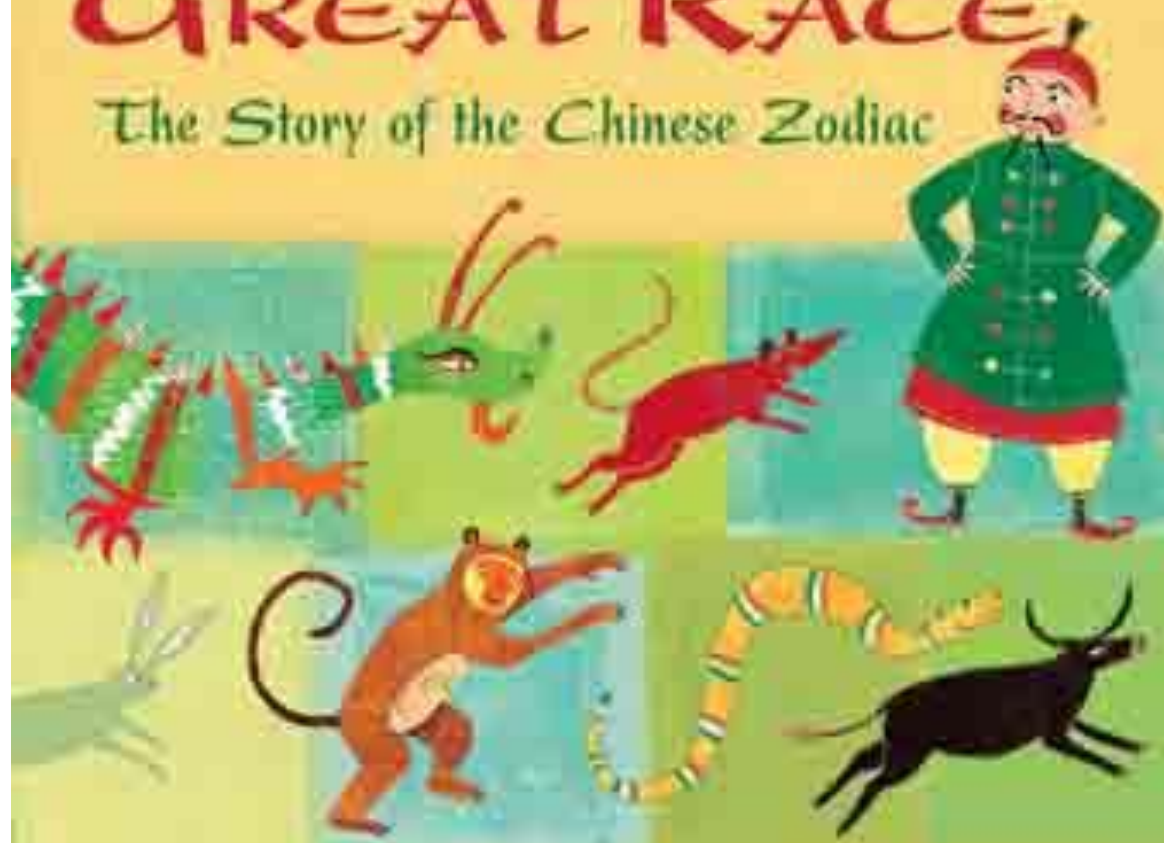




# The GREAT RACE

The Story of the Chinese Zodiac



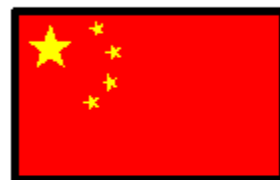
9月

Written by Dawn Casey

Illustrated by Anne Wilson



12月



The

story

of

the

Chinese

new Year



Many



moons



ago



the



people



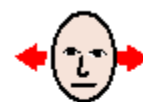
of



china



had



no



calendar



something



must



be



done.



I



will



hold



a



race



said



the



jade



emperor



and



name



each



year



after



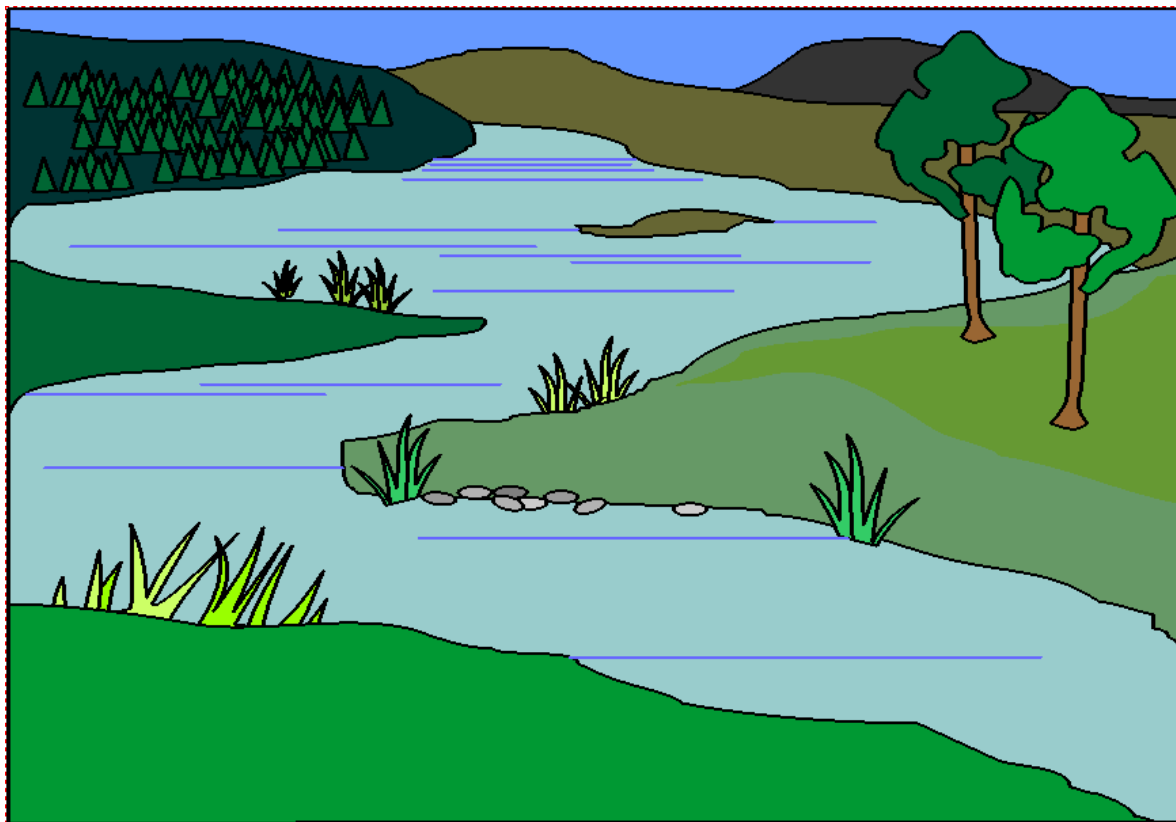
a



different



animal



it



will



be



a



swimming



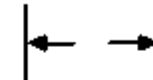
race



across



a



wide



river.



I



will



name



the



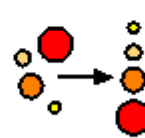
years



in



the



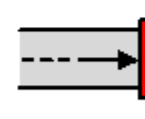
order



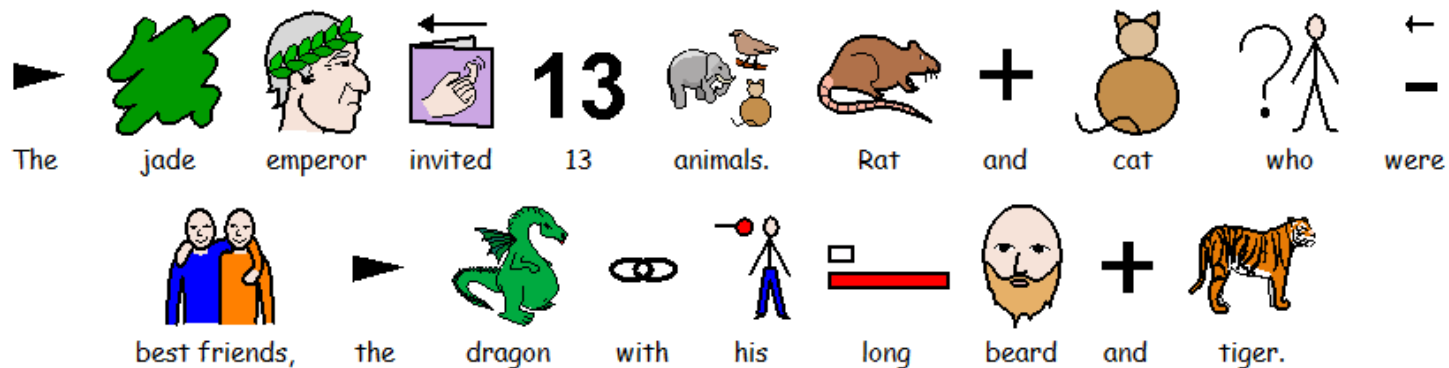
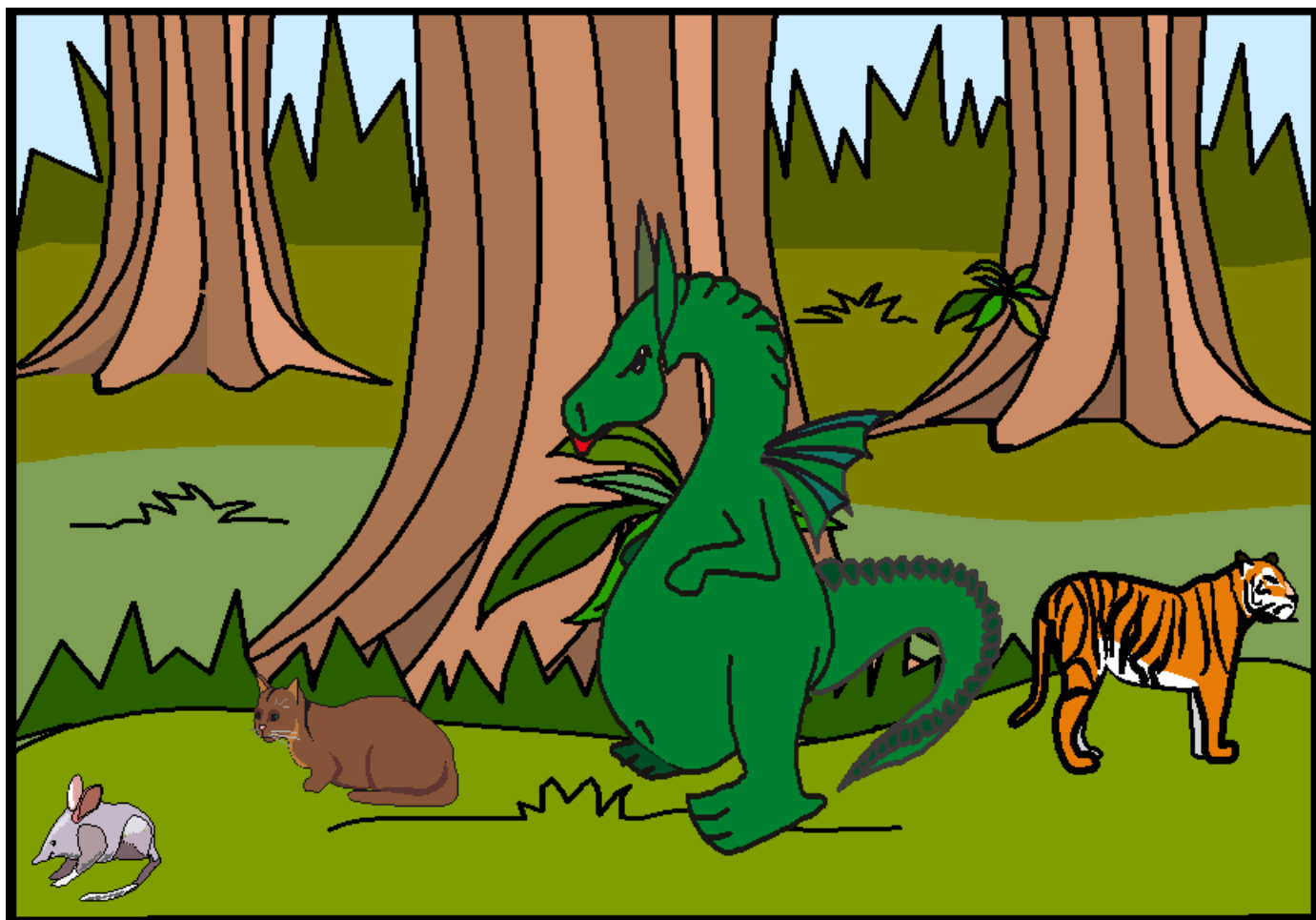
the

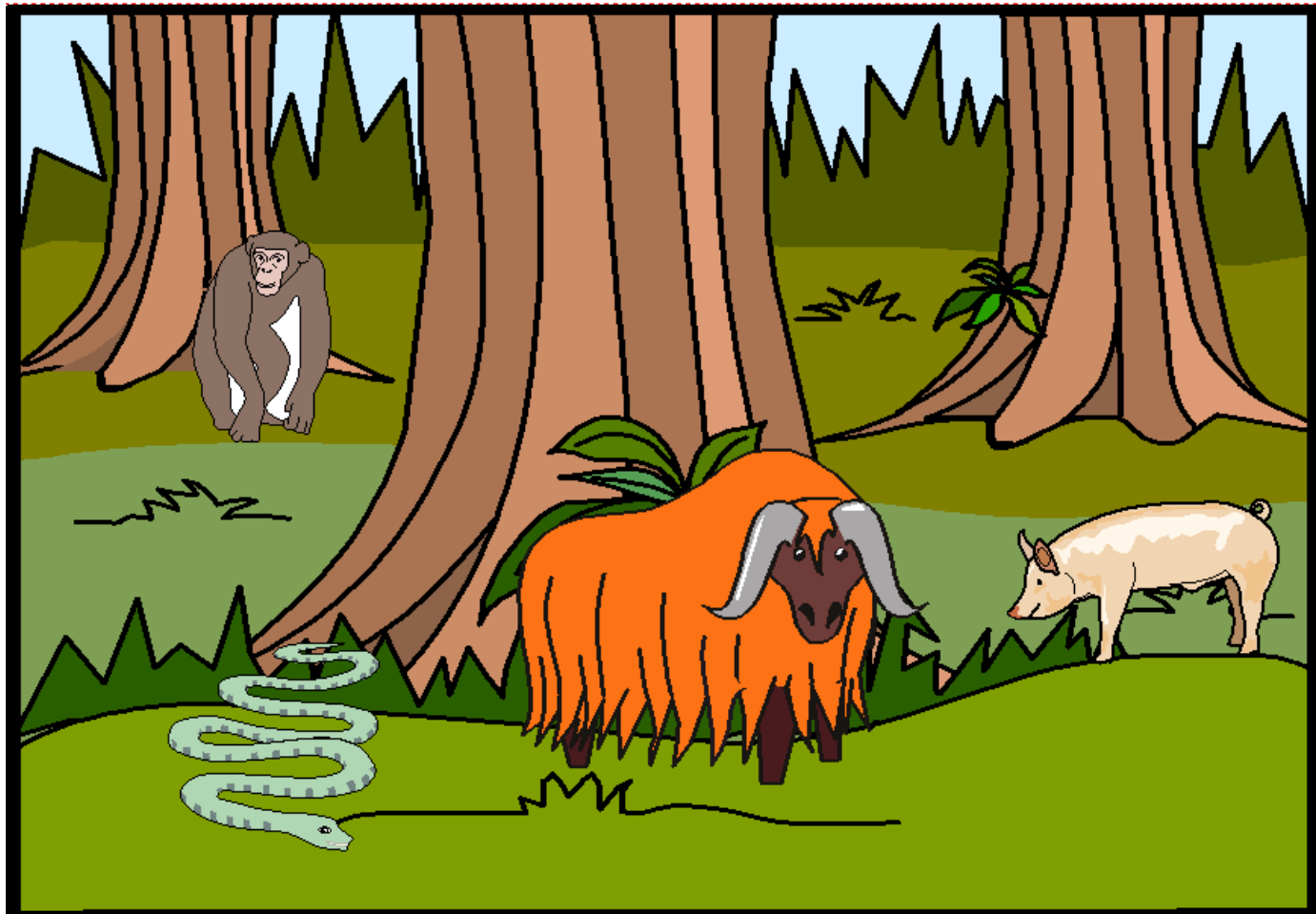


animals



finish





monkey



was



swinging



from



the



trees



and



snake



was



coiled,



ox



waited



patiently



and



pig

wallowed



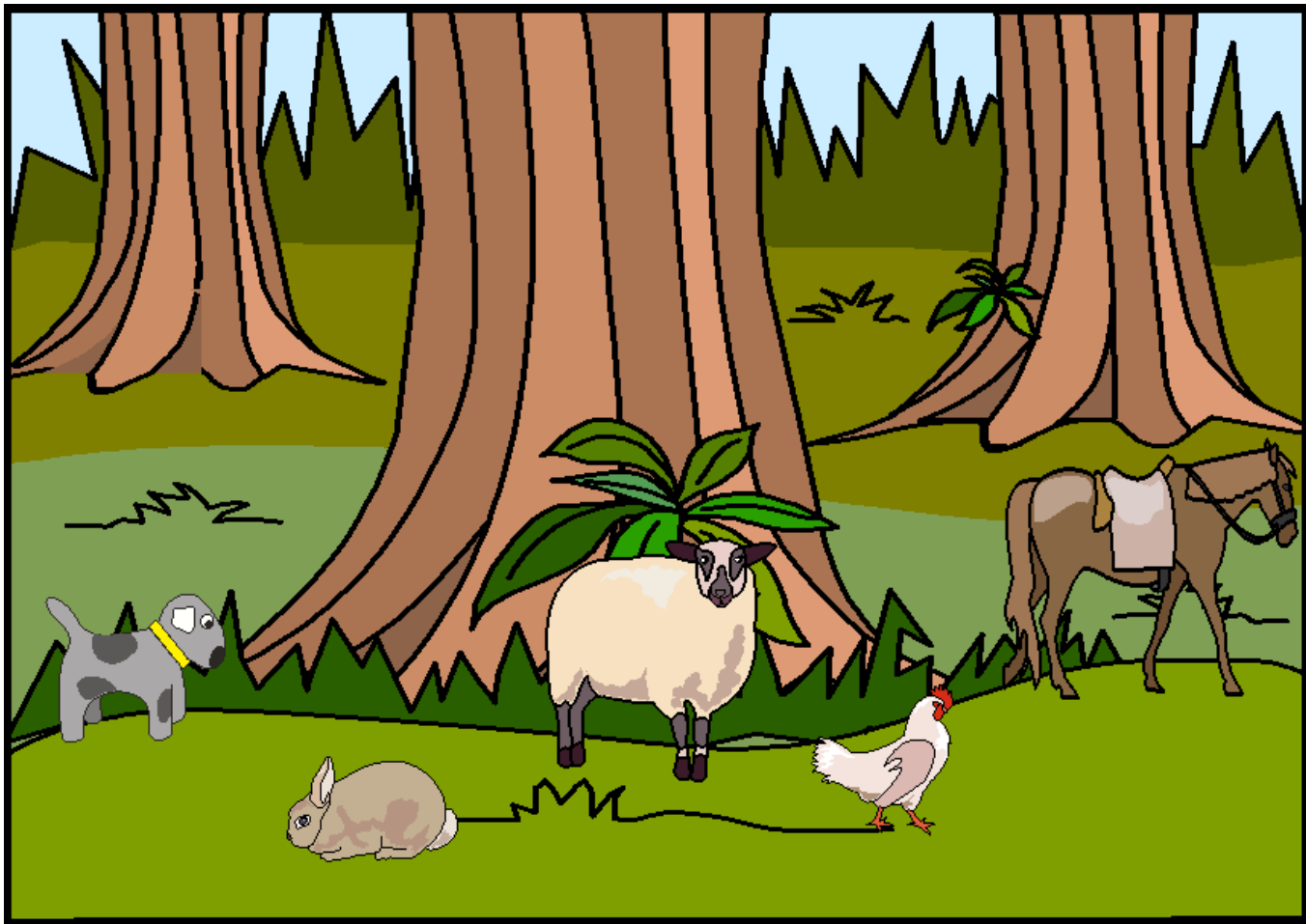
in



the



mud



dog



wagged



his



tail,



hare



gazed



up



at



the



moon,



sheep



watched



cockerel



and



horse



stamped

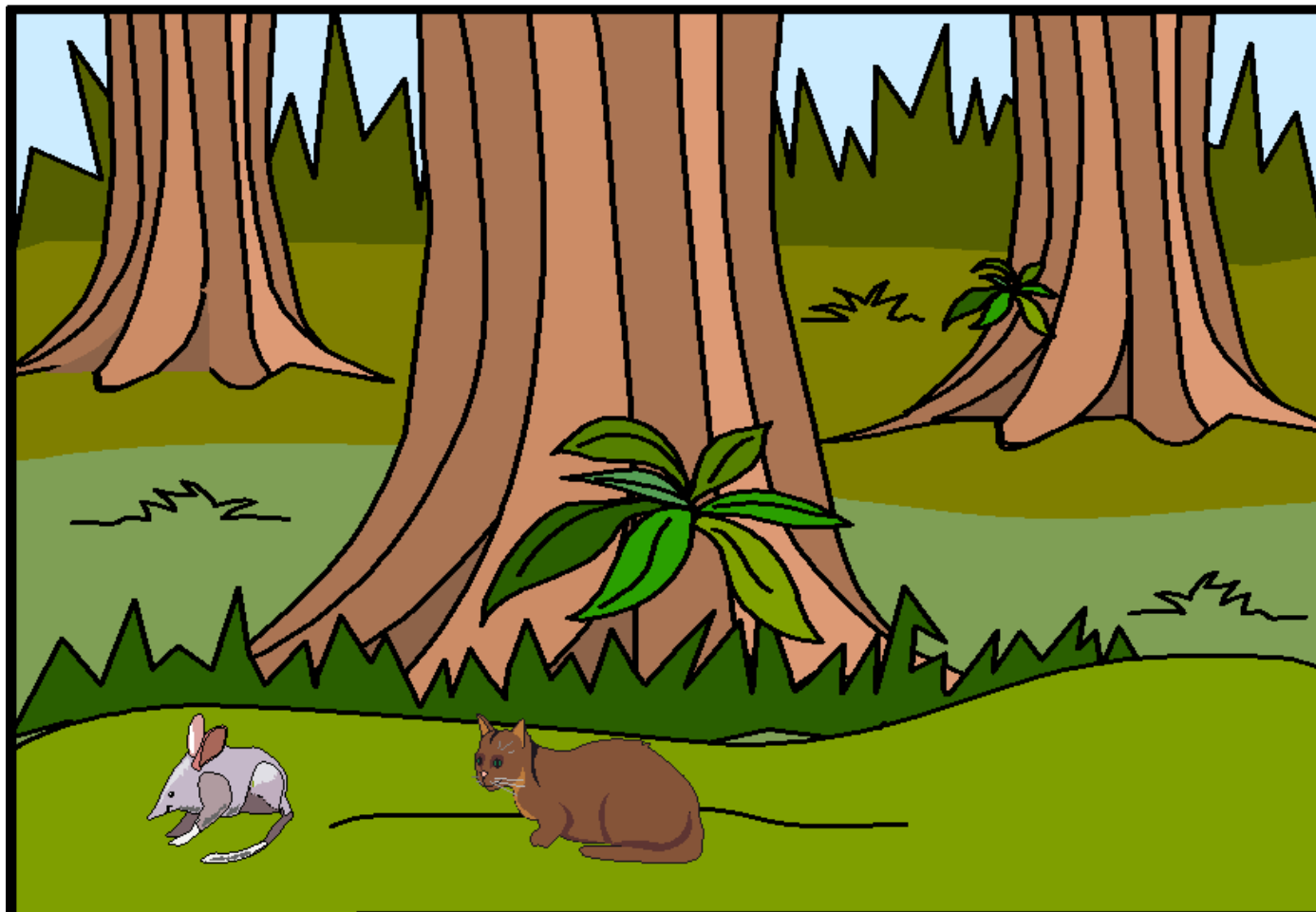


his



hooves.





We

are



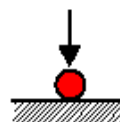
the



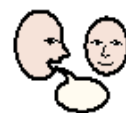
smallest



animals



here



said

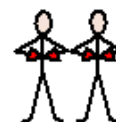


rat

and



cat,



we



will



never



win...

but



Rat



had

a



plan



rat



asked



Ox



to



ride



on



his



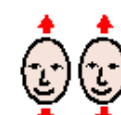
back,



he



said



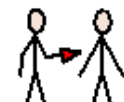
of course



dear



rat



you



can

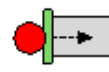
depend



on



me...



Ready...

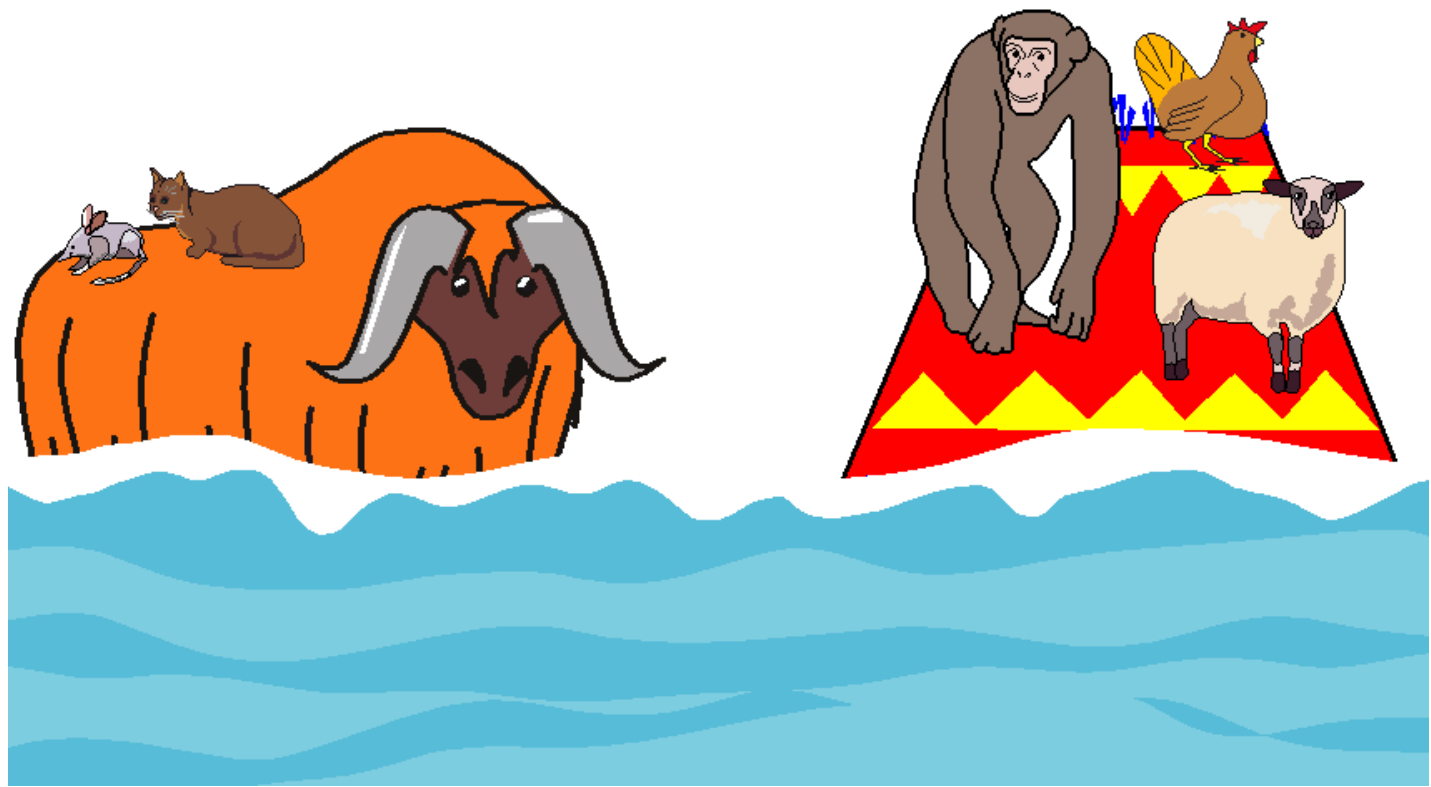


Steady...



GO!

|



Ox,



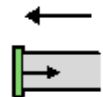
rat



and



cat



started



to



swim



across



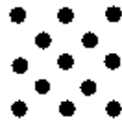
the



river,



cockerel



spotted



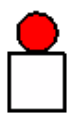
a



raft



'come



on



up'



he



shouted



to



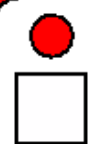
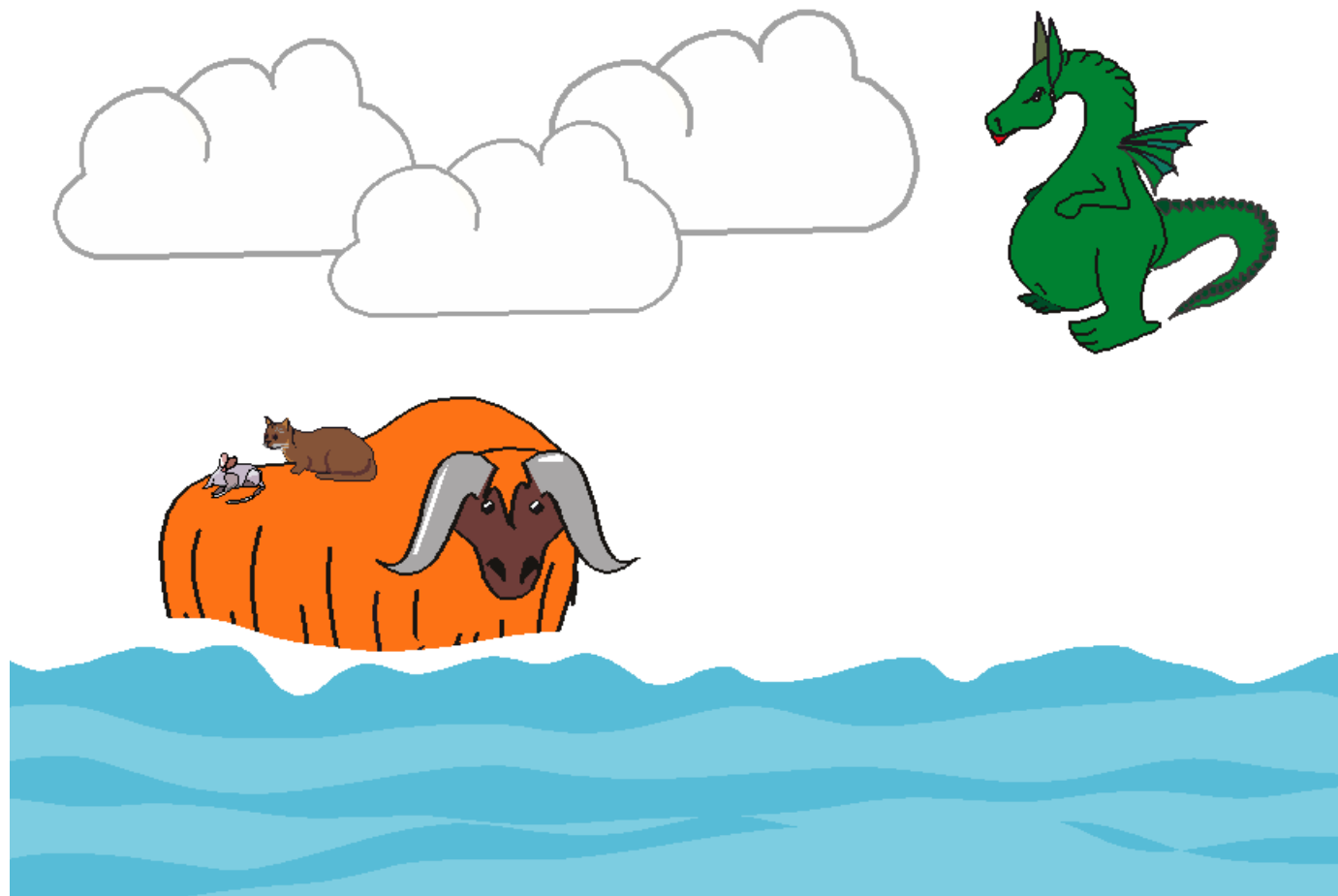
monkey



and



sheep



over



head



dragon

curled



through



the



clouds,



were



getting



closer



shouted



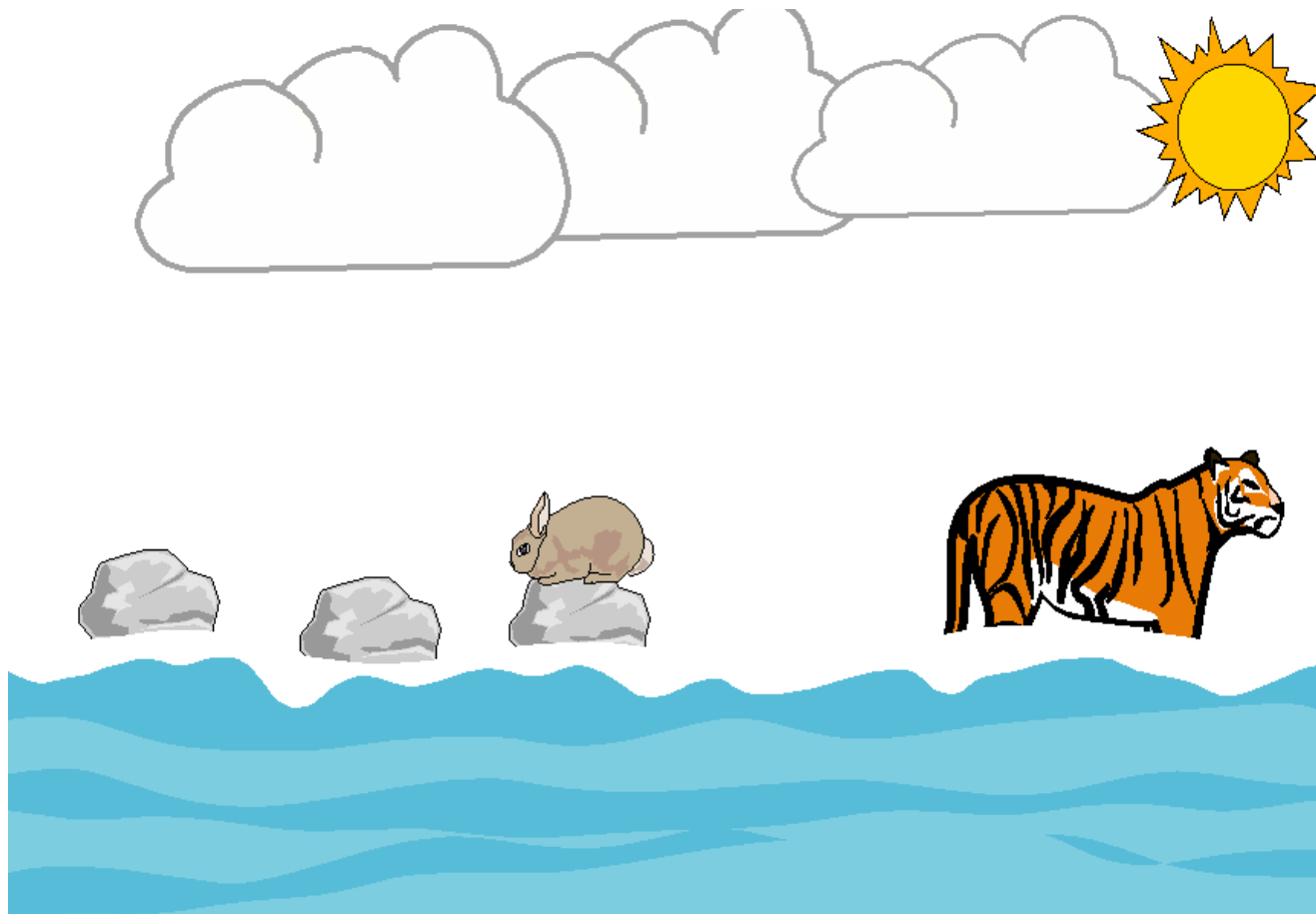
rat



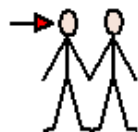
to



ox



now



they



were



catching



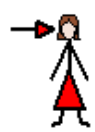
up



with



hare,



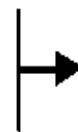
she



was



hopping



from



stone



to



stone.



Tiger



was



using



all



his



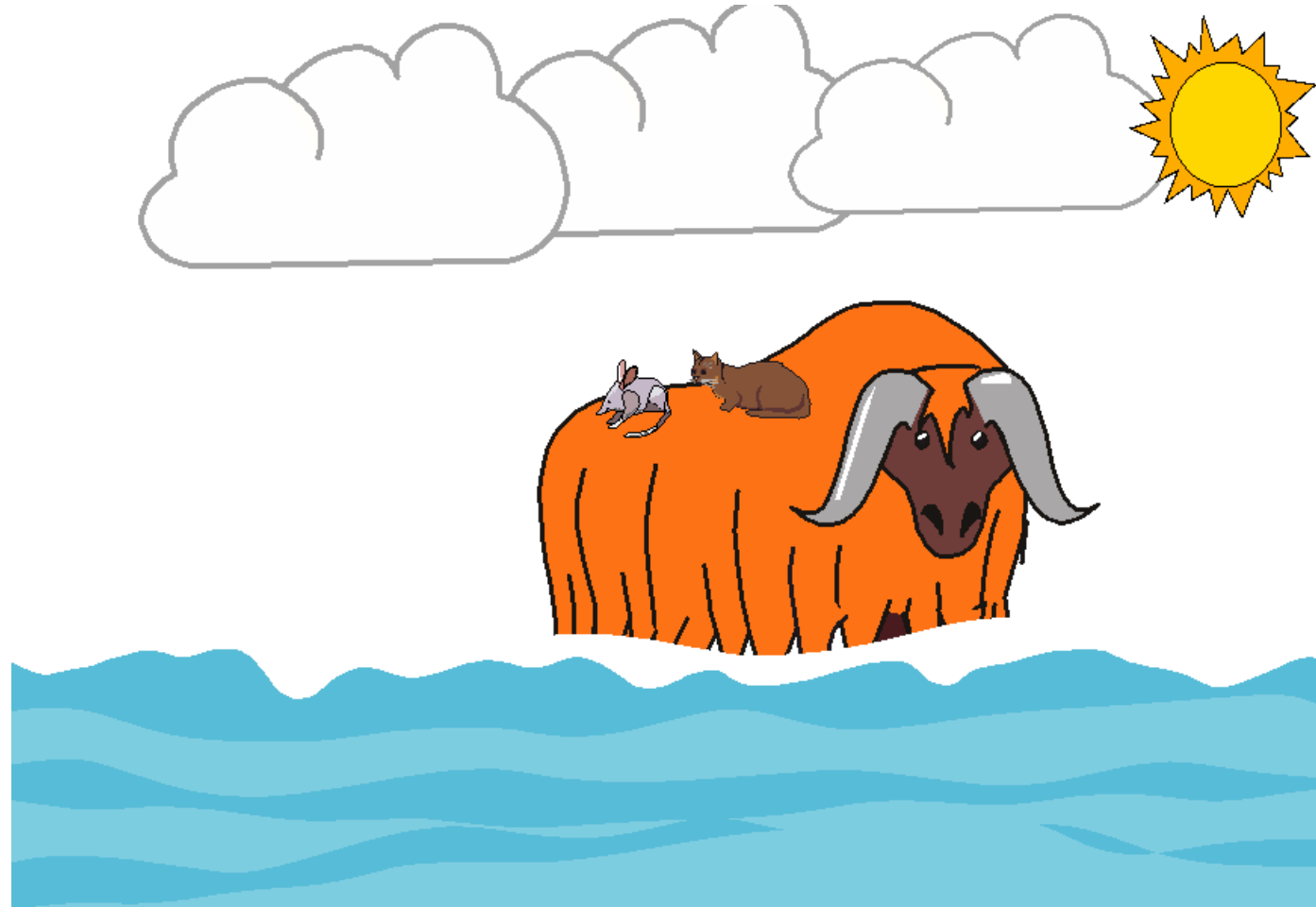
strength



to



swim.



ox



swam



on,



were



in



the



lead!



Rat



looked



down



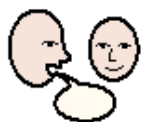
at



cat



and



said



'what



a



lazy



animal



sleeping



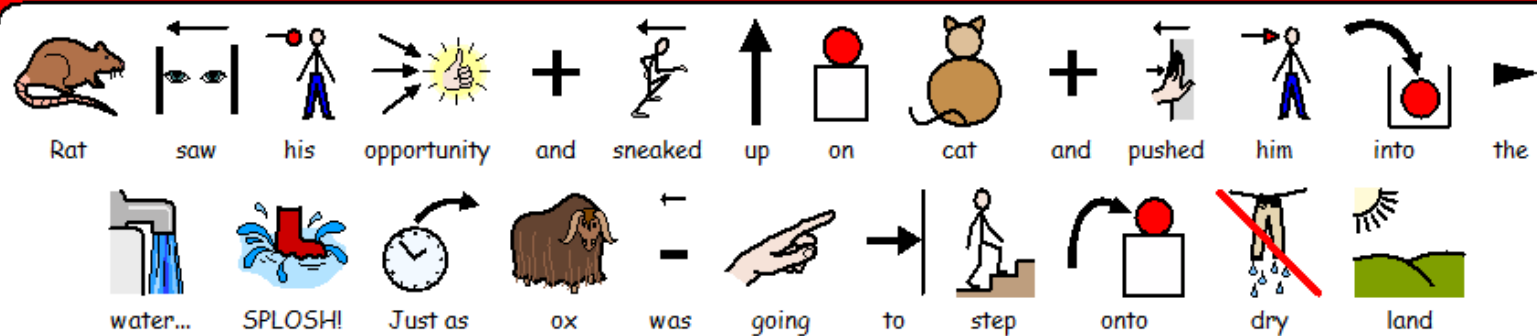
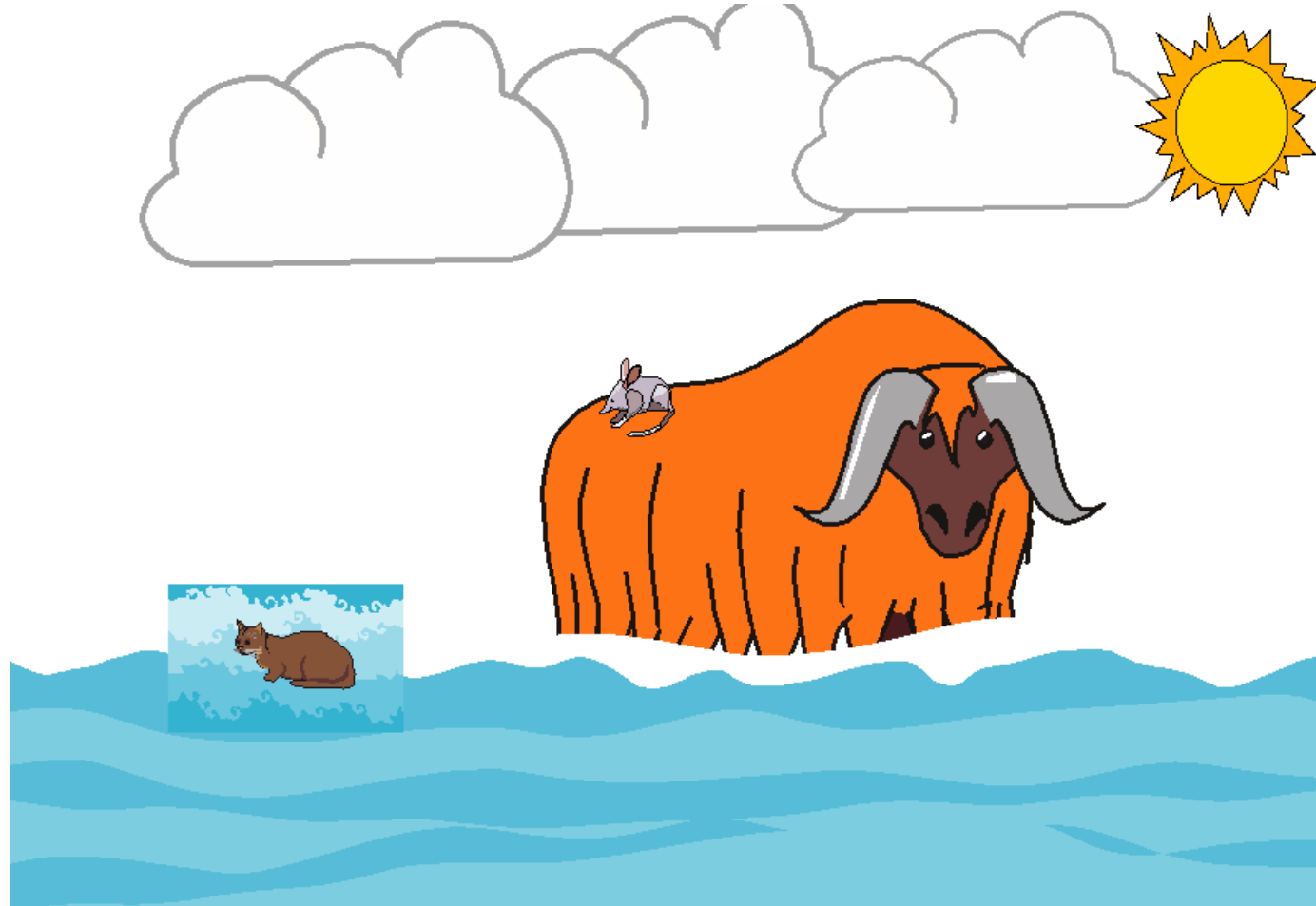
on



ox's



back.

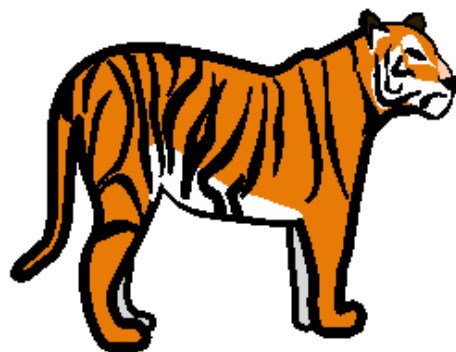




down jumped rat + into first place. The first

year is the year of the rat. Ox was second

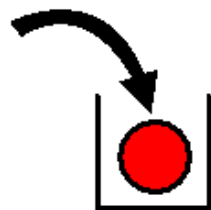




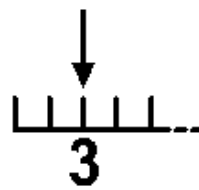
tiger



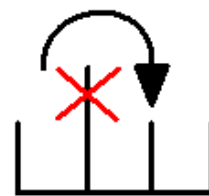
ran



into



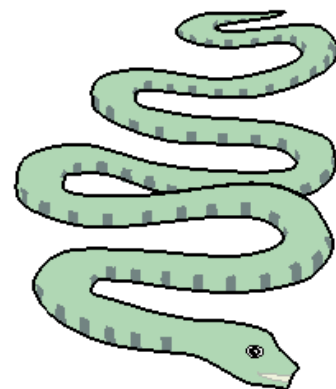
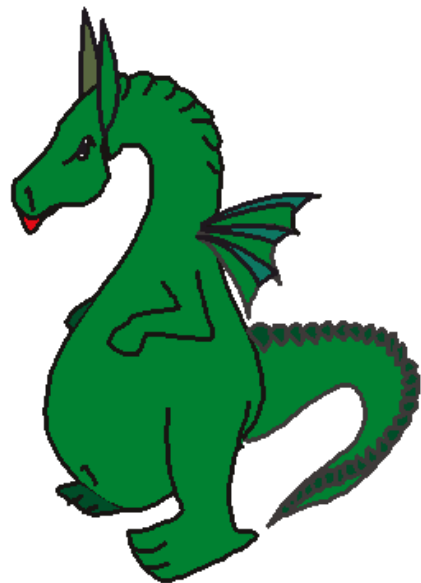
3rd ,



next



hare



+

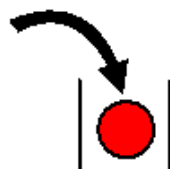
and



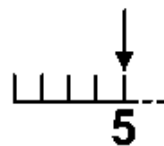
dragon



flew



into



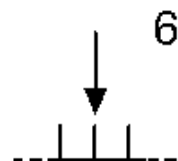
5th,



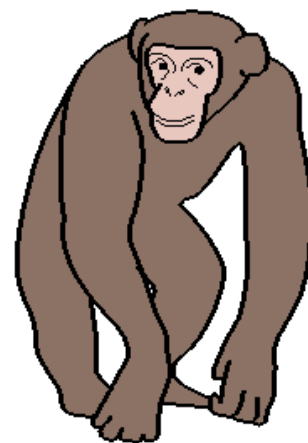
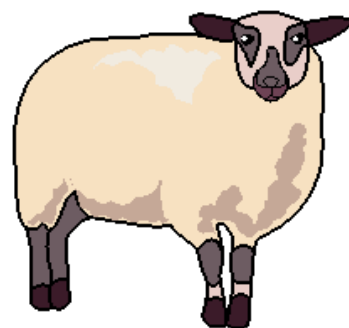
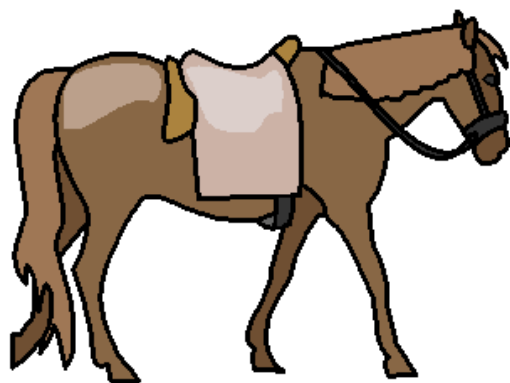
snake



came in



6th



horse



thundered



into



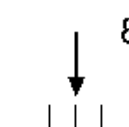
7th,



sheep



was



8th



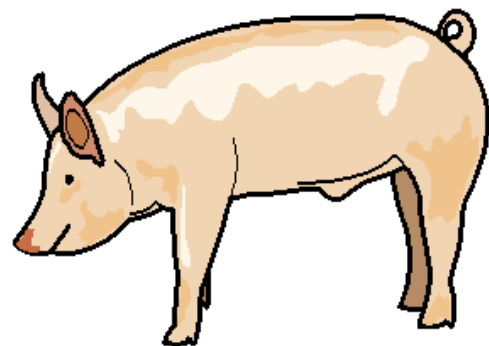
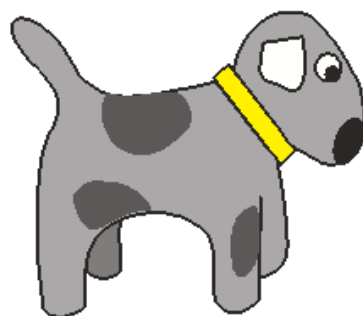
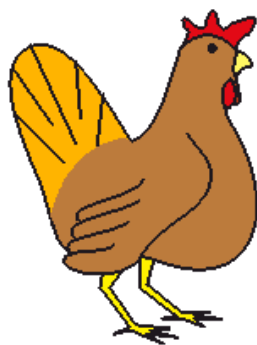
and



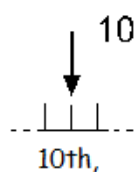
monkey



9th



cockerel



dog



came



and



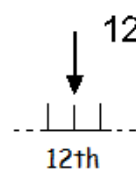
pig



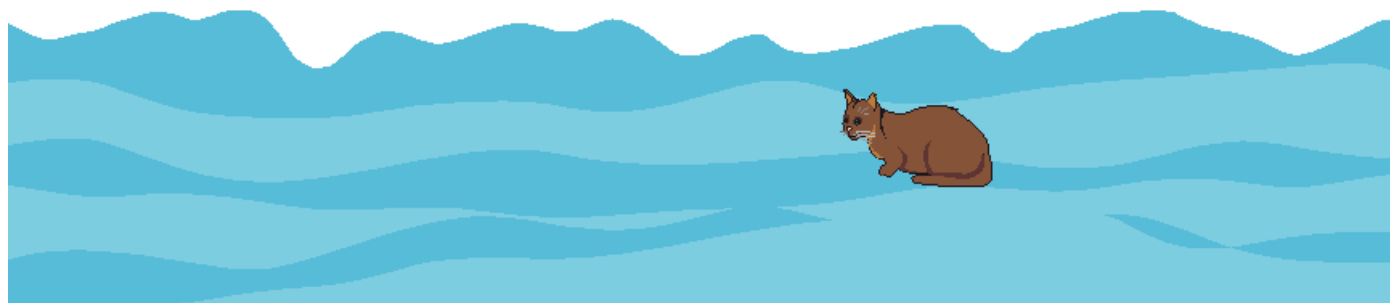
was



in



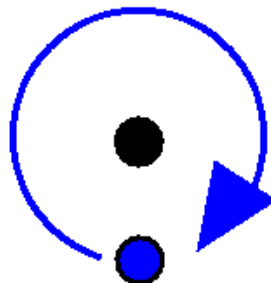
place



but



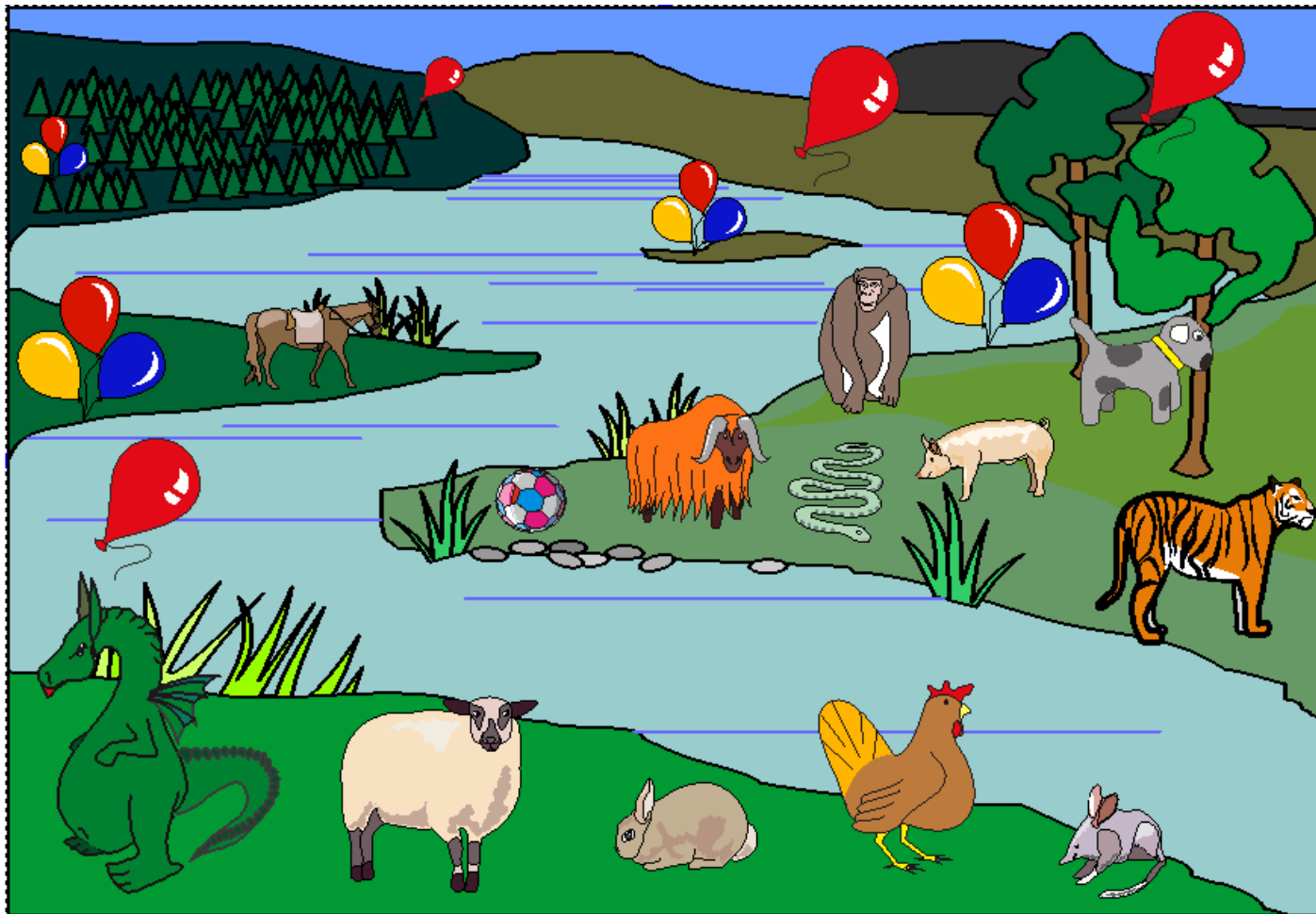
what



about



cat?



cat



was



splashing



about



in



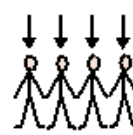
the



river



while



everyone



else



was



having



a



big



party