

The Year of the Dog

The History of the Chinese Horoscope

In Chinese culture, each new year is represented by one of 12 animals. This tradition is thousands of years old and is said to have begun with a story. Given its age, many versions of the story exist and it is unclear as to whether the main character was the Buddha or the Jade Emperor. Nevertheless, both stories are very similar and name the same 12 animals. One version of the Chinese myth tells that the Buddha called out to all of the animals on Earth and asked them to come and see him one day yet only 12 animals answered the Buddha's call. To thank them for their loyalty, the Buddha gave each one of these animals their own year in the Chinese zodiac cycle.

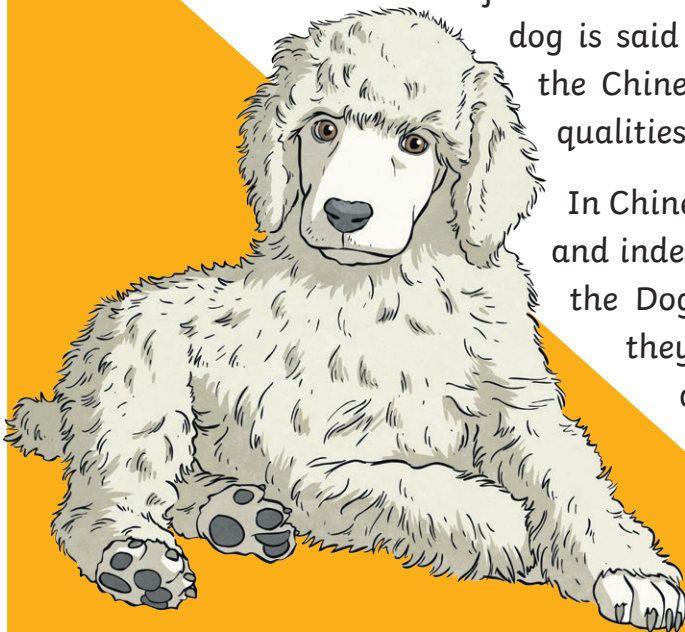
The Year of the Dog begins on 16th February 2018. It is the 4716th year of the Chinese calendar and will last until 5th February 2019, when the Year of the Pig begins. Once the Year of the Pig begins, the next Year of the Dog will only begin again in 2030.

You were born in the Year of the Dog if you were born in:

1970 1982 1994
2006 2018

Traits of the Dog

People born in the different years of the Chinese zodiac cycle are believed to have particular character traits and qualities. These characteristics reflect the animal the year is named after. The dog is said to be the most likeable animal of the Chinese zodiac and has lots of positive qualities.



In Chinese culture, the dog is honest, clever and independent. People born in the Year of the Dog are said to be excellent friends: they listen to other people's problems and they quickly forgive those who have wronged them. Just like the real-life creature, dogs are extremely loyal and will do anything for the person that is

most important to them. They believe in truth and will always stand up for the right thing to do.

Perfect Professions

People born in the Year of the Dog tend to do well in jobs which involve helping other people. They are always great at their jobs because they put a lot of effort into the work that they do. Other people enjoy working with people who were born in the Year of the Dog because they are kind and helpful colleagues. They often lend a helping hand to others, completing some of their work when they have too much to do.

People born in the Year of the Dog often work as medical professionals, teachers, legal professionals, designers and members of religious organisations.

Fortunes for 2018

2018 is predicted to be an unlucky year for people born in the Year of the Dog. According to Chinese horoscopes, people born in the Year of the Dog are advised to:

- be careful with money and plan what they are going to do with it carefully;
- mind their arms and legs – they might get injured this year;
- go for a walk around a lake or in the park to find new friends and get rid of bad luck;
- study hard and learn more so that they can do better in their job.



Famous People Born in a Year of the Dog

Justin Bieber

Prince William

Donald Trump

Mother Teresa

Michael Jackson

The Year of the Dog Questions

1. Which of these people were born in the Year of the Dog? Tick one.

- Justin Timberlake
 Justin Bieber
 Will Smith
 Ed Sheeran

2. Match the statement to the correct date.

The date that the Year of the Dog begins.

3rd February 2030

The date that we will next enter the Year of the Dog.

5th February 2019

The date that the Year of the Pig begins.

16th February 2018

3. List two reasons why people born in the Year of the Dog should take a walk in the park during 2018.

1. _____
2. _____

4. People born in the Year of the Dog are said to be loyal...'
What does the word loyal mean?

5. Find and copy a word from the fourth paragraph which shows what kind of friend someone born in the Year of the Dog is said to be.

6. Why might someone born in the Year of the Dog need to be careful in 2018?

-
7. '...it is unclear as to whether the main character was the Buddha or the Jade Emperor.'
Why can't this fact be checked?

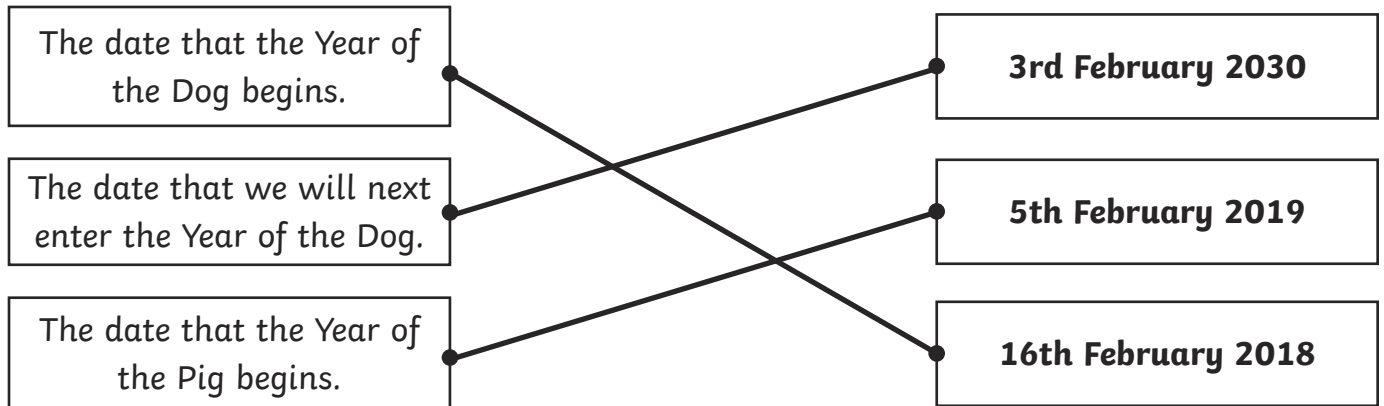
-
-
8. Would you like to be friends with someone born in the Year of the Dog? Give a reason for your answer.
-
-
-

The Year of the Dog Answers

1. Which of these people were born in the Year of the Dog? Tick one.

- Justin Timberlake
 Justin Bieber
 Will Smith
 Ed Sheeran

2. Matching (drawing lines).



3. List two reasons why people born in the Year of the Dog should take a walk in the park during 2018.

Accept both of the following answers, in any order: To find new friends; To get rid of bad luck.

4. People born in the Year of the Dog are said to be loyal...’ What does the word loyal mean?

Accept any of the following answers, or an equivalent in meaning: they stand by you; they never leave your side.

5. Find and copy a word from the fourth paragraph which shows what kind of friend someone born in the Year of the Dog is said to be.

Accept the answer excellent only.

6. Why might someone born in the Year of the Dog need to be careful in 2018?

Accept any answer which discusses the fact that 2018 is predicted to be an unlucky year for those born in the Year of the Dog.

7. '...it is unclear as to whether the main character was The Buddha or the Jade Emperor.'

Why can't this fact be checked?

Accept any answer which discusses the fact that the story is so old it cannot be checked due to lack of original sources, no surviving author or other means of verification, such as: It cannot be checked because the author of the poem is not alive anymore and no one else is who knew them.

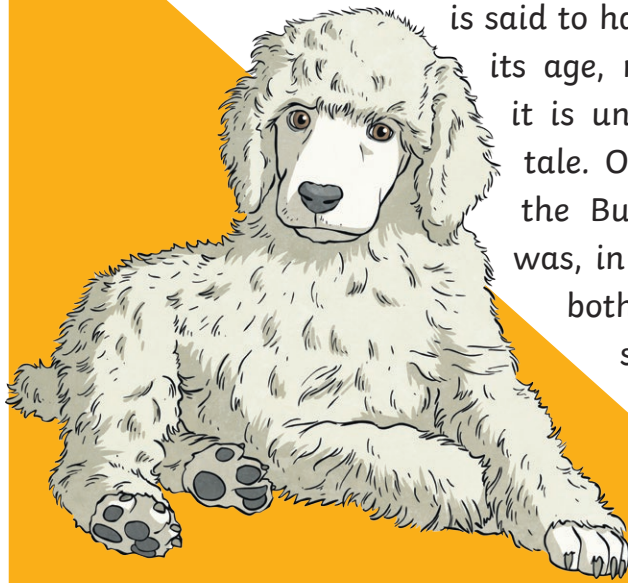
8. Would you like to be friends with someone born in the Year of the Dog?

Give a reason for your answer.

Accept either yes or no as an answer, provided that a reasonable justification has been given in support of the answer, e.g. Yes, because it says that they are an excellent friend; No, because it says that this year is unlucky for them and I don't want their bad luck to rub off on me.

The Year of the Dog

The History of the Chinese Horoscope



According to Chinese culture, each new **lunar year** is represented by one of 12 animals. This tradition dates back thousands of years and is said to have begun with a story. However, given its age, many versions of the story exist and it is unclear which version was the original tale. One story holds the main character as the Buddha while the other states that it was, in fact, that Jade Emperor. Nevertheless, both stories are very similar and name the same 12 animals. In one version of the Chinese myth, the Buddha called out to all of the animals on Earth and asked them to come and see him; only 12 animals answered the Buddha's call. To repay them for

their loyalty, the Buddha gave each one of these animals their own year in the Chinese zodiac cycle.

One such animal was the dog. The Year of the Dog begins on 16th February 2018 and it will be the 4716th year of the Chinese calendar. It will last until 5th February 2019, when the Year of the Pig begins. Once this happens, 11 years will pass until the next Year of the Dog, which will only arrive again in 2030.

Traits of the Dog

Each year of the Chinese zodiac cycle is believed to hold particular traits and qualities, which are then shown by individuals born in that year. These characteristics reflect the animal the year is named after. Each zodiac sign is also linked with one of the five elements: wood, fire, earth, water and gold. Depending on the year you are born and the element you are linked to, people born in a Year of the Dog are said to have different character traits.

Overall, people born in the Year of the Dog are said to be loyal, honest, kind and friendly. They are believed to seek a quiet life with a good and loving family and will go out of their way to help others – often forgetting their own interests in the process.

Year of Birth	Type of Dog	Traits
1934 or 1994	Wood Dog	reliable, understanding, patient and considerate
1946 or 2006	Fire Dog	smart and hardworking
1958 or 2018	Earth Dog	serious and responsible
1922 or 1982	Water Dog	brave and good with money, often selfish
1910 or 1970	Gold Dog	cautious but always ready to help others

Predictions and Horoscopes

The Chinese culture surrounding the zodiac heavily relies on beliefs and **horoscopes**. Just as the above traits are believed to apply to anyone born in a Year of the Dog, the following are also believed to be true for those people in 2018:

- In general, people born in the Year of the Dog will have a year full of challenges in 2018.
- They may change their job and earn less money than they did the year before.
- They may feel exhausted and should make sure that they look after their health.
- They should regularly take long walks around a lake or in a local park to meet new friends and get rid of bad luck.
- If they meet someone else during 2018 who was also born in the Year of the Dog, they should be careful not to get into an argument.



Glossary:

Horoscope – Predictions about what will happen in someone's future based on when that person was born.

Lunar year – A year in which the months are based on the moon's phases, not the sun's movement.

The Year of the Dog Questions

1. In which year would someone known as a 'Gold Dog' have been born? Tick one.

- 1910
- 1934
- 1946
- 2006

2. Which two of these traits are 'Fire Dogs' said to have? Tick two.

- hardworking
- selfish
- serious
- smart

3. Which two people may have been the main character of the legend in which the Chinese zodiac cycle was created?

1. _____

2. _____

4. '...each new lunar year is represented by one of 12 animals.'
What does the term lunar year mean?

5. To repay them for their loyalty...'
How else could the author have written this phrase?

6. How might someone born in the Year of the Dog feel in 2018? Explain your answer.

7. Would you like to be friends with someone who was born in 1982? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.

8. Why is it unclear which version of the story was the original?

9. Why doesn't it matter which version of the story is the correct one?

The Year of the Dog Answers

1. In which year would someone known as a 'Gold Dog' have been born? Tick one.

- 1910
- 1934
- 1946
- 2006

2. Which two of these traits are 'Fire Dogs' said to have? Tick two.

- hardworking
- selfish
- serious
- smart

3. Which two people may have been the main character of the legend in which the Chinese zodiac cycle was created?

Accept both of the following answers only, in any order: The Buddha; The Jade Emperor.

4. '...each new lunar year is represented by one of 12 animals.'

What does the term lunar year mean?

Accept any definition which utilises the definition provided in the glossary of the text:

'A year in which the months are based on the moon's phases, not the sun's movement.'

5. To repay them for their loyalty...'

How else could the author have written this phrase?

Accept any reasonable rewording of the above phrase including, but not limited to: To say thank you for their loyalty; to reward them for doing what he asked; to repay them for listening to him.

6. How might someone born in the Year of the Dog feel in 2018? Explain your answer.

Accept any answer which states that they may feel worried, nervous, anxious or hesitant provided that a reasonable explanation relating to the predictions made in the text are given in support of the answer, such as: They might feel a bit unhappy going into the year because they know it will be a year full of challenges; they might feel worried because it has been predicted as an unlucky year for them.

7. Would you like to be friends with someone who was born in 1982? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.

Accept either yes or no as an answer, provided that evidence from the text has been used in support of their answer, for example: Yes, because it says that they are brave and I would like a brave friend; No, because they can be selfish and I don't like that.

8. Why is it unclear which version of the story was the original?

Accept any answer which discusses the fact that the story is so old that the veracity of the original cannot be checked due to lack of original sources, no surviving author or other means of verification, such as: It is unclear because nobody alive is old enough to tell us which one was the original and nobody wrote it down.

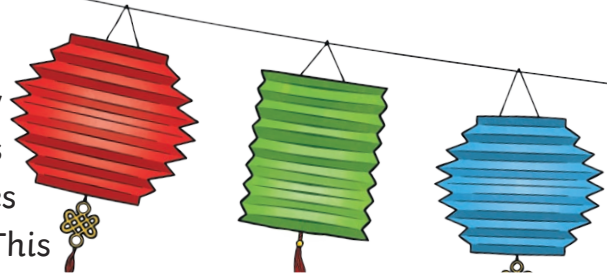
9. Why doesn't it matter which version of the story is the correct one?

Accept any answer which states that both stories contain the same 12 animals, which are the foundation to the Chinese zodiac, and so it doesn't matter which story was the original.

The Year of the Dog

The Origin of the Chinese Horoscope

According to Chinese culture, each new lunar year – a year in which the months are calculated based on the moon's phases – is represented by one of 12 animals. This tradition dates back thousands of years and is said to have originated from a story. However, given the story's age and regular retelling, many different versions of the story exist and it is unclear which version was the original tale. One story holds the main character as the Buddha while the other states that it was, in fact, the Jade Emperor – a representation of the first god within Chinese culture. Nevertheless, both stories are very similar and involve the same 12 animals. In one version of the myth, the Buddha called out to all of the animals on Earth and requested that they come and see him; only 12 animals answered the Buddha's call. To repay them for their loyalty, the Buddha gave each one of these animals their own year in the Chinese zodiac cycle.



One such animal was the humble dog. The Year of the Dog commences on 16th February 2018 and will be the 4716th year of the Chinese calendar, lasting until 5th February 2019, when the Year of the Pig begins. Once this happens, 11 years will pass until the next Year of the Dog, which will only arrive again in 2030.

Traits and Characteristics



Each year of the Chinese zodiac cycle is believed to hold particular character traits and qualities, which are typical of individuals born in that year. These characteristics reflect the animal the year is named after. Each zodiac sign is also linked with one of five elements: wood, fire, earth, water and gold. Depending on the year you are born and the element you are linked to, people born in a Year of the Dog are said to have different traits.

Year of Birth	Type of Dog	Traits	Famous Example
1934 or 1994	Wood Dog	reliable, understanding, patient and considerate	Justin Bieber
1946 or 2006	Fire Dog	smart and hardworking	Donald Trump
1958 or 2018	Earth Dog	serious and responsible	Michael Jackson
1922 or 1982	Water Dog	brave and good with money, often selfish	Prince William
1910 or 1970	Gold Dog	cautious but always ready to help others	Mother Teresa

Overall, people born in the Year of the Dog are said to be loyal, honest, kind and friendly. They are believed to seek a quiet life with a good and loving family, going out of their way to help others and often forgetting their own interests in the process.

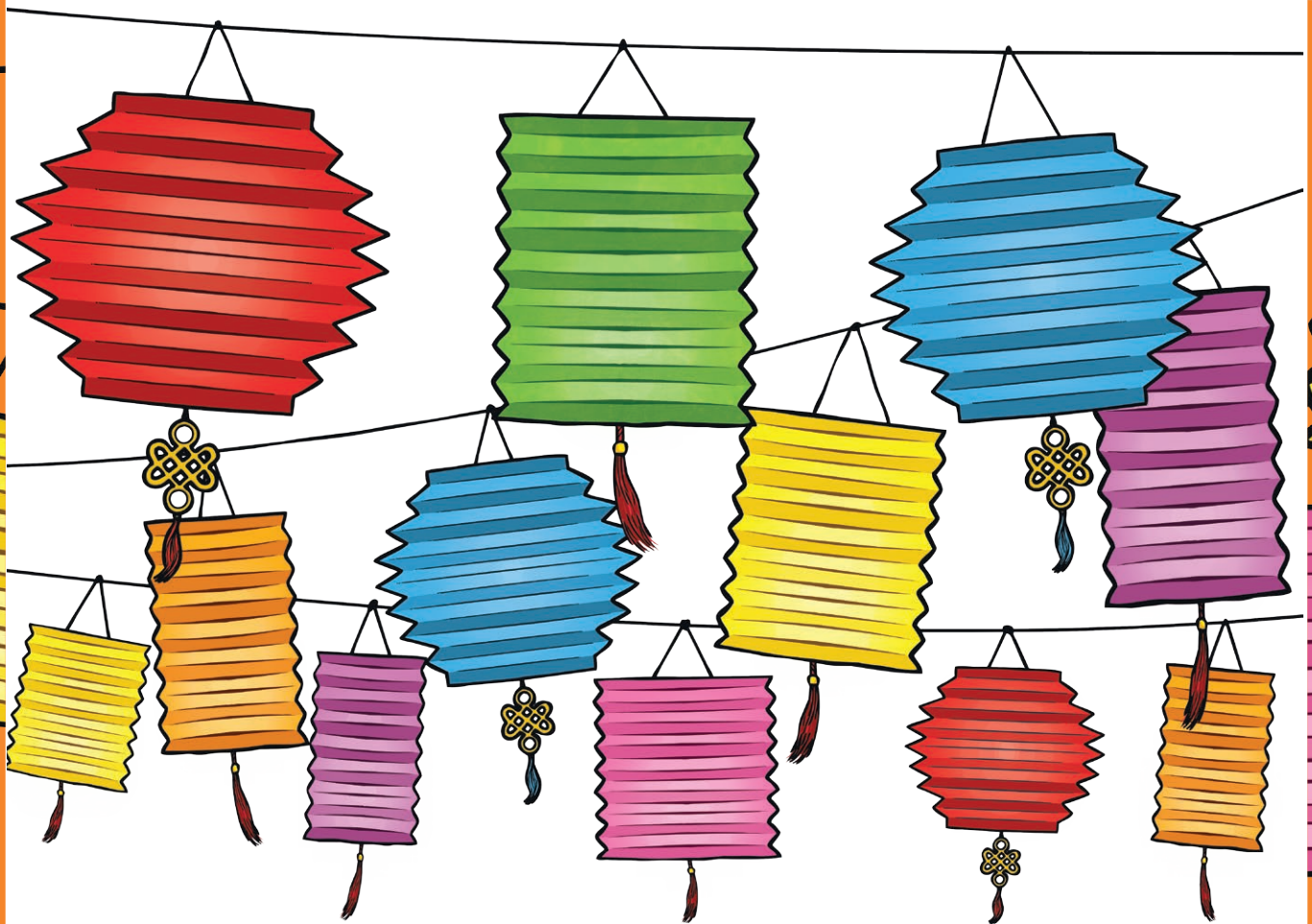


Predictions and Horoscopes

The Chinese culture surrounding the zodiac heavily relies on beliefs and horoscopes – predictions about the future of a person based on the position of the stars at the moment of their birth. Just as the above traits are believed to apply to anyone born in a Year of the Dog, the following are also believed to be true for those people in 2018:

- In general, people born in the Year of the Dog will have a challenging year in 2018.
- They may face a change in their career and earn less money than they did in the previous year.
- They may feel exhausted and should take measures to make sure that they look after their health to avoid injury – particularly to their arms and legs.

- People born in the Year of the Dog should regularly take long outdoor walks, around a lake or in a local park, in order to make new acquaintances and rid themselves of bad luck.
- If they meet someone else during 2018 who was also born in the Year of the Dog, they should take great care not to create conflict.



The Year of the Dog Questions

1. Which of these famous people would be classed as a **Wood Dog**? Tick one.

- Mother Teresa
- Prince William
- Michael Jackson
- Justin Bieber

2. Tick two traits that someone born in 1922 may show.

- patient
- brave
- selfish
- reliable

3. List the five elements to which a zodiac sign is also linked.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

4. How is the dog described in the second paragraph?

5. '...a year in which the months are calculated based on the moon's phases.'
What phrase could the author have written instead of the word calculated?

6. How are the Buddha and the Jade Emperor similar?

7. Why will we only see the next Year of the Dog in 2030?

8. Based on the Chinese zodiac, what traits would a baby born in 2018 show as they grow up?

9. How do people born in the Year of the Dog demonstrate selflessness?

10. 'The Year of the Dog will last for the same length of time as the year 2017 lasted.' Is this statement true or false? Explain your answer.

The Year of the Dog Answers

1. Which of these famous people would be classed as a **Wood Dog**? Tick one.

- Mother Teresa
- Prince William
- Michael Jackson
- Justin Bieber**

2. Tick two traits that someone born in 1922 may show.

- patient
- brave**
- selfish**
- reliable

3. List the five elements to which a zodiac sign is also linked.

Accept the following five answers, in any order: wood, fire, earth, water, gold.

4. How is the dog described in the second paragraph?

Accept the answer humble only.

5. '...a year in which the months are calculated based on the moon's phases.'

What phrase could the author have written instead of the word calculated?

Accept any phrase which conveys the same meaning as the word 'calculated', including (but not limited to): worked out; decided upon; outlined.

6. How are the Buddha and the Jade Emperor similar?

Accept any reasonable comparison between The Buddha and the Jade Emperor, such as: They are both potential characters in the original story; They are both viewed as religious figures; They are both people of high esteem within Chinese culture; They both existed thousands of years ago.

7. Why will we only see the next Year of the Dog in 2030?

Accept any answer which accurately explains why the next Year of the Dog will be in 2030, including one of the following concepts: The calendar is cyclical so we need to wait until the other 11 animals have had their years before the Dog will appear again; The Year of the Dog only happens every 12 years; There are 11 other animals to go through first before the Dog is repeated.

8. Based on the Chinese zodiac, what traits would a baby born in 2018 show as they grow up?

Accept answers which discuss the fact that the baby would be serious and responsible. The answer must include both of these traits.

9. How do people born in the Year of the Dog demonstrate selflessness?

Accept any reasonable explanation which pertains to one of the following points: People born in the Year of the Dog are said to 'go out of their way to help others; They often 'forget about their own interests in the process' of helping others; Gold Dogs are said to be cautious but always ready to help others.

10. 'The Year of the Dog will last for the same length of time as the year 2017 lasted.'

Is this statement true or false? Explain your answer.

Accept the answer 'false' only, provided that an accurate explanation is provided to accompany the answer, such as: It is false because 2017 was 365 days long whereas The Year of the Dog only lasts from 16th February 2018 to 5th February 2019. This is not 365 days so the years are not the same length.