Year of the Rat

Wishing you all prosperity and happiness in this Rat year, may all your wishes come true!

The third in our Chinese New Year collection, each badge is a segment which will form a circle once you’ve collected them all! This pack is full of ideas for oriental themed fun to get you celebrating Chinese New Year and learning about the qualities of the Rat.

Proceeds from this badge go towards helping Scouts and Guides from across the UK take part in lots of adventures via The Pawprint Trust. Thank you for your support!

Suggested challenges for different age groups:
- 3-5 Years: Complete a minimum of 3 challenges from different sections.
- 5-7 Years: Complete 1 challenge from each of the 4 sections.
- 7-11 Years: Complete 1 challenge from each of the 4 sections + 1 more of your choice.
- 11-14 Years: Complete 1 challenge from each of the 4 sections + 2 more of your choice.
- 14-18 Years: Complete 1 challenge from each of the 4 sections + 3 more of your choice.
- 18+ Years: Award yourself a badge for assisting young people in achieving this badge.

For even more programme ideas check out our ‘Chinese New Year - Rat’ board over on www.Pinterest.com/PawprintBadges.

Once completed head to the website to get your paws on your badges!

www.PawprintBadges.co.uk
CRAFT

Make or decorate a money box.

Why?
In Chinese culture rats are seen as a sign of wealth and plenty. You’ve heard the phrase “look after the pennies” so now’s your chance!

Templeton is the famous rat from Charlotte’s Web by E. B. White. Create your own web messages or have a go at weaving.

How?
Hammer nails in to a flat piece of wood then use yarn/string to wind around them to create patterns, pictures or messages.

The rat is associated with water and Winter in the Chinese Zodiac. Make a rat sculpture from ice.

Sew a ‘Good Turn’ rat with a looooonnnng tail. Tie a knot in the tail each time you do a good turn.

Make a traditional Chinese money envelope.

For leaders…
Get your young people making their lucky money envelopes and before they go home fill each one with a silver coin…even a chocolate one!

The Pied Piper of Hamlyn lead the rats out of town by playing a tune on his whistle. Whittle a whistle and play a tune.

Create rat finger puppets and tell a story. Did you know famous play write William Shakespeare was born in the year of the rat!

Make yourself a pair of mittens from an old jumper or knit a scarf.

Decorate a jam jar and recycle it in to a Chinese lantern.

Fold a rat page corner bookmark. See our Pinterest board for some ideas.

Rat’s are very intelligent creatures, make a toy or puzzle for a pet rat.

Make your own rat mask. You could wear it for playing your games.

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FOOD

Find out what Rat-atouille is and have a go at making it.

In some cultures, including West Virginia, USA, rat meat is eaten by humans and is said to taste like pork/game. Have a go at cooking a pork/game dish.

Find out about rat meat as food for humans and animals.

A rat can go longer than a camel without a drink of water. Find out how much water we should drink and how to collect water in a survival situation.

Make your own flour from grain and use it to cook.

Why?
The Karni Mata Temple in India is home to thousands of rats fed on grain and milk. They are thought to be the ancestors of Karni Mata, worshipped as the incarnation goddess Durga.

Make your own sugar rats from fondant.

Bake some ‘rat dropping’ cookies using raisins or chocolate chips.

Ratatouille (the film) is based in Paris. Make some Parisienne treats.

What?
From baguettes to brioche and croissants to choux Paris is famous for its bakeries. Why not do some research or hold your own ‘Bake Off’…you could even award a Star Baker badge.

Make and eat your own Chinese dumplings; thought to be lucky and a symbol of wealth.

Bake your own fortune cookies and swap with friends. What is your fortune for the New Year?

In Western culture rats are often seen as dirty and they can in fact spread more than 35 diseases. Learn how to keep clean and prevent illness when handling food.

Enjoy some noodles, symbol of longevity, often eaten at Chinese New Year.

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**Games**

Rats have a very good memory, play ‘Kim’s Game’.

**What?**
That old favourite where you start with a tray of items, cover it up, take one item away and then the group have to guess which item has gone.

Make someone else feel great by playing the game ‘Feel Good Flip Dots’ using the resource from our website as people born in the year of the rat are sensitive to others emotions.

Have a go at slack lining - how good is your balance? Rats tails help them balance. What can you do to improve yours?

Complete an IQ test and compare your scores with others; rats are in fact very intelligent!

Rats can spread more than 35 diseases. See how fast germs can spread. One person’s hand is sprinkled with glitter/’germs’. They then walk around the room shaking hands at random. At the end of a minute see how many people have glitter on their hands/have caught the germs.

Rats are very sensitive to changes in temperature. Have a game of hide and seek/treasure hunt and be guided by hot and cold clues.

**How?**
Hide a series of objects or get the group to go off and hide in different locations. One person/leader must know where every item/person is. The person who is ‘it’ then has to find the objects/people being guided by temperature. ie. you’re getting warmer, getting warmer, it’s really hot or you’re cold, colder, it’s freezing!!

Rats are thought to have weak communication skills. Improve yours with a series of games in pairs, taking it in turns to be blindfolded or describing the actions needed.

Play some games using chopsticks, ie. how many peas can you transfer from one bowl to another in one minute only using the chopsticks.

Play *Mouse Trap* the board game.

Have a game of ‘Splat the Rat’ the fairground favourite!

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OTHER

People born in the year of the rat are said to be stubborn with their own opinions. Have a debate and consider other people’s opinions.

Complete a Random Act of Kindness. People born in the year of the rat are known to be kind.

Rats are a sign of wealth in Chinese culture, complete a budgeting activity and learn how to save.

For Leaders…
Most banks will have a community relationship manager or someone who can come in to run these type of sessions for you!

The closest Western Zodiac sign to the Rat is Saggitarius, the archer. Have a go at archery or another target sport.

Rats were thought to be the cause of the black death. Sing the nursery rhyme *Ring a Ring a Roses* and find out it’s meaning.

Read/watch a story about rats.

Master Splinter is the famous rat from Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Have a go at a martial art.

Find out about HeroRATs from Apopo and raise funds to support them.

Learn about how to care for pet rats.

Without companionship rats become lonely and depressed - host a community party or visit an old people’s home.

Rat’s teeth grow up to 5 inches/year. Invite a dentist/hygienist to visit you or take a visit there for a check-up.

Find out about and invite your local Chinese community to visit you or visit your local China Town.

Learn about the 12 signs of the Chinese Zodiac, find out which animal you are and what your lucky numbers/colours/flowers are.

Plan and host a Chinese New Year party or celebration. Why not serve some of your food challenges?