two-week-long solar term. ( )

A. roles B. sections C. classifications

4. The solar terms of Vernal Equinox, Autumnal Equinox, Summer Solstice and Winter Solstice are divided from an astronomical aspect, reflecting the turning point of the variation of the *altitude* of the sun. ( )

A. temperature B. height C. attitude

5. The 24 solar terms are the *crystallization* of Chinese people in the relationship between human and nature. ( )

A. outcome B. civilization C. construction

Ⅲ. Translation

Directions: *Translate the following paragraph into Chinese.*

China's 24 solar terms were added to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and

Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) world intangible cultural heritage list on November 30. The announcement was made during the 11th session of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritages in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital. China currently has 43 different items on the intangible cultural heritage list of UNESCO. Since 2008, 35 items have been included on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Passage B

The origins of the Chinese Zodiac: the twelve animal race

A) The legend of the Chinese Zodiac's origins is one of the most popular Chinese myths in the world. There are many legends and myths associated with the Chinese zodiac throughout history, and different versions and stories are prevalent in different locations. So, why were twelve animals included in the Chinese zodiac calendar, and how did the Chinese zodiac order come about? Let's revisit the most popular version of the story today.

B) The story begins when the Jade Emperor, ruler of heaven, decided to organize a race on his birthday and invited twelve animals to participate. As a reward, the animals were to be accorded the privilege of having their names listed in the zodiac cycle according to their respective ranks in the race.

C) After a series of collaborations, obstacles, and betrayals, the most prominent of which depicting the craftiness (狡猾) of the race's unexpected winner, the animals finished in the following order: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig.

D) As promised, the emperor then used the results to confer each animal with a place in the twelve-year zodiac cycle. Since then, the Chinese have used the zodiac to predict fortunes

according to the year's animal sign. For 2021, the animal to arrive is the Ox, who is known for his steadfast, strong, and trustworthy nature.

E) Long ago, the Jade Emperor thought that there should be a means to measure time. On his birthday, he announced that there will be a swimming race. The first twelve animals to cross the fast-flowing river would be declared the champions, and each would be assigned a year of the zodiac.

F) All of the animals formed a line along the riverbank. The rat and the cat, who were best friends, were concerned since they couldn't swim. They were astute (狡猾的) enough to ask the hardworking ox to transport them across the river. The ox agreed and let them ride on his back. When the ox gained the lead, the rat and cat leaped up and cheered. They were almost there when the rat shoved the cat into the water, leaving him to struggle. The rat won the race by leaping off the ox's head and onto the bank just as the ox was about to win. The rat was admired by the Jade Emperor, who named the year of the zodiac after him. The unfortunate ox was duped (欺骗) into coming in second place, and the second year of the zodiac was named after him.

G) Shortly afterwards, the tired tiger battled his way back to the riverbank to finish third. Swimming against strong currents across the river had been a huge challenge for him. As a result of his efforts, the emperor named the third year after him. Meanwhile, the rabbit, who hadn't swum over at all, was the next to arrive. He'd jumped across some stepping stones before discovering a floating log that transported him to land. As a result, the fourth year was named after him by the Emperor.

H) A benevolent dragon then flew down to grab fifth place. Despite his ability to fly, he did not win the race since he had to assist the other animals in crossing. The emperor was moved by his kindness and named the fifth year of the zodiac after him.

I) The sound of the horse's hooves (马蹄) was the next thing the Jade Emperor heard. A clever snake suddenly wriggled (蠕动) out from behind one of the horse's hooves just as he thought the horse would be the next animal to come. The horse was so taken aback that he leaped backward, allowing the snake to claim sixth place in the race. The unlucky horse had to settle for seventh place.

J) Before long, a raft came, carrying the goat, monkey, and rooster. They told the Emperor how they had shared the raft that the rooster had discovered. The goat and monkey had pulled the raft to the shore after clearing weeds. The monarch was overjoyed that the animals had collaborated. He then declared that the goat would be the eighth zodiac animal, the monkey would be the ninth, and the rooster would be the tenth.

K) The dog was the next animal to finish. The Jade Emperor was perplexed as to why the dog was so late given that he was a skilled swimmer. The dog stated that he wanted to take a bath because of the clear water. The Emperor shrugged (耸肩) and named the eleventh year after the dog. There was just one spot remaining in the zodiac, and the Emperor wondered when the last winner would arrive. Finally, he heard the boar (野猪) grunt. The boar admitted that

he was late because he had eaten and slept while on his journey. Despite this, the Emperor congratulated the boar and named the last year of the zodiac after him.

L) The cat, who had been thrown into the water by the rat, climbed out, but it was too late to have a year named after him. He was furious with the rat, and cats have never been pals with rats since. Following the race, the Chinese Zodiac began a cycle of years named after the aforementioned 12 animals.

资料来源：https://www.chinoy.tv/the-great-race-how-the-chinese-zodiac-signs-found-their-place/.
https://www.chinoy.tv/5-interesting-legends-about-chinese-new-year/.

Ⅰ. Reading Comprehension

Directions: *Now you are going to read ten statements. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs in Passage B above. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter.*

1. The tiger struggled to the riverbank while the rabbit followed him with a floating log. ( )
2. The Jade Emperor made the decision to host the race to rank their names in the zodiac cycle. ( )
3. The monarch was extremely happy that the animals had worked together. ( )
4. In the course of the race, there was a series of cooperation, barriers, and betrayals. ( )
5. The emperor was touched by the dragon's kindness and named the fifth year of the zodiac after him. ( )
6. The Chinese have utilized the zodiac to make fortune predictions based on the animal sign of the year. ( )
7. The rat tricked the ox and took first place. ( )
8. The horse was so astonished and jumped backward when he saw the snake, giving the snake the opportunity to gain sixth place in the competition. ( )
9. The last spot remaining in the zodiac was obtained by the pig. ( )
10. The betrayal brought the friendship between cat and rat to an end. ( )

Ⅱ. Vocabulary in Context

Directions: *From the three choices marked A, B and C, choose the one that has the best meaning for each italicized word in the sentence.*

1. As a reward, the animals were to be *accorded* the privilege of having their names listed in the zodiac cycle according to their respective ranks in the race. ( )

A. granted B. deprived C. complied

2. The first twelve animals to cross the fast-flowing river would be declared the champions, and each would be *assigned* a year of the zodiac. ( )

A. resigned B. appointed C. selected

3. For 2021, the animal to arrive is the Ox, who is known for his *steadfast*, strong, and trustworthy nature. ( )

A. firm B. fearless C. tireless

4. The Jade Emperor was *perplexed* as to why the dog was so late given that he was a skilled swimmer. ( )

A. astonished B. shocked C. confused

5. He was *furious* with the rat, and cats have never been pals with rats since. ( )

A. curious B. angry C. disgusted

Ⅲ. Translation

Directions: *Study the vocabulary and expressions in bold, and try to translate the Chinese sentences into English with the words and phrases in the brackets.*

1. There **are** many legends and myths **associated with** the Chinese zodiac throughout history, and different versions and stories are prevalent in different locations.

be associated with: to be related to a particular subject, activity etc.

红色和绿色是如何与圣诞节联系在一起的?(be associated with, Christmas)

2. As a reward, the animals were to be accorded the privilege of having their names listed in the zodiac cycle **according to** each of their respective ranks in the race.

according to: as shown by sth. or stated by sb.

一切均按照计划进行。(according to)

3. After **a series of** collaborations, obstacles, and betrayals, the most prominent of which depicting the craftiness of the race's unexpected winner, the animals finished in the following order: …

a series of : a variety of

培训课程采取一系列研讨会的形式。(a series of, training programme, workshops)

4. The rat won the race by leaping off the ox's head and onto the bank just as the ox **was about to** win.

be about to do sth.: will do sth.

我正要给警察打电话。(be about to)

5. **As a result of** his efforts, the emperor named the third year after him. Meanwhile, the rabbit, who hadn't swum over at all, was the next to arrive.

as a result of: because of, due to

她由于受伤而死亡。(as a result of)

Key Words & Phrases

lunar calendar	*n.*	农历，阴历
solar term	*n.*	节气
occasion	*n.*	(某事发生的)时刻，时候；特殊(或重大)事件
intangible	*adj.*	(资产，利益)无形的
heritage	*n.*	遗产
gratitude	*n.*	感激
highlight	*v.*	突出，强调
advocate	*v.*	拥护，提倡
	n.	拥护者，提倡者
hemisphere	*n.*	(地球的)半球
represent	*v.*	代表
subsequent	*adj.*	随后的，接着的
nut	*n.*	坚果
appropriate	*adj.*	合适的
nourish	*v.*	养育，滋养；培养
essential	*adj.*	必不可少的；基本的
	n.	必需品；要素；本质
signify	*v.*	意味着，象征
reunion	*n.*	(有组织的)聚会；团圆
disgusted	*adj.*	厌恶的，厌烦的
commemorate	*v.*	纪念，用以纪念
autonomous	*adj.*	自治的；自动的
customary	*adj.*	习俗的；习惯的
ancestor	*n.*	祖先，祖宗
ceremony	*n.*	仪式，典礼
determine	*v.*	决定
astronomical	*adj.*	天文学的
longitude	*n.*	经度，经线
coincide	*v.*	巧合；一致；相交，重叠
exist	*v.*	存在
ordinary	*adj.*	普通的，平常的
leap year	*n.*	闰年
conjunction	*n.*	结合；同时发生；连词
multiple	*adj.*	多个的
	n.	倍数
correspond	*v.*	类似于，相当于；通信；相一致，符合
calculate	v.	计算，运算
insert	*v.*	插入

previous	*adj.*	以前的，先前的
additional	*adj.*	附加的，额外的
count	*v.*	数数，计数
	n.	计算，总数
infinite	*adj.*	无限的，无穷尽的
sequence	*n.*	顺序，次序
	v.	按顺序排列
accession	*n.*	增加，就职
assign	*v.*	分派，指派
component	*n.*	组成部分，成分
	adj.	组成的，构成的
equivalent	*adj.*	等同的，等效的
	n.	对等的人（或事物）
sacred	*adj.*	神圣的；受尊敬的；不可侵犯的
sponsor	*n.*	赞助者，赞助商
	v.	赞助；主办；倡议
enact	*v.*	制定，通过，颁布（法令）
monarch	*n.*	君主
eclipse	*n.*	日食，月食
	v.	遮住……的光，使黯然失色
announcement	*n.*	公告；宣布
observation	*n.*	观察
intensity	*n.*	强烈，剧烈
instruction	*n.*	用法说明，指示
manual	*adj.*	手工的；体力的
	n.	使用手册，说明书
relevant	*adj.*	有关的，切题的
cognitive	*adj.*	认识的，认知的
harmony	*n.*	融洽，和谐
prevalent	*adj.*	盛行的，普遍的
respective	*adj.*	分别的，各自的
collaboration	*n.*	合作，协作
depict	*v.*	描述，描绘
confer	*v.*	授予，赋予
trustworthy	*adj.*	值得信赖的，可信赖的
shove	*v.*	猛推，乱挤；推撞
	n.	猛推
log	*n.*	原木
assist	*v.*	帮助，协助；出席
	n.	助攻；资助，帮助
raft	*n.*	木排，木筏
overjoyed	*adj.*	狂喜的
congratulate	*v.*	祝贺
be associated with		与……有关；和……联系在一起
according to		根据
a series of		开放
be about to		即将，刚要
as a result of		由于

Unit 1重点单词短语音频