

The New Chinese Animal Zodiac Card

Zodiac Animals at Your Fingertips

The "Chinese Animal Zodiac Card", also called the "Rat Card", is a traditional card game that many people in the countryside of southern Taiwan used to enjoy playing together with their friends and family members. However, the cards of this game available on the market are all cheaply and crudely made as "disposables", not intended as "collectibles". The *New Chinese Animal Zodiac Card* is designed with inspiration from the humor and artistic creativity in Taiwanese artist Hsu Tzu-kuei's series, *The Chinese Zodiac*, collected by KMFA in 2020. With such artistic renovation, the originally cheap and mundane set of cards becomes an ideal candidate for "family heirloom".

Fun for Everyone

The *New Chinese Animal Zodiac Card* comes with multilingual translations (Chinese, English, Taiwanese Hokkien transliteration, Korean, and Japanese). Therefore, it can provide fun for everyone including friends from other countries!

Suitable for 6+ years old
Number of Players: 2-10
Game Time: 10 minutes or more

Description

1. The Chinese Zodiac Animals: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig.
2. There are 120 cards in the set with 10 cards for each Chinese Zodiac Animal.

Chips in the Game: anything designated by the players.

How to Play

Option 1

1. Shuffle and deal the cards. The "Dealer" (decided by Rock, Paper, Scissors in the first game) gets 12 cards while the other players get 11 cards. The remaining cards are stacked face-down as the "Draw Pile".
2. In a clockwise order starting from the "Dealer", each player takes one card out of his/her hand and puts it on the table when it is his/her turn. If the next player has card(s) of the same Animal, the next player can take the card and put it in his/her hand. If not, the next player draws one card out of

the "Draw Pile". Each player has to either take the card of the immediately previous player or draw a card from the "Draw Pile".

3. When a player is one card away from winning (please refer to the following rule on winning), the player can announce "Ready Hand" and either wait for the card he/she needs or draw it from the "Draw Pile" when it is his/her turn.
4. If there are two or more players announcing "Ready Hand" and waiting for the card of the same Animal, the first player in the clockwise order will have the precedence.
5. If a player wins by drawing the card he/she needs from the "Draw Pile", the player will win double the bet.

A Player Wins When:

1. The player gets all the 12 Chinese Zodiac Animals before others; or
2. The player gets four "three-of-a-kinds" or four "three-of-a-sequences" before others.
3. The winner in the first condition gets double the bet. The winner is the Dealer for the next game.

Option 2

1. Shuffle and deal the cards. The "Dealer" (decided by Rock, Paper, Scissors in the first game) gets 10 cards while the other players get 9 cards.
2. The remaining cards are stacked face-down as the "Draw Pile".
3. The game starts with the "Dealer" putting one card out of his/her hand on the table. Then in a clockwise order, each player can (1) take a card of the same Chinese Zodiac Animal out of his/her hand to form a "Pair" and put another card out of his/her hand on the table or (2) take out one card out of his/her hand, draw a card out of the "Draw Pile", and add the drawn card into his/her hand.
4. When a player is just one card away from forming five "Pairs", he/she can announce "Ready Hand".
5. The first player to form five "Pairs" wins the game.

*** You and your friends can come up with your own creative options of how to play the card game!**

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許自貴 | 鼠戲團十二生肖 | 2016 | 複合媒材 | 高雄市立美術館典藏
Hsu Tzu-kuey | The Chinese Zodiac Circus Series
Mixed media | @Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts

指縫間穿梭的動物們

「十二生肖牌」又稱「老鼠牌」，為台灣南部鄉里民眾經常聚眾隱密「團遊」之卡牌遊戲；惟傳統市面上流通之「老鼠牌」大多為便宜、牌支簡陋之「隨拋型」物件，不具收藏價值。本遊戲以高美館藏品—藝術家許自貴之「十二生肖」為開發對象，透過其作品中高度幽默與具特色之藝術創意，進行此一俚俗物品的形象改造，適合家庭收藏並做為「傳家之寶」。

卡牌特色

牌支具多國譯文(國語、英語、台語、韓語、日語)，當大家揪團遊戲時可帶上一旁羨慕的外國捧油，讓廝殺無國界！

遊戲年齡

6+
遊戲人數 2-10人(如買2副牌以上，可擴增人數)
遊戲時間 10分鐘以上

卡牌說明

生肖：鼠、牛、虎、兔、龍、蛇、馬、羊、猴、雞、狗、豬
每盒中有12款生肖，每種生肖最高10張，總計120張牌。

遊戲籌碼

由玩家自訂。

遊戲玩法1

1. 洗牌後分牌給玩家，「莊家」(可先猜拳決定)分到12張，「閒家」(除了莊家以外的玩家)分到11張；其餘牌生肖面朝下集合堆放成為「公共牌堆」。
2. 玩家們依「順時鐘」方向輪流出1張牌；由「莊家」先出牌，順位玩家如有相同生肖者，可——「吃牌」(將同樣生肖的吃掉，然後拿回自己手中)；如無法「吃牌」則從「公共牌堆」中揪出1張牌拿回手中。每位順位玩家都只能吃上一家的牌或從「公共牌堆」掀牌。
3. 當玩家只缺1張就可湊齊1條龍、4刻子或4順子(見以下解釋)時，可喊「聽牌」(手上還缺一張可湊對的人)；「聽牌」者須等缺的牌出現後，才來「胡牌」，或依序再從公共牌堆掀牌。
4. 若有2位玩家同時「聽牌」，以「順時鐘」方向者優先者有權先「胡牌」。
5. 若「自摸」則籌碼加倍。

贏家條件可分以下兩種

1. 先湊滿1條龍(有一組12張連續生肖)。
2. 先湊滿4組3張同樣生肖牌(刻子)或3張連續生肖牌(順子)。
3. 「1條龍」可獲得雙倍籌碼；贏家均可當下一任「莊家」。

遊戲玩法2

1. 洗牌後分牌給玩家，「莊家」(可猜拳決定)分到10張，「閒家」(除了莊家以外的玩家)各分到9張。
2. 其餘牌為「公共牌堆」，生肖面朝下堆放。
3. 玩家們依「順時鐘」方向輪流出1張牌，由「莊家」先出牌，順位玩家則打出1張牌來「吃牌」。
4. 「吃牌」者必須再丟出1張牌，2張同樣的生肖牌是1個「對子」。
5. 下一家只能吃上家的牌，如果不吃上家的牌，就必須打出1張牌，並從公共牌堆拿回1張牌到手上。
6. 當玩家只缺1張就可湊齊5個「對子」，可喊「聽牌」。
7. 最先湊齊5組「對子」的人為贏家。

* 以上遊戲辦法如有不滿意者，可與牌搭子自創新玩法。