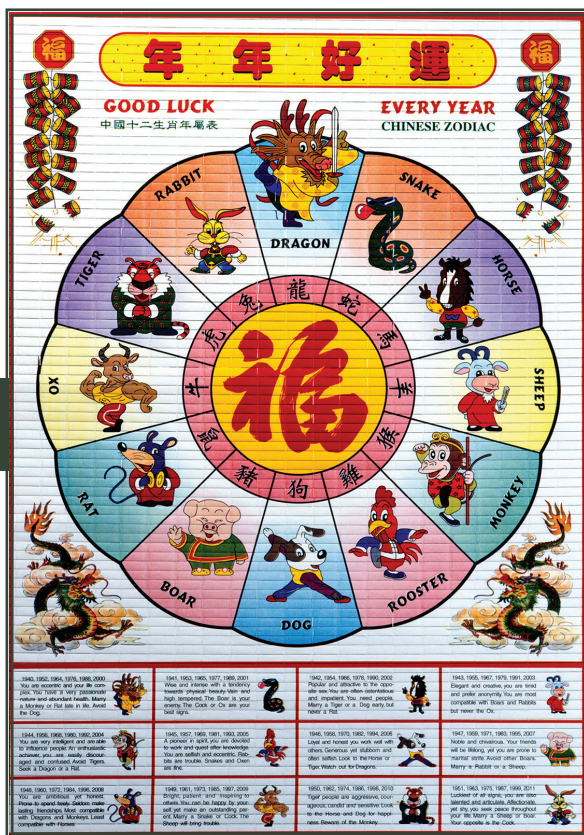


4. SCIENCE AND WRITING

The Shang needed a way of measuring the seasons so that they would know when to plant and harvest crops and when to perform religious ceremonies.

Calendar

They developed a calendar with a 360-day year made up of 12 months of 30 days each. The year was also subdivided into ten-day weeks.



Chinese zodiac characters originate from the early Chinese calendars

The calendar was based on the cycles of the Moon and the Sun. Because the two cycles don't match up, a short extra month was added every few years to keep them in step.

To this day, the Chinese calendar is based on the cycles of the Moon and Sun. This is why Chinese New Year falls on a different date each year.

