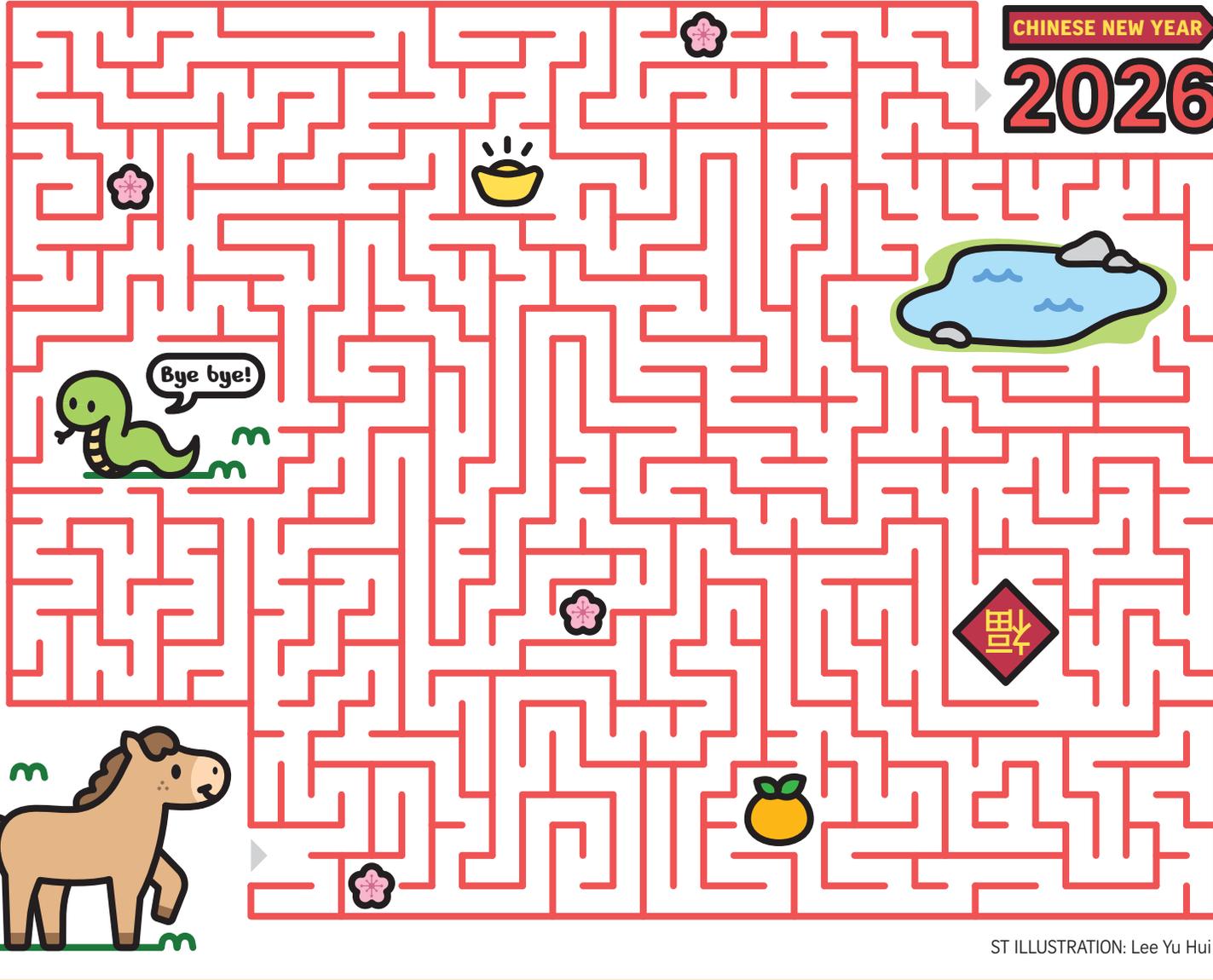


Just for kids

This month, learn about budgets, plan a lunchbox and help a horse navigate a maze. This monthly page offers hands-on activities for families, as part of The Straits Times' series on managing screen time.

It is the Year of the Horse this Chinese New Year. Help the horse find its way through the maze.



ST ILLUSTRATION: Lee Yu Hui

WORD OF THE MONTH

Budget

In most families, parents will have a spending plan – a budget – that decides how much the family should use on necessities such as utilities, transport and groceries. Singapore, too, has a Budget. In 2026, details about it were released on Feb 12. The Budget lists the amounts of money that will go to the various government ministries to pay for the plans they have for improving lives in Singapore. This includes how much to spend on teachers' salaries and programmes for pupils, as well as money to build roads or new MRT lines.

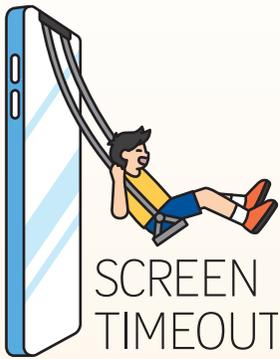


DID YOU KNOW?

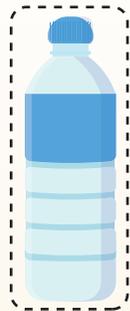
Today, we use physical money, credit cards or digital payments. But in the past, other objects were used in place of cash. Can you guess what they are based on the images below?



Answers: 1: Cattle/cows (in ancient India and Africa). 2: Shells (in places like ancient China, India and Africa). 3: Tea/tea bricks (in places including ancient China, Mongolia and Siberia).



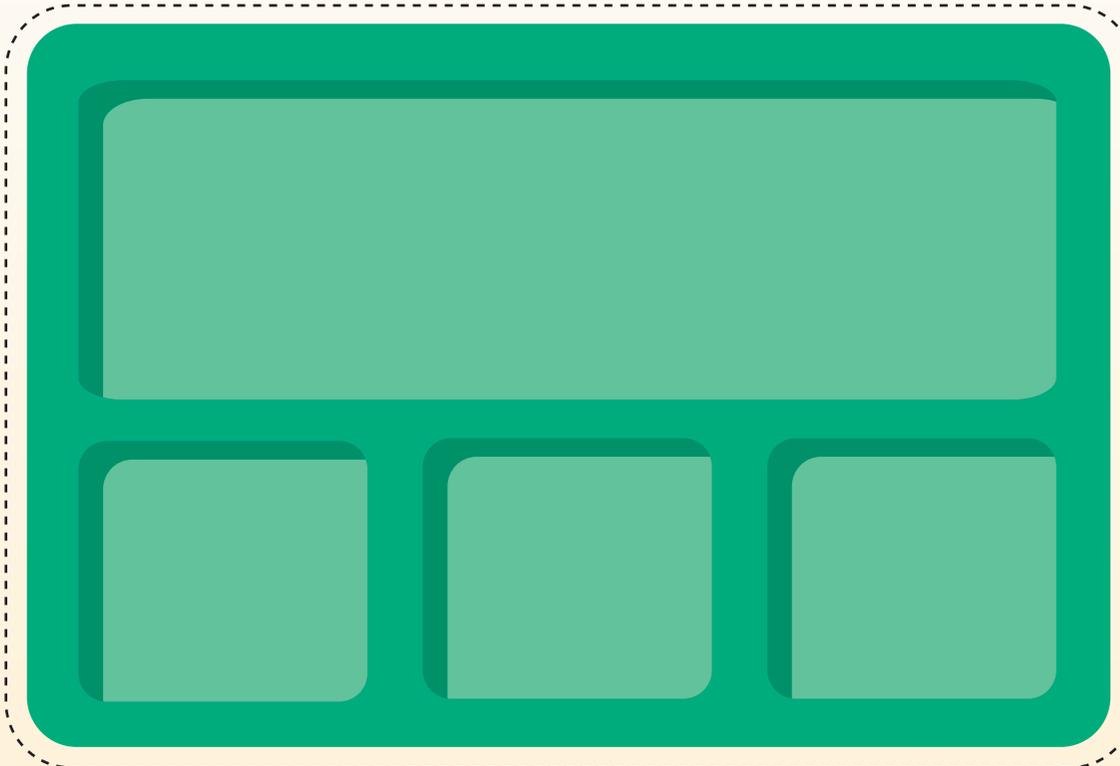
SCREEN
TIMEOUT



A small bottle
of water (Free)

BENTO BUILDER

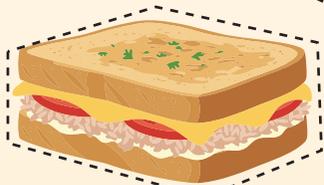
Let's create your dream lunchbox. Here are several items you might like for a snack. Each has a different price. If you were given \$5 to fill your lunchbox, which items would you choose? You do not have to spend all the money, and you might also want to balance healthy snacks with less nutritious ones. After this, tell your parents what you chose and why – who knows, you might get a special recess time surprise next week!



A cupcake (\$2)



Chicken rice (\$4)



Tuna sandwich (\$2)



A cream puff (\$2)



Spaghetti (\$2)



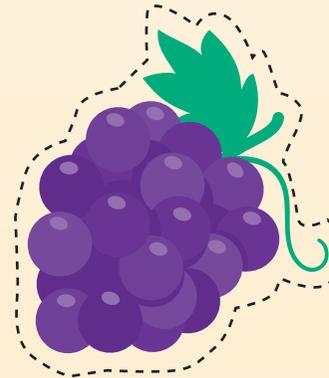
A chicken patty (\$1.50)



Three sticks of satay (\$3.50)



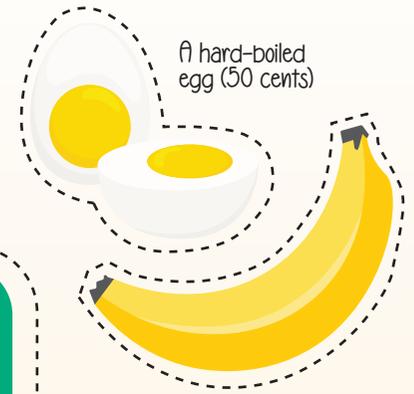
A small bag of
potato chips (\$2)



A small bunch
of grapes (50 cents)

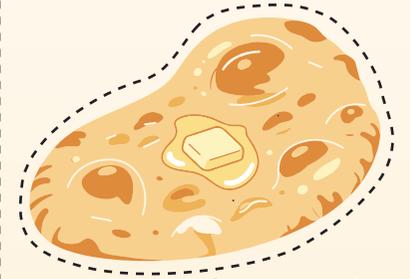


A carton of milk (\$1)



A hard-boiled
egg (50 cents)

A banana (50 cents)



A butter naan (\$2)



Sushi roll (\$3)



Cherry tomatoes (50 cents)

PARENTS' TIP

You can mount these images onto scrap cardboard, so you and your child can reuse and rebuild his or her lunchbox several times.