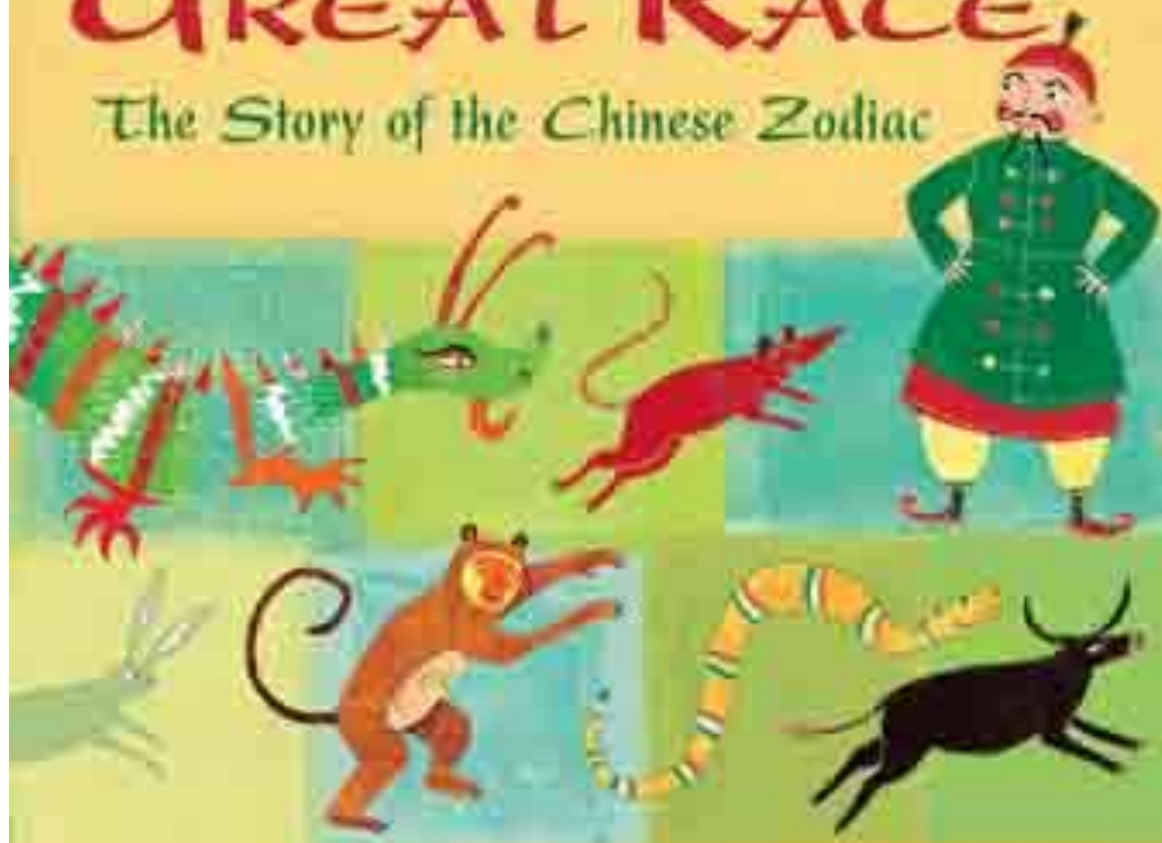




The GREAT RACE

The Story of the Chinese Zodiac



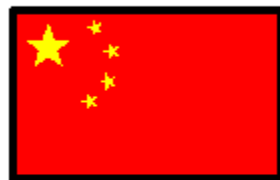
四六

九月

Written by Dawn Casey
Illustrated by Anne Wilson

1-

十二



The

story

of

the

Chinese

new Year



Many



moons



ago



the



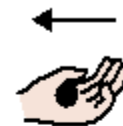
people



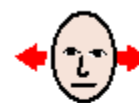
of



china



had



no



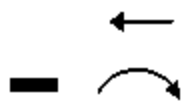
calendar



something



must



be done.



I



will



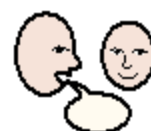
hold



a



race



said



the



jade



emperor



and



name



each



year



after



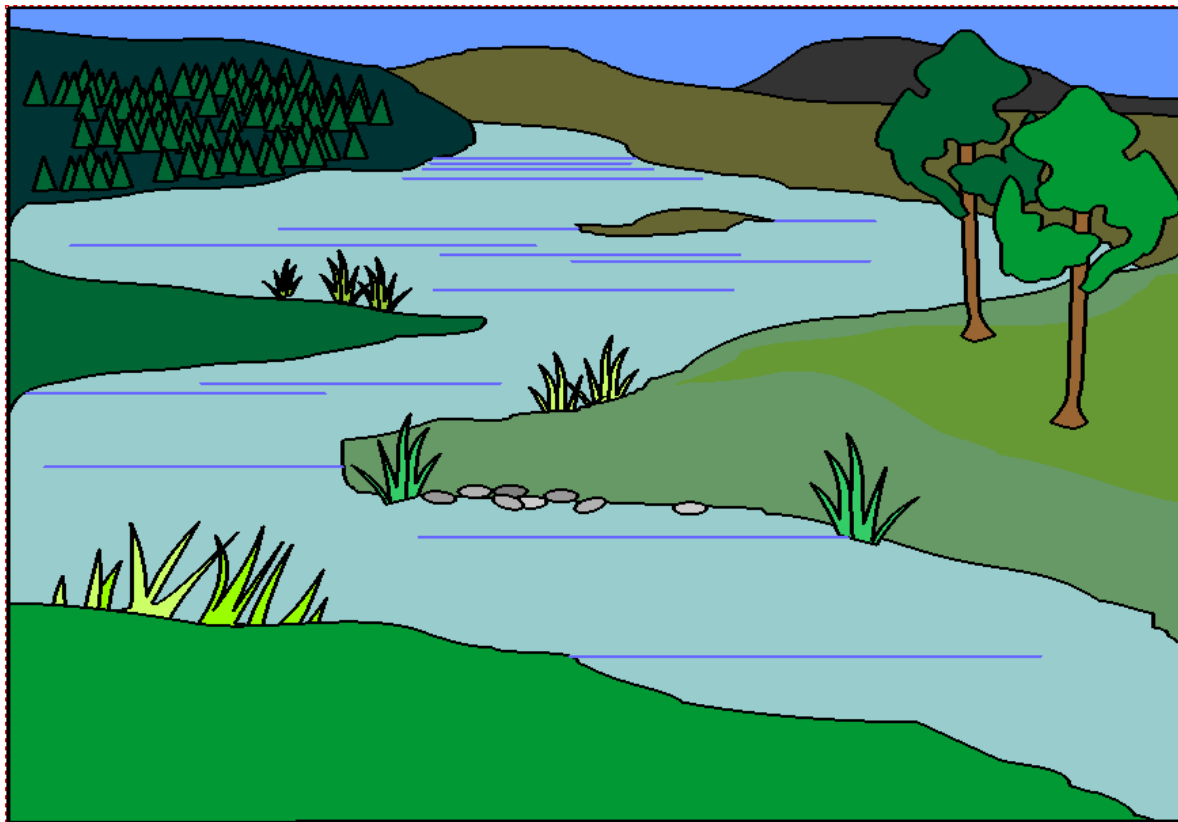
a



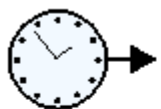
different



animal



it



will



be



a



swimming



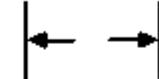
race



across



a



wide



river.



I



will



name



the



years



in



the



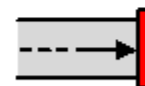
order



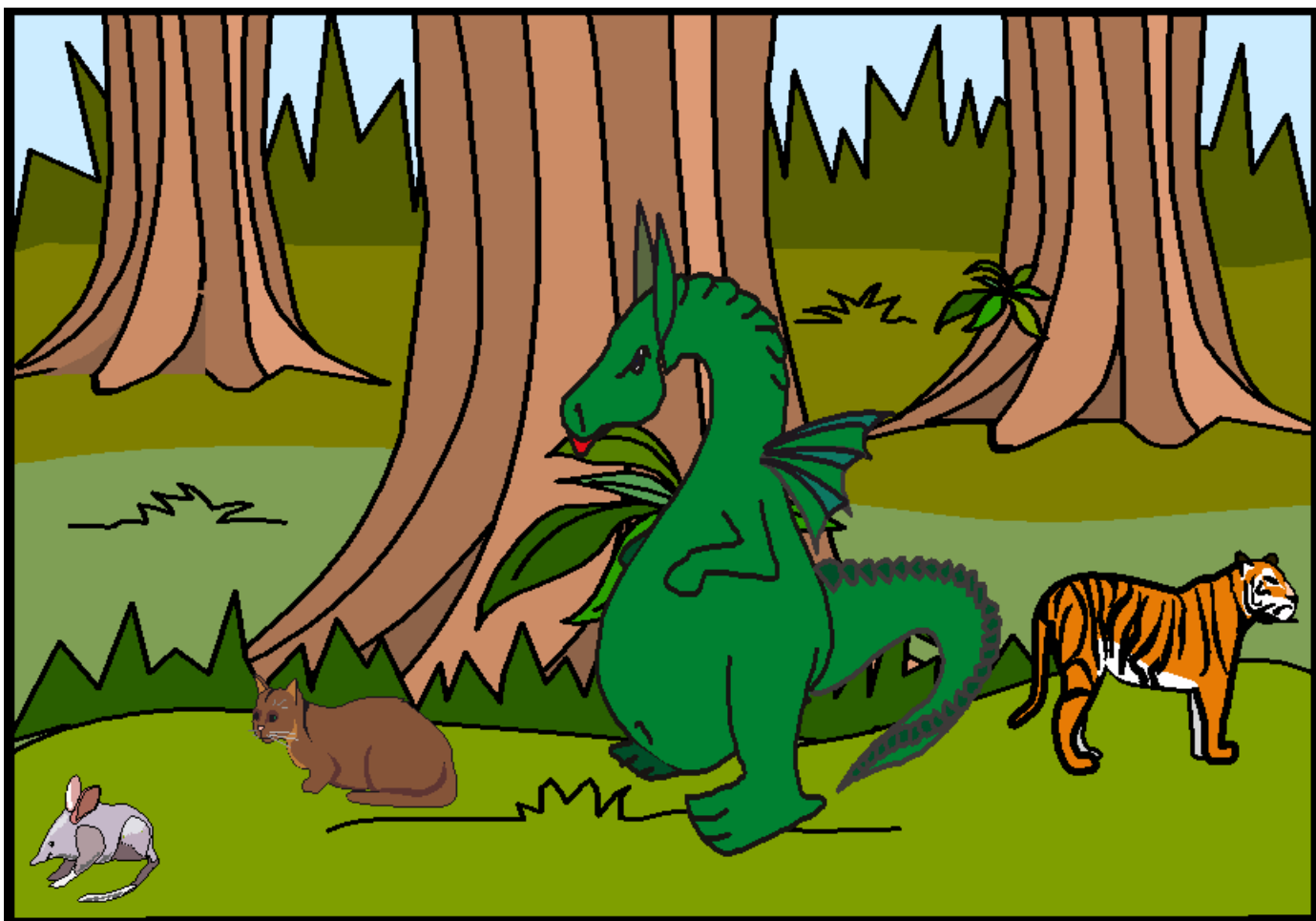
the




animals



finish













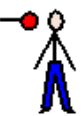
13



 The jade emperor invited 13 animals. Rat and cat who were

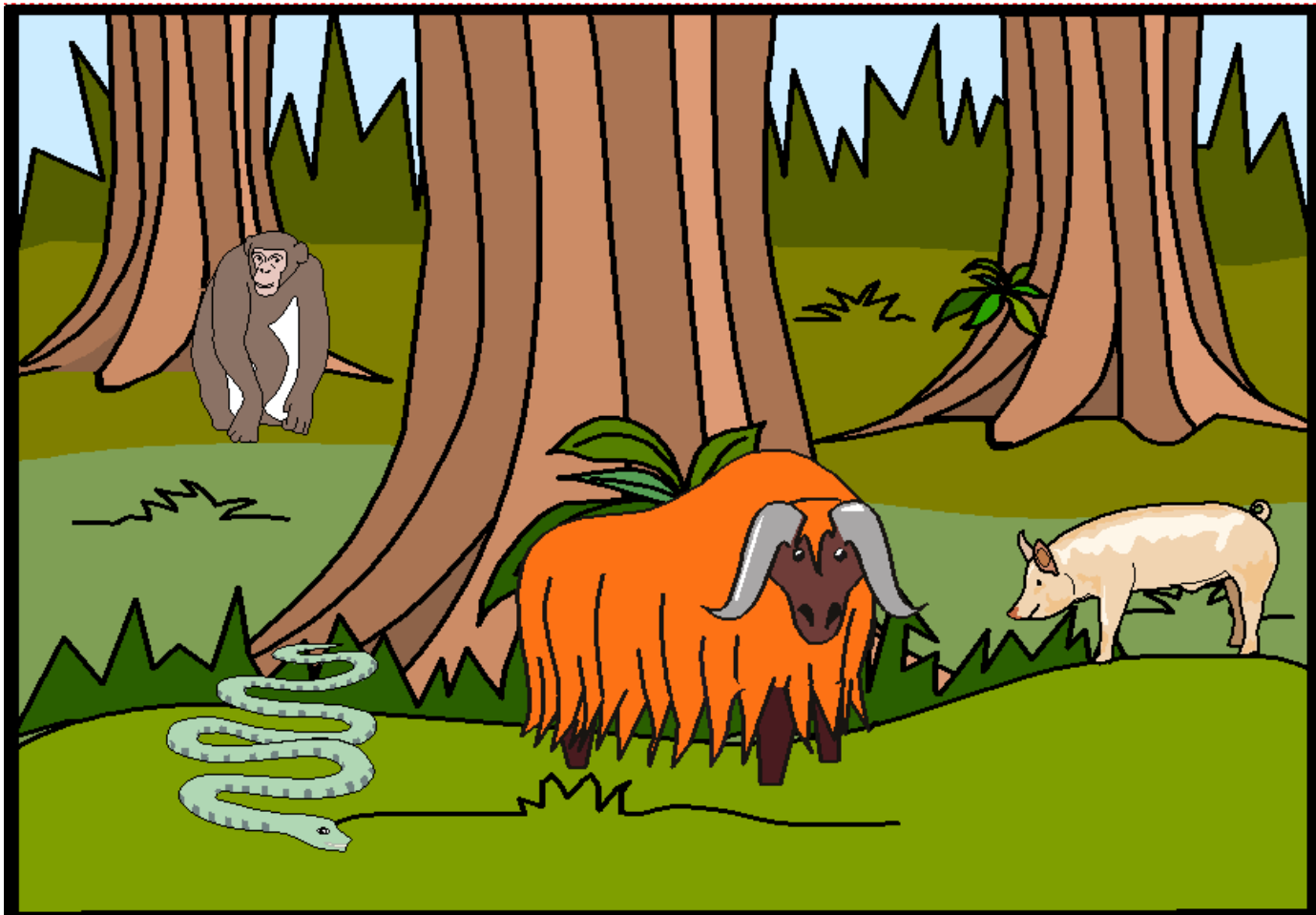










 best friends, the dragon with his long beard and tiger.



monkey



was



swinging



from



the



trees



and



snake



was



coiled,



ox



waited



patiently



and



pig

wallowed



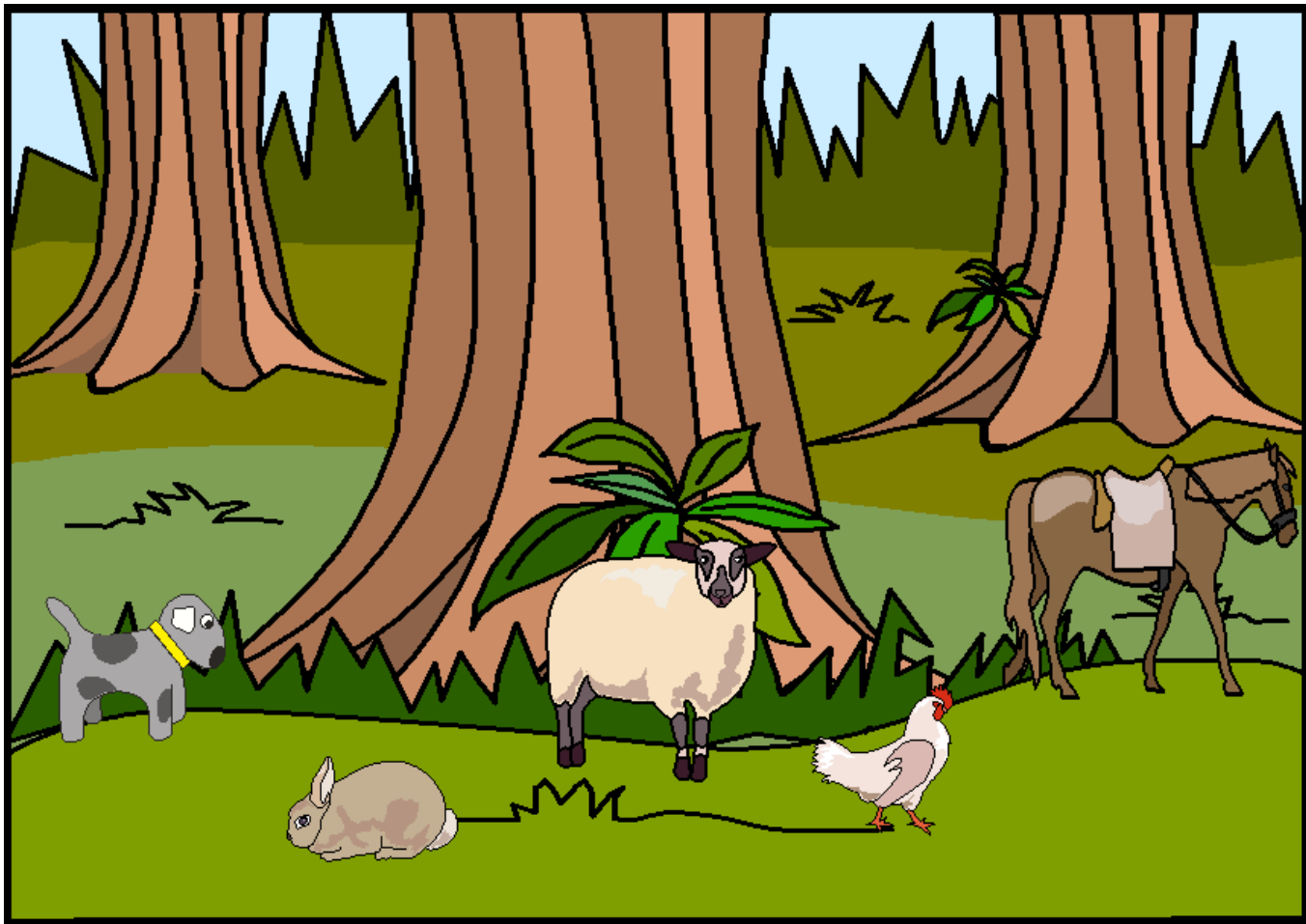
in



the



mud



dog



wagged



his



tail,



hare



gazed



up



at



the



moon,



sheep



watched



cockerel



and



horse



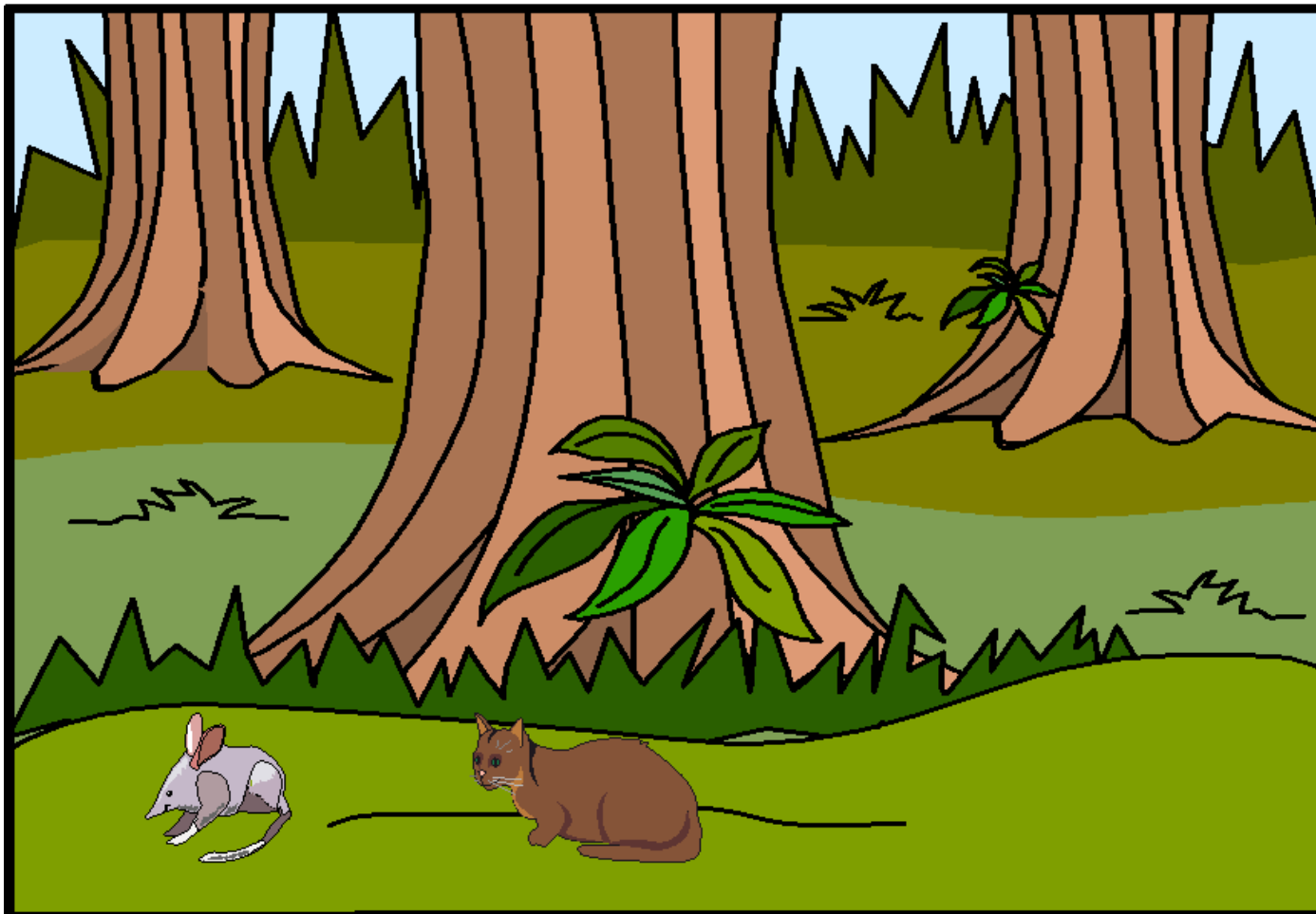
stamped



his



hooves.



We



are



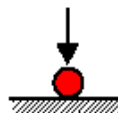
the



smallest



animals



here



said



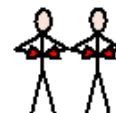
rat



and



cat,



we



will



never



win...



but



Rat



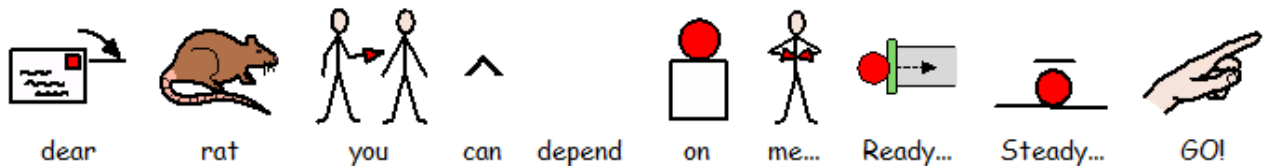
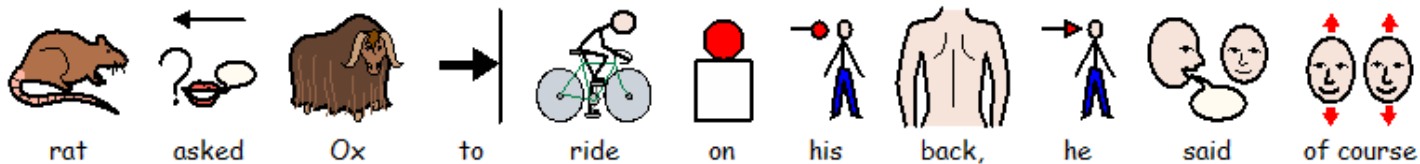
had

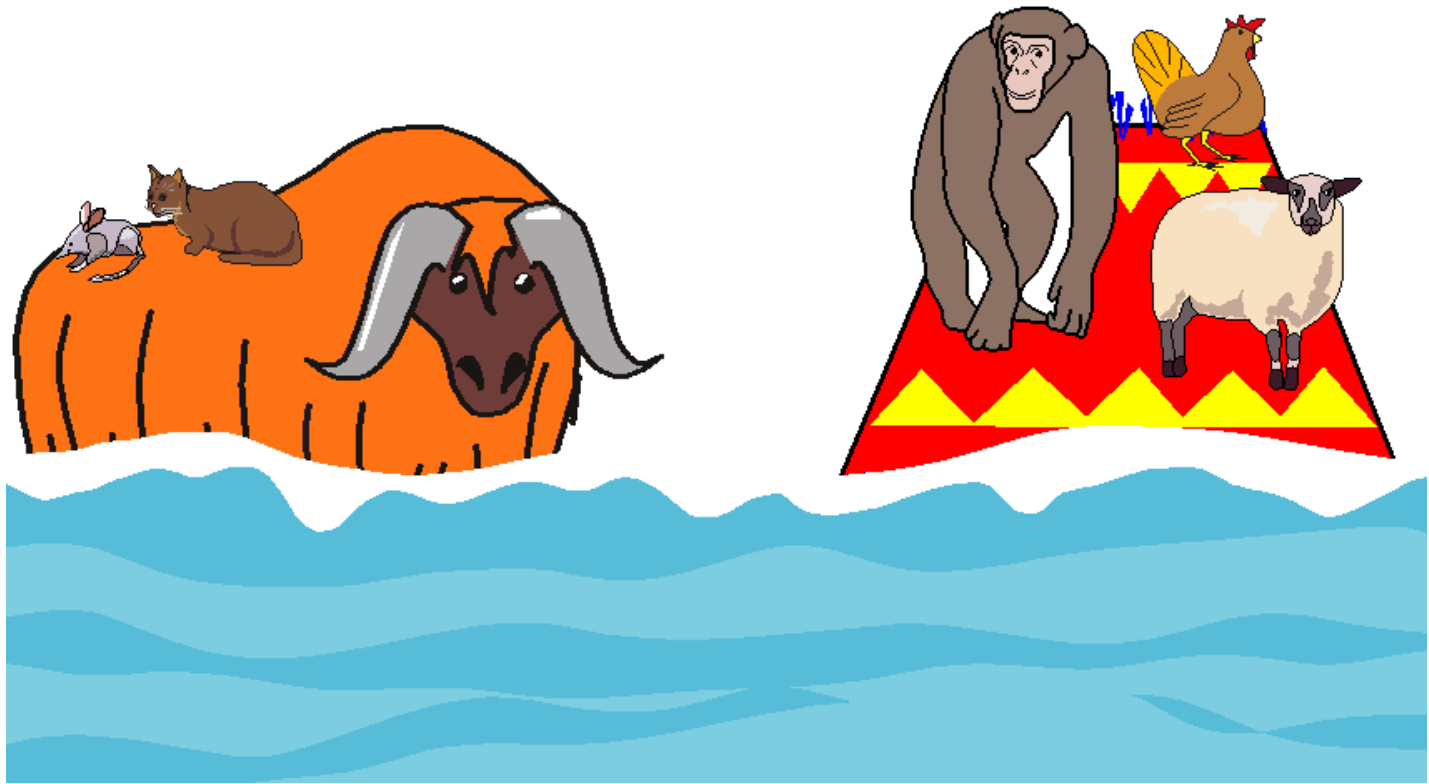






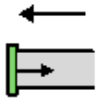






a





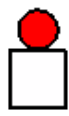









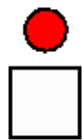
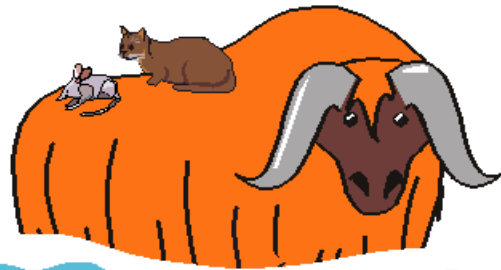
plan





 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

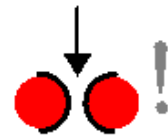
clouds,



were



getting



closer



shouted



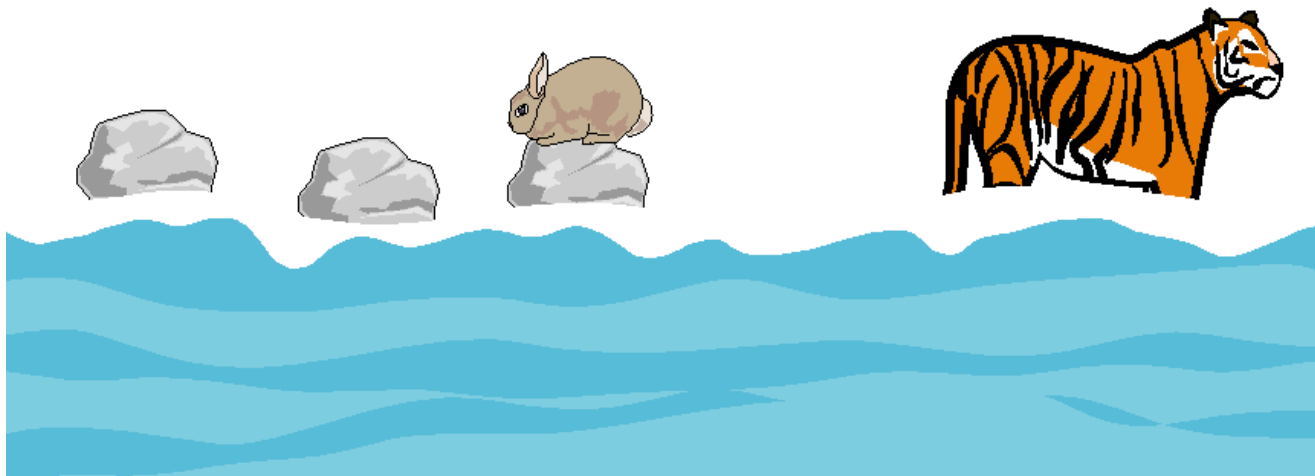
rat



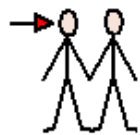
to



ox



now



they



were



catching



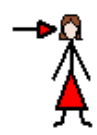
up



with



hare,



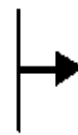
she



was



hopping



from



stone



to



stone.



Tiger



was



using



all



his



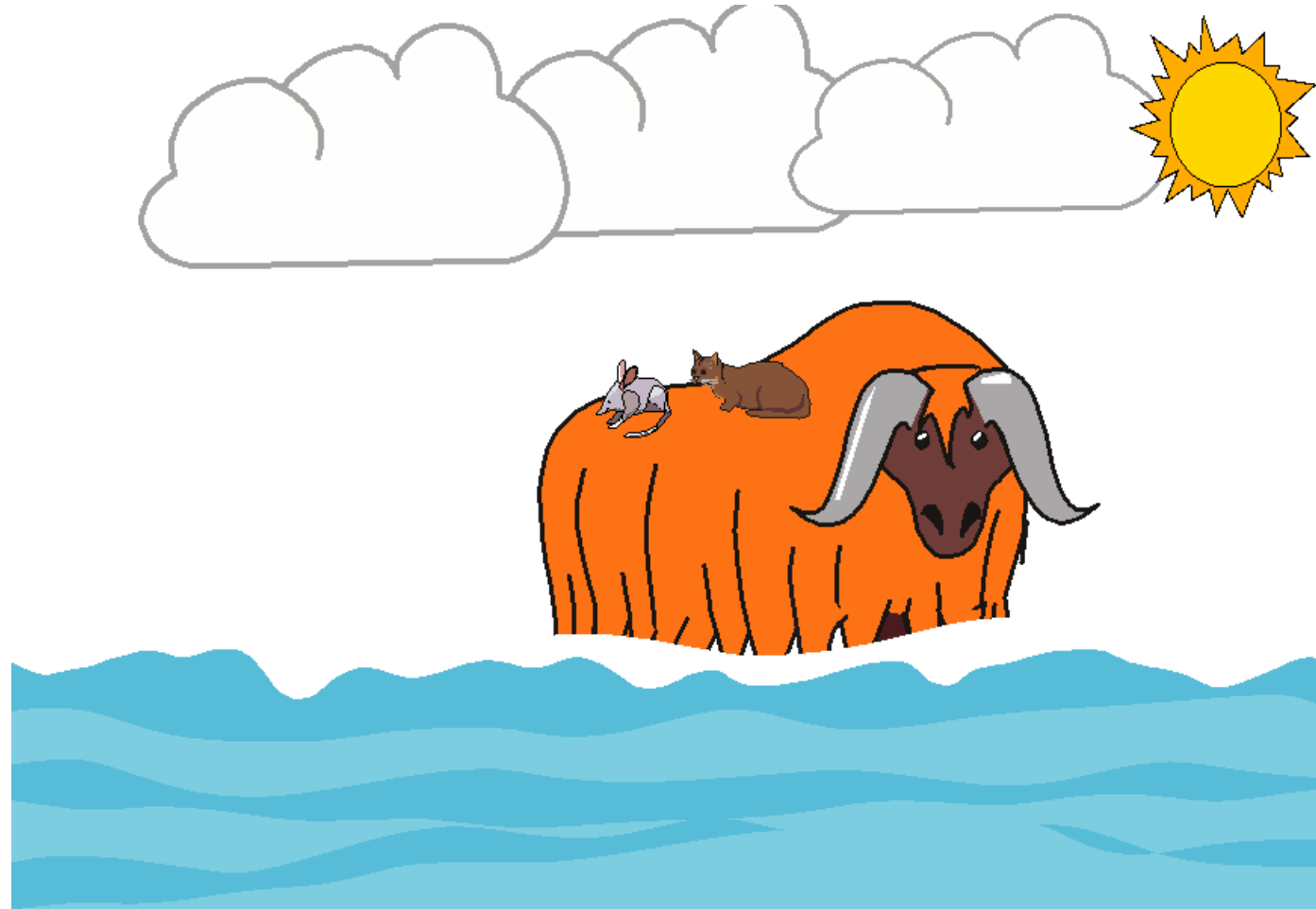
strength



to



swim.



ox



swam



on,



were



in



the



lead!



Rat



looked



down



at



cat



and



said



'what



a



lazy



animal



sleeping



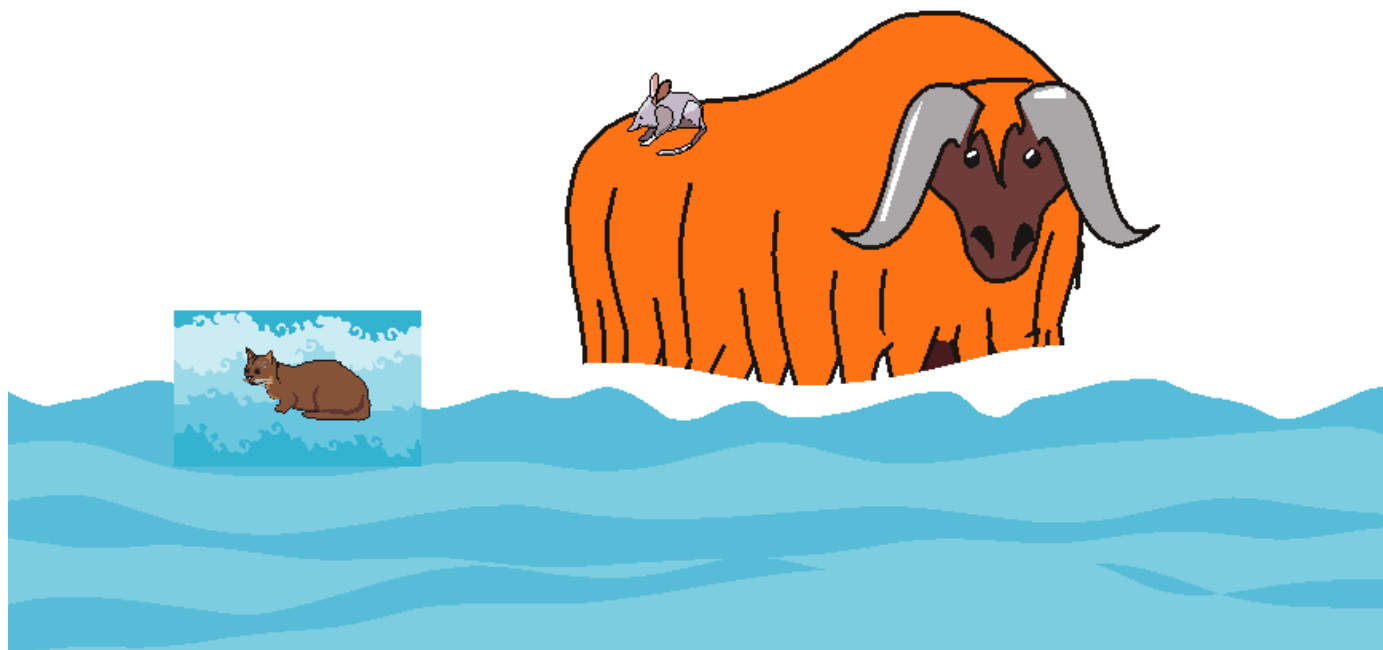
on























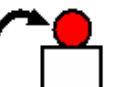




ox's























back.



													
Rat	saw	his	opportunity	and	sneaked	up	on	cat	and	pushed	him	into	the
													
water...	SPLOSH!	Just as	ox	was	going	to	step	onto	dry	land			



 down  jumped  rat  and  darted  into  first  place.  The  first

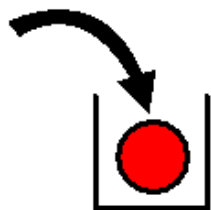
 year  is  the  year  of  the  rat.  Ox  was  second



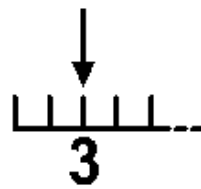
tiger



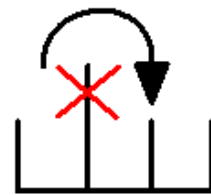
ran



into



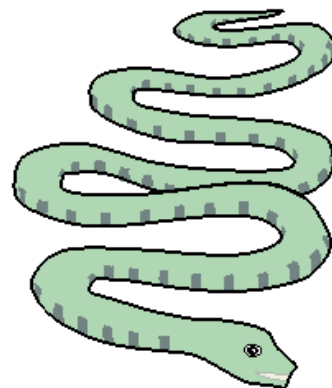
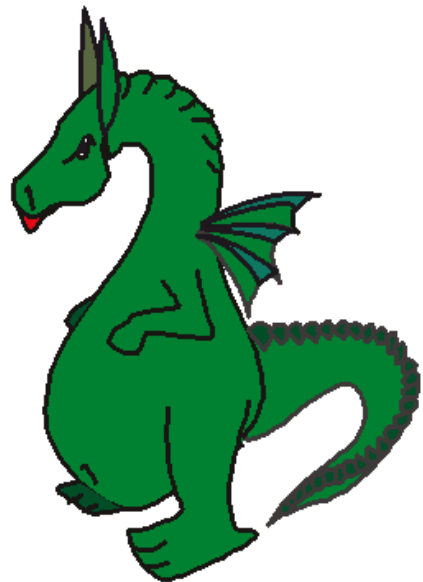
3rd ,



next



hare



+

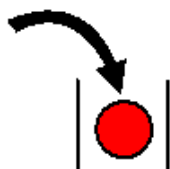
and



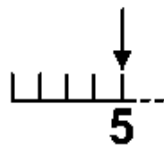
dragon



flew



into



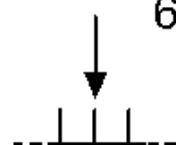
5th,



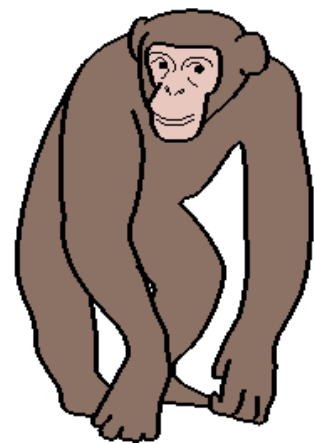
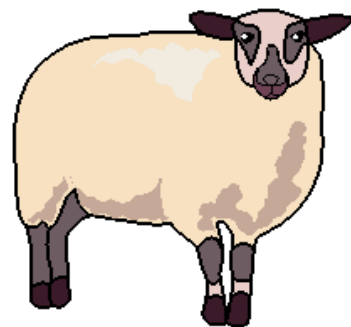
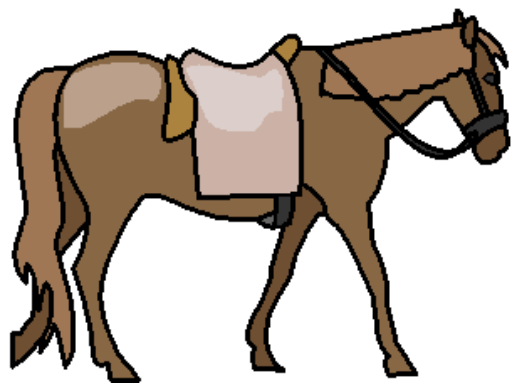
snake



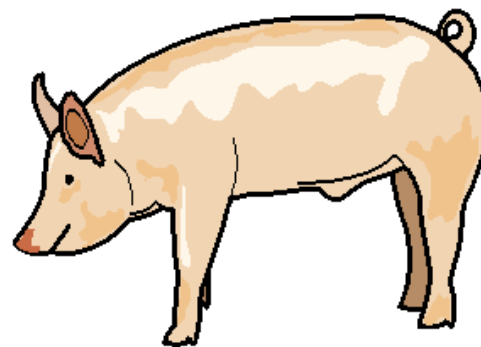
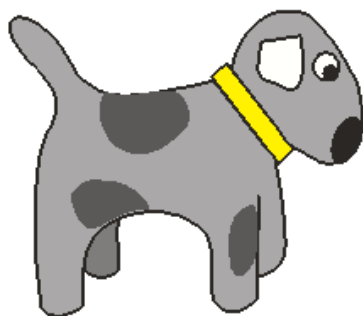
came in



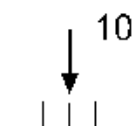
6th



horse thundered into 7th, sheep was 8th and monkey 9th



cockerel



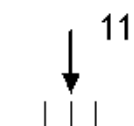
10th,



dog



came



11th



and



pig



was



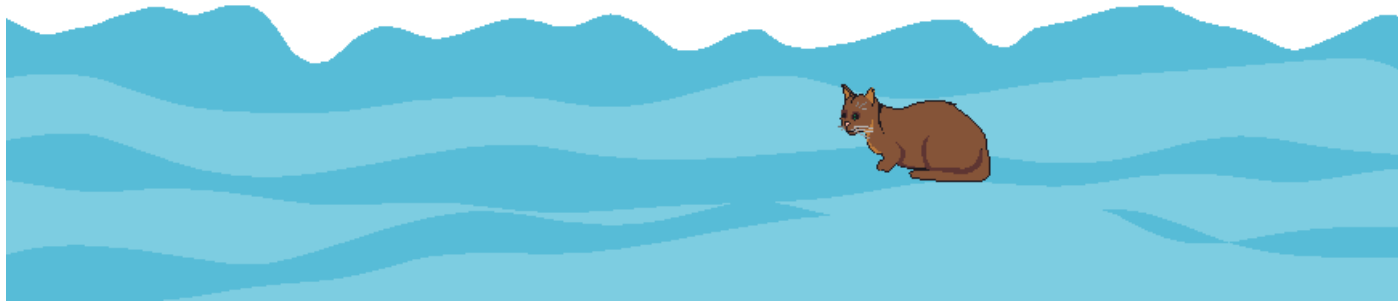
in



12th



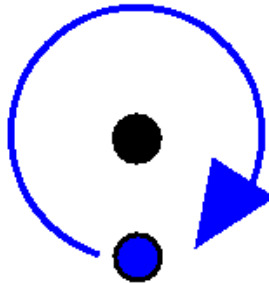
place



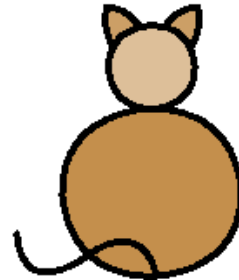
but



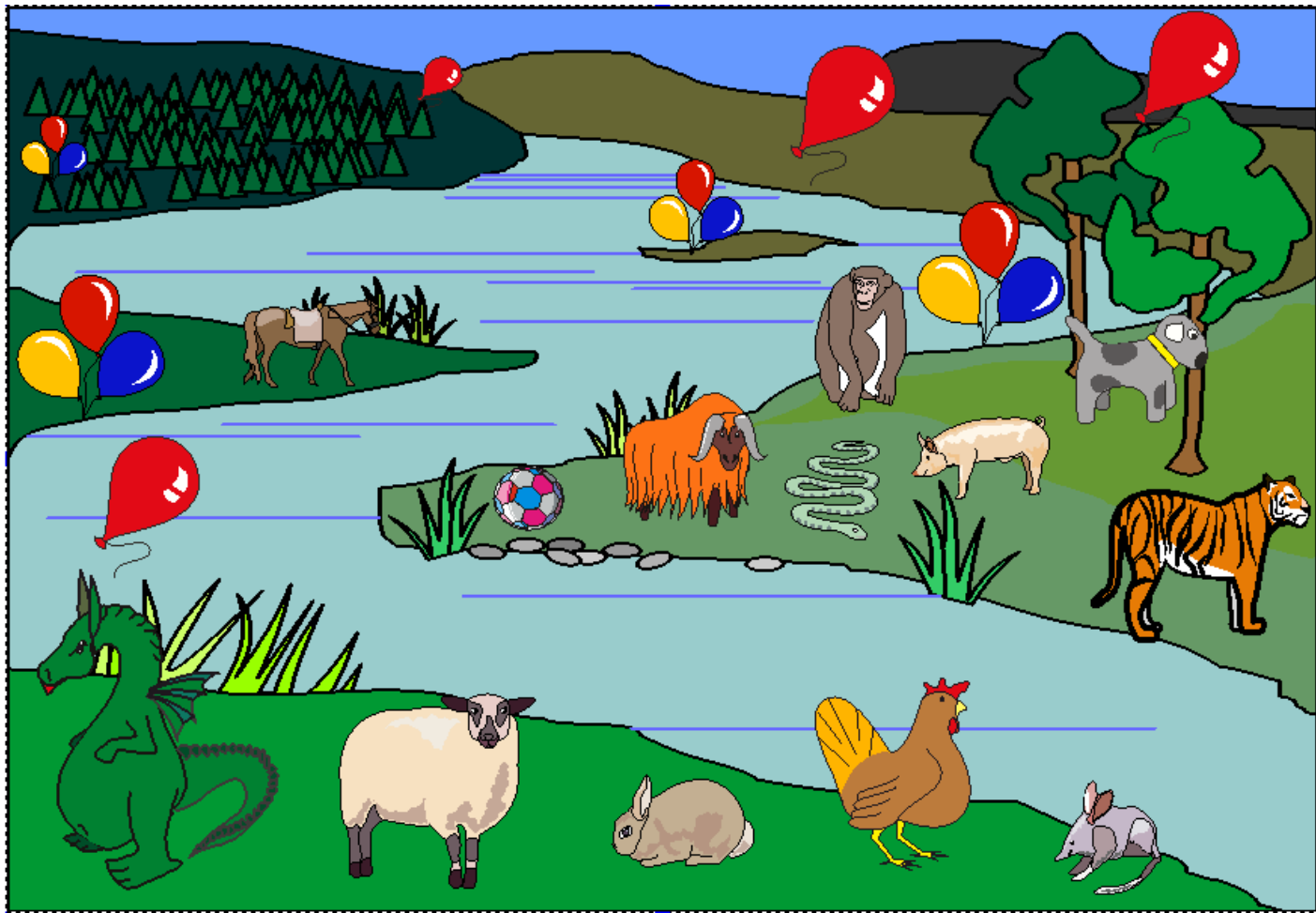
what



about



cat?



cat



was



splashing



about



in



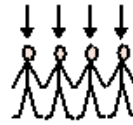
the



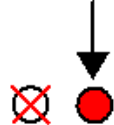
river



while



everyone



else



was



having



a



big



party