



2026: Unleashing the Spirit of the **Fire Horse**

A Guided Journey Through Language, Culture, and Craft for the Year of Bing Wu (丙午).



www.digmandarin.com

The Return of the Fire Horse

In the Chinese Zodiac, 2026 is not just the Year of the Horse—it is the year of **Bing Wu** (丙午), the **Fire Horse**. This specific combination occurs only once every 60 years.

Key Attributes

- Vitality:** High energy and movement.
- Passion:** Emotional intensity and drive.
- Enthusiasm:** A spirit of optimism.

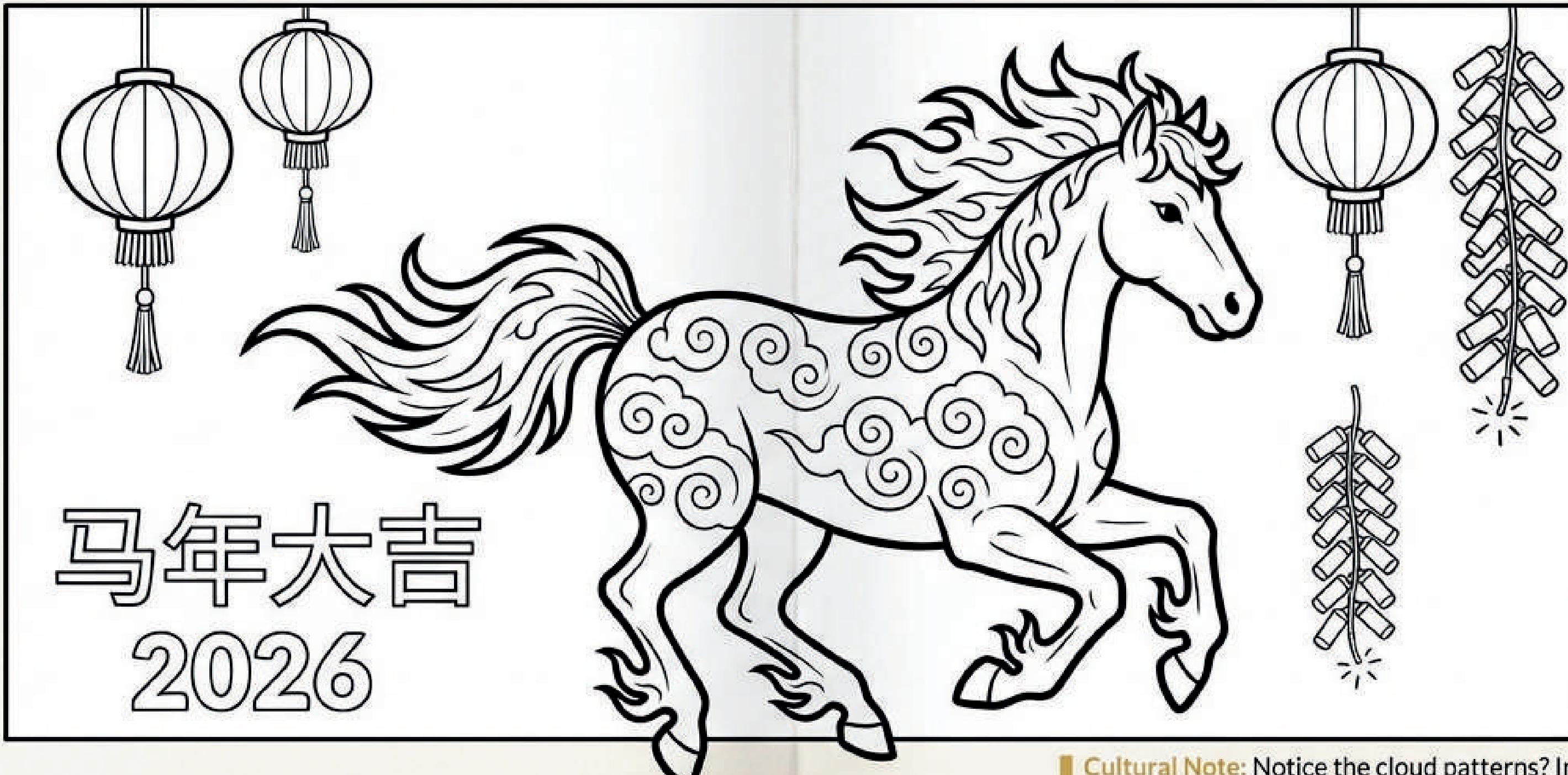
Teacher's Whisper:
Fun Fact: The Fire Horse represents high energy. Use this concept to encourage active participation from the learner.



Enter the Stable: Bringing the Mascot to Life

2026 is the year of the 'Fire Horse.' Please use your favorite color to paint this energetic horse!

2026年是“火马”年。请用你最喜欢的颜色，把这匹充满活力的马涂上颜色吧！



Cultural Note: Notice the cloud patterns? In Chinese art, these symbolize luck and the heavens.

Hanzi Detective: Tracing the Spirit Across Millennia

The Evolution of 馬 (Horse)



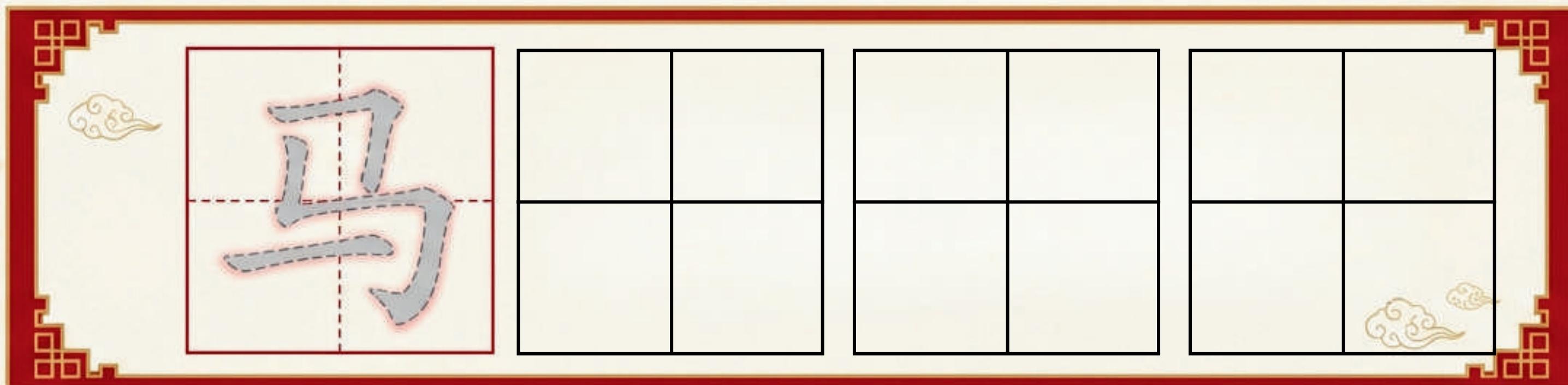
Oracle Bone Script
(3000+ Years Ago)



Small Seal Script



Modern Simplified
Script



Riddles of the Wise Horse: True or False?

- The Chinese New Year's Day in 2026 is on January 1st of the Gregorian calendar.
- In Chinese culture, the horse represents speed and success.
- If your friend's zodiac sign is the Horse, they might be cheerful and quick-witted.

Elemental Knowledge: The Multiple Choice Challenge

Question 1: What kind of Horse Year is 2026?

- A. Water Horse (水马)
- B. Fire Horse (火马) 
- C. Wood Horse (木马)

Question 2: If you want to wish a friend instant success, you should say:

- A. 老马识途 (lǎo mǎ shí tú)
- B. 指鹿为马 (zhǐ lù wéi mǎ)
- C. 马到成功 (mǎ dào chéng gōng)



Idiom Playground: Matching Meanings

马上
(mǎshàng)

龙马精神
(lóng mǎ jīng shén)

千里马
(qiān lǐ mǎ)



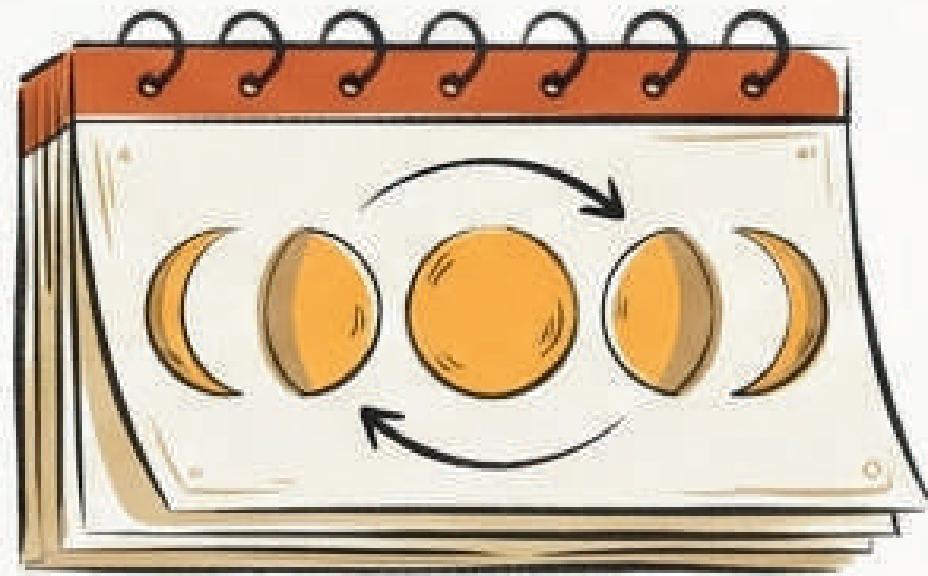
Immediately
(Literal: On
the horse).

Full of vitality
and vigor.

A very talented
person.



Cultural Deep Dive



Q: Why is the date of Chinese New Year different every year?



Q: If you see an upside-down '福' character, what good meaning does it represent?



The Voice of the Festival: Crafting a Greeting

祝你 2026 年学习进步, _____!

(Wishing you progress in your studies in 2026, and _____!)

1. 马上有福

(mǎshàng yǒu fú - Instant luck)

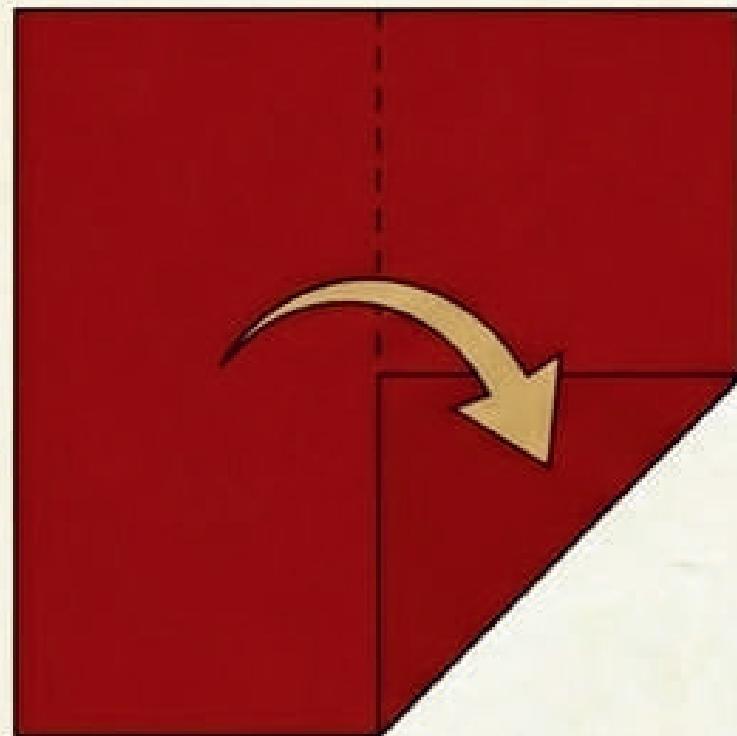
2. 马到成功

(mǎ dào chéng gōng - Instant success)

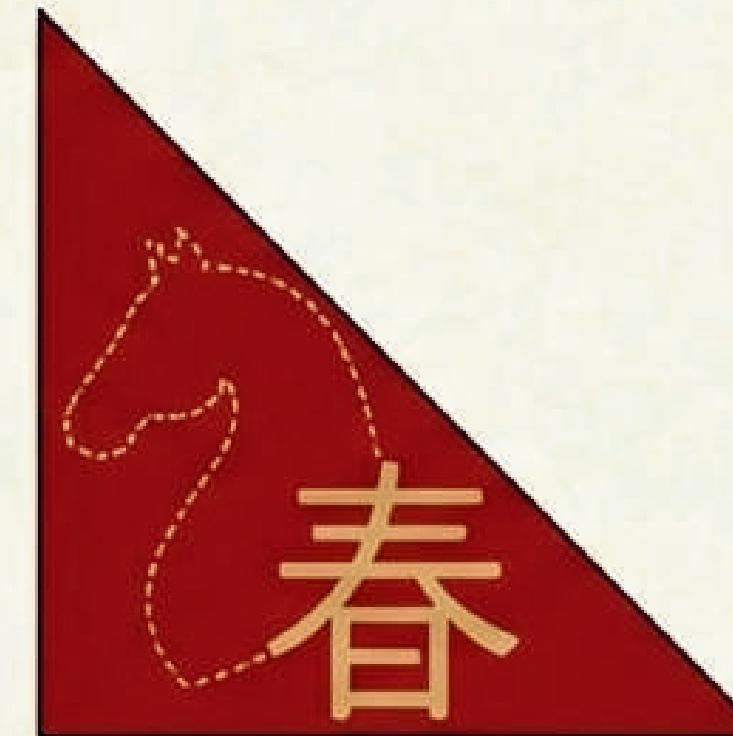


Craft Workshop: The Spring Horse Cutout

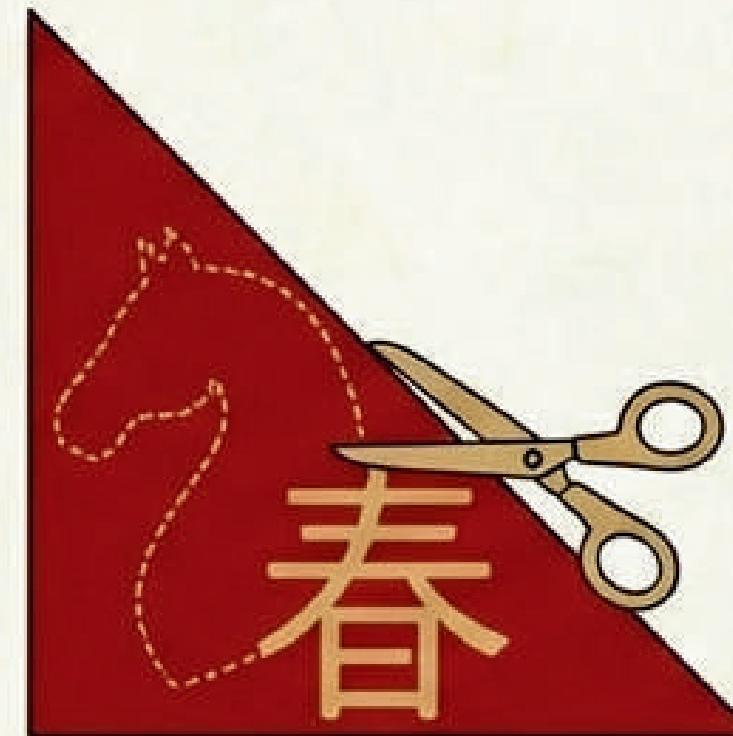
Materials: 15cm x 15cm Red Square Paper.



1. Fold.



2. Draw Pattern.

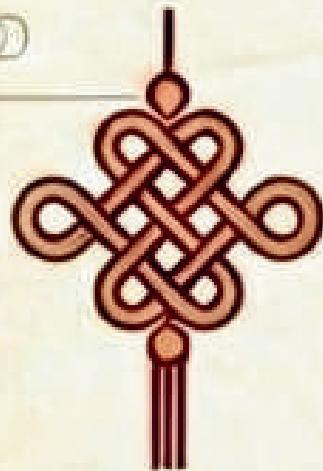


3. Cut.



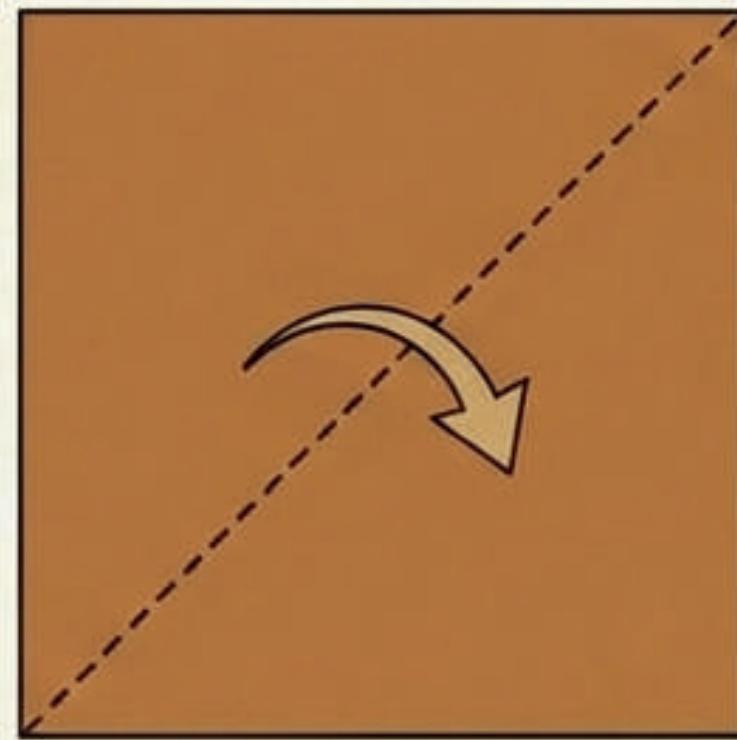
4. Unfold & Reveal.

Paper cuttings are traditionally pasted on windows to welcome spring.

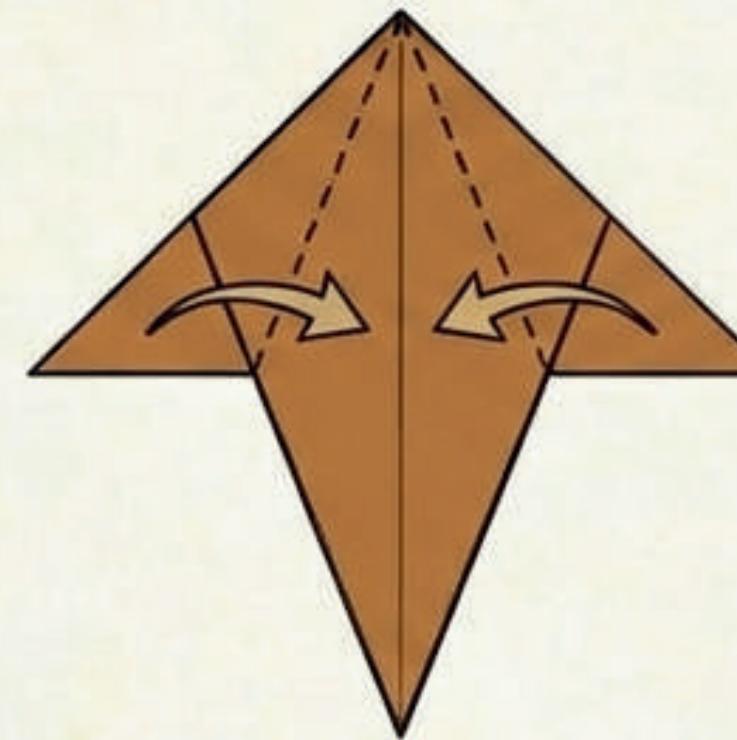


Folding Luck: The Origami Horse Head

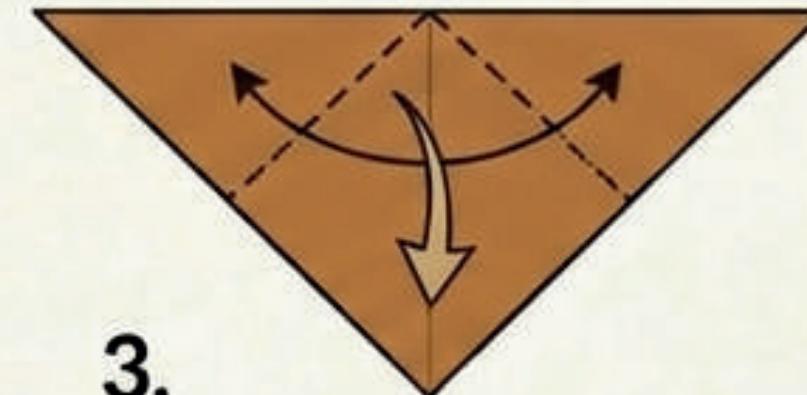
Materials: Square brown or orange paper.



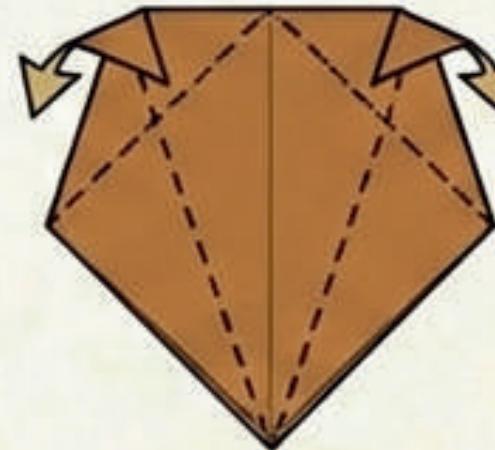
1. Fold.



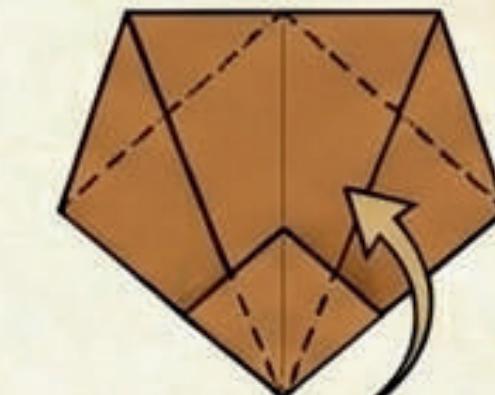
2. Fold.



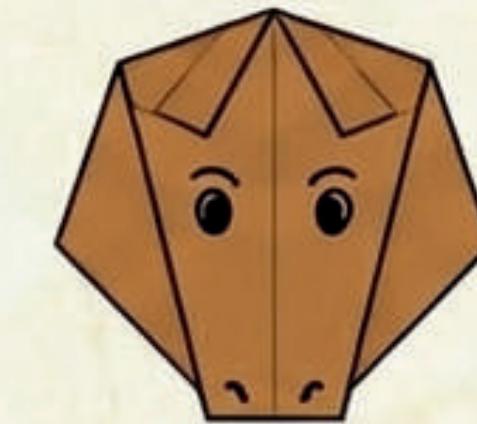
3.



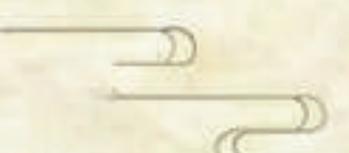
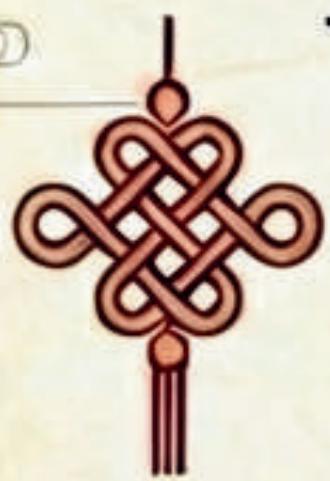
5.



4.



6.



Design Your Stamp

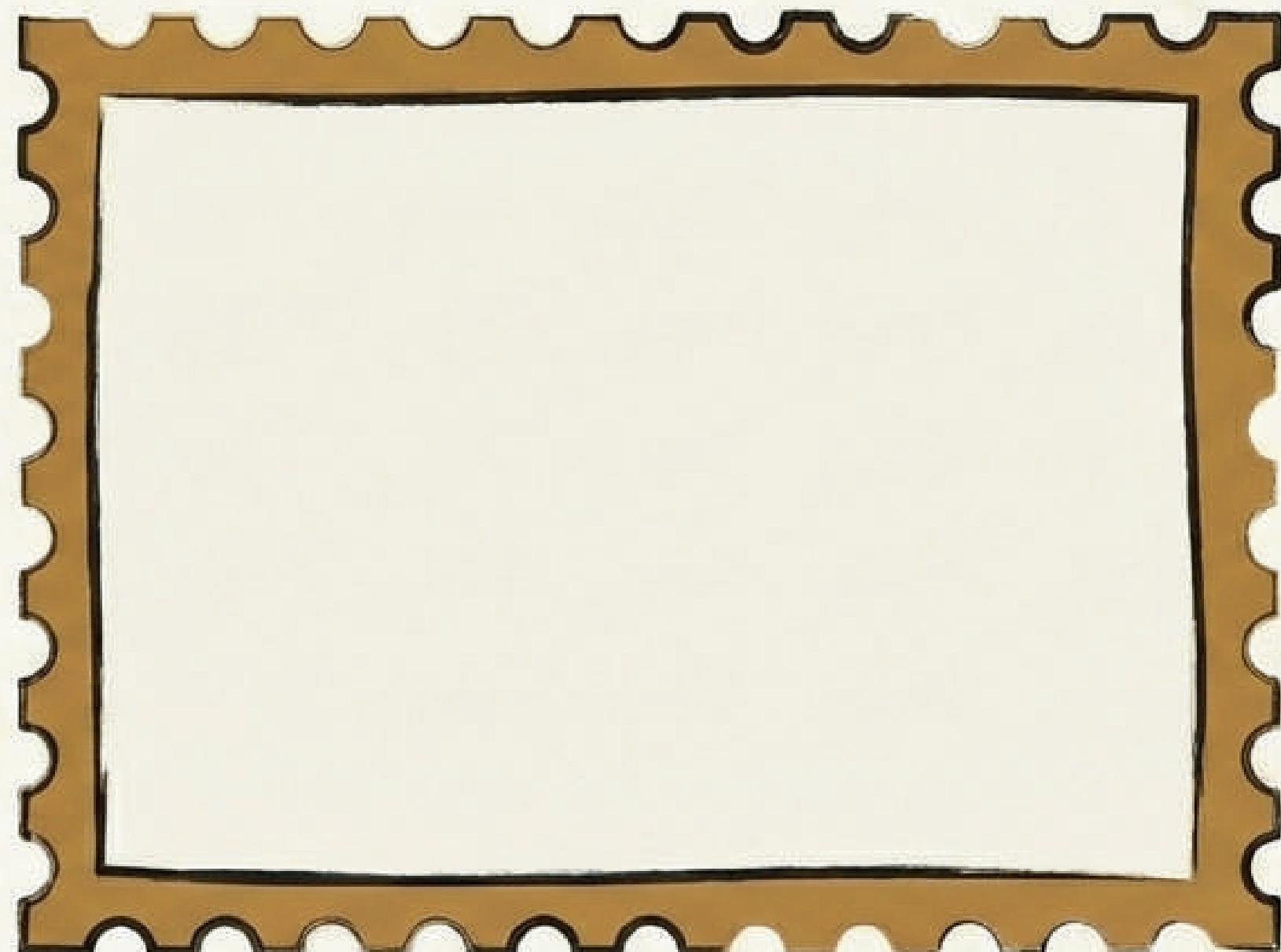
Design Brief Box

Include: A Pony,
The character '马',
and '2026'.

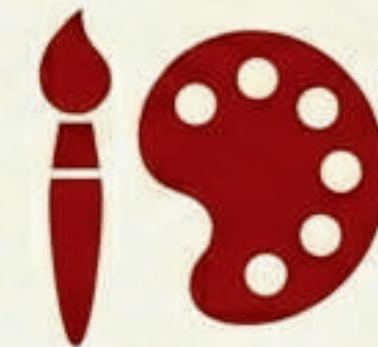
Activity: 2026 is the Year of the Horse. Many countries issue zodiac stamps.

Please design a stamp for the 2026 Year of the Horse!

请你为2026马年设计一枚邮票吧！



Journey Complete: Skills Unlocked



Art: Colored the Fire Horse (Visualizing Culture).



History: Traced the Oracle Bone script (Linguistic Roots).



Logic: Solved the Riddles of the Wise Horse (Cultural Literacy).



Craft: Created the Spring Horse (Fine Motor Skills).

You have successfully prepared for the Year of the Fire Horse!



馬到成功

Mǎ Dào Chéng Gōng
Instant Success Upon the Horse's Arrival.

May the Fire Horse bring you passion, speed,
and victory in 2026. Happy New Year!

