**Actuele lesbrief Engels – Year of the Rat**

**Voor de docent**

Zaterdag 25 januari 2020 was de start van het Chinese Nieuwjaar, het jaar van de rat.

**ERK-niveau**

Lezen A2 - Lezen om informatie op te doen – Kan specifieke informatie begrijpen in eenvoudige teksten. (LEA2-3a)

Leesstrategieën – Kan zijn of haar begrip van de algemene betekenis van korte teksten over alledaagse onderwerpen van concrete aard gebruiken om de vermoedelijke betekenis van onbekende woorden af te leiden uit de context.

Kan gebruikmaken van tweetalige (online) woordenboeken om woordbegrip te controleren, indien toegestaan.

Schrijven A2 – Notities, berichten, formulieren – Kan eenvoudige en korte notities maken voor zichzelf. (SCHA2-2b)

**Intro**

The first day of the Chinese New Year was on Saturday, 25 January 2020. It was the start of the Year of the Rat.

Assignment 1

Read the assignment and write down the answers in English. You may use English-language Internet sources to help you. If you only know the Dutch word, use a dictionary to find the English word.

a 2020 is the Chinese Year of the Rat. What are the other 11 Chinese New Year animals? Look it up and write them down.

b Find a picture of each of the Chinese New Year animals.

**Year of the Rat**

In China, each year carries the name of an animal. There are 12 animals, which come back in a fixed order each Chinese New Year. 2020 is the Chinese Year of the Rat. Did you know that rats can giggle and sing? Read all about these amazing little animals [here](https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/animals/general-animals/facts-about-rats/).

Assignment 2

Read the text. Connect the words and expressions in the two columns that have the same meaning.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. the Zodiac | *a.* active mainly during the night |
| 1. rodents | *b.* animal poo |
| 1. nocturnal | *c.* to be more in number than someone or something |
| 1. to outnumber | *d.* to clean something or make it smooth |
| 1. to stow away | *e.* completely different; to the other side |
| 1. fleas | *f. de dierenriem* |
| 1. whiskers | *g. evenwicht* |
| 1. to brush | *h.* to hide on a boat or airplane or other place |
| 1. opposite | *i.* to keep air in your lungs for a short time instead of breathing out |
| 1. high-pitched | *j.* long, stiff hairs that grow near the mouth of some animals |
| 1. to lick | *k.* making a high sound |
| 1. fur | *l.* to pass your tongue over something |
| 1. balance | *m.* small animals (such as mice, rats, etc.) with sharp front teeth |
| 1. to hold your breath | *n.* the hairy coat of an animal |
| 1. droppings | *o.* very small insects that live on animals, with strong legs used for jumping |

Assignment 3

a What do they say about people born in a rat year?

1 People born in a rat year are called a ‘mischief’.

2 People born in a rat year are funny and smart.

3 People born in a rat year are good swimmers.

4 People born in a rat year are good swimmers.

b What do rats eat?

1 Birds.

2 Droppings.

3 Fleas that live on other rats.

4 Food that we throw away.

c Which facts about rats are true?

1 People have always kept rats as pets.

2 Rats can use their long tails to make sure that they do not fall.

3 Rats paint pictures on the floor with their long hairs.

4 Their teeth grow constantly.

5 There are more rats than people on earth.