



Beaconsfield Primary School

The Great Family

RAT

Challenge 2008

**Linked to the Technology and
Enterprise / Arts Learning Areas,
Environmental Responsibility
and Studies of Asia and Australia.**



**Will YOU take
the challenge
this year?**

Dear Parents

Over the holiday period we are giving you and your children the opportunity to participate in a Rat Challenge to celebrate the Chinese Year of the Rat. This is a challenge linked to the Technology and Enterprise / Arts Learning Areas and is a follow up from the highly successful Water Wise and Piggy Bank challenges in 2006 and 2007.

The challenge is a homework assignment and is optional. We would like you to work with your children on the challenge. You are only limited by the criteria so let your imagination go wild! Each participating family will receive a certificate and a photo of their project on the school website.

Mrs O'Brien has already launched this challenge with the P/1 to 6/7 mainstream classes using SCAMPER as a creative thinking tool to help students devise ideas beyond their first, more obvious ideas and encouraging them to think outside the square. Their responses and ideas have been quite amazing!

Technology and Enterprise / Arts are two of the eight learning areas. The Rat Challenge links to the Technology Process and Materials strands, and the Arts Ideas, Arts Skills and Processes and Arts Responses strands.

Technology Process: Students apply a technology process to create or modify products, processes, systems, services or environments to meet human needs and realise opportunities.

Arts Ideas: Students generate arts works that communicate ideas.

Arts Skills and Processes: Students use the skills, techniques, processes, conventions and technologies of the arts.

Arts Responses: Students use their aesthetic understanding to respond to, reflect on and evaluate the arts.

Arts in Society: Students understand the role of Arts in society

Just a few ideas to get you thinking.

Similar to the Water Wise Challenge in 2006, the Easter Egg Foil Wrapper Challenge of 2002 and the Colour Challenge of 2003, you can create virtually anything within the theme. This year the theme is inspired by the **Year of the Rat**. Here are some ideas, but we are sure you have your own ideas, so go for it! Just let it relate to Rats in some way. You could create a;

- Rat trap racer (Google 'rat trap racer' to find out more)
- Home for a rat (RAT PAD or RAT MANSION catering for a rat's particular needs)
- Rat puppet
- Rat pillow/cushion
- Rat handbag
- Rat oven glove (Eeeek!! Rats in the kitchen!)
- Rat maze
- Unique and humane rat trap
- Rat clothes with a model rat (Australia's Next Top Rat Model!)
- Rat mask
- Rat origami
- Rat costume (to fit a person) – mascot of the local Ratbags Footy Team maybe
- Picture book with a rat as the main character
- Rat biscuit cutter and biscuits (can you imagine eating a rat????)

The challenge is very open ended and you are only limited by your imagination. However, there is a list of criteria to be considered.

Design Criteria

- Use some recycled materials
- Your item should be no larger than 1 cubic metre
- Your item needs to be light enough to carry from place to place
- Looks like a rat (not a mouse)
- Your RAT related product can be 3D (a free standing model) or 2D (flat to hang on a wall).
- 2D art work should be mounted on firm card or maybe in a recycled frame?
- Completed plan to be handed in with your final product
- Completed self evaluation to be handed in with your final product

Enterprise Criteria

- Has a finish to it / should look completed, eg: maybe for sale in a pet shop for rat lovers?
- Originality of design element / decorative detail
- All Family members can participate – jointly or individually

Due in: During Week 1 of Term 3 by Friday 25th of July to Room 3.

On display in the Library: From Tuesday 29th of July for 2 weeks.

For all those who make a rat trap racer there will be a ***Rodent Race Off***.

For further information please contact

- Joel Hart in Room 3 Mon - Fri
- Pauline O'Brien in the Art Room, T,W,Th.

Check out the results of previous challenges on our Beacy Web Page

<http://www.beacy.wa.edu.au/tne/tne.htm> and <http://www.beacy.wa.edu.au/art/art.htm>

2008 Chinese Year of the (Brown Earth) RAT Feb 7 2008

Just in case your challenge product might be influenced by the following suggested personality traits of those people born during the Chinese Zodiac Year of the Rat.

Characteristics

Being born a Rat is nothing to be ashamed of. In China, the Rat is respected and considered a courageous, enterprising person. It is deemed an honor to be born in the Year of the Rat and it is considered a privilege to be associated with a Rat. Rats know exactly where to find solutions and can take care of themselves and others without problems. They use their instinctive sense of observation to help others in times of need and are among the most fit of all the Animal signs to survive most any situation.

www.chinesezodiacguide.com/chinese-zodiac/chinese-zodiac-rat.html

Rats and the 5 elements

Metal Rats – Years 1900 and 1960

Metal Rats are strong-willed individuals who are determined to get what they want, regardless of the cost. Intensely emotional, their behavior can border on extreme. Possessive feelings, envy and rage can cause problems. Relationships can be problematic as Metal Rats are obstinate.

Water Rats – Years 1912 and 1972

Water Rats are extremely influential. They're smart and insightful which makes them excellent at problem-solving. Practical and understanding, Water Rats interact well with and are liked by others.

Wood Rats – Years 1924 and 1984

Not nearly as self-confident as they appear on the surface, Wood Rats will never expose this vulnerability to others. They're successful despite their perpetual fear of failing. Wood Rats enjoy being with friends and family and fortunately for them, feelings of love and respect are mutual.

Fire Rats – Years 1936 and 1996

Fire Rats enjoy being spontaneous. They enjoy travelling and taking on new tasks and will take on practically any new project or adventure simply to avoid any sense of routine and monotony. They're zestful, spirited, and giving individuals who are well-liked by others.

THE EARTH RAT 1948 and 2008 (for those born after Feb 6 this year)

The Earth adds solidity to the Rat's personality. An Earth Rat is conventional and a good achiever who likes to establish roots early in order to make a secure future for himself and his family. These Rats have the typical Rat ingenuity and mental capacity, but a strong sense of reality often eludes them, preventing them from going after anything that could be impromptu. Earth Rats are honorable and love to be stabilized. Slowly and steadily acquiring wealth gives them a sense of inner peace. Although they are capable of being stingy with their finances, they do possess warm feelings for their family and friends.

RATS apparently MAKE EXCELLENT: *Writers, Broadcasters, Actors, Advisors, Counsellors, Lawyers, Politicians, Designers, Engineers, Managers, Directors, Administrators, Entrepreneurs, Musicians, Stand-up Comedians, Researchers, Historians, Race Car Drivers*
Ideal Jobs for the Rat Include Financial advisor, Broker, Moneylender, Lawyer, Detective, Antique dealer, Auctioneer, Songwriter, Pathologist.

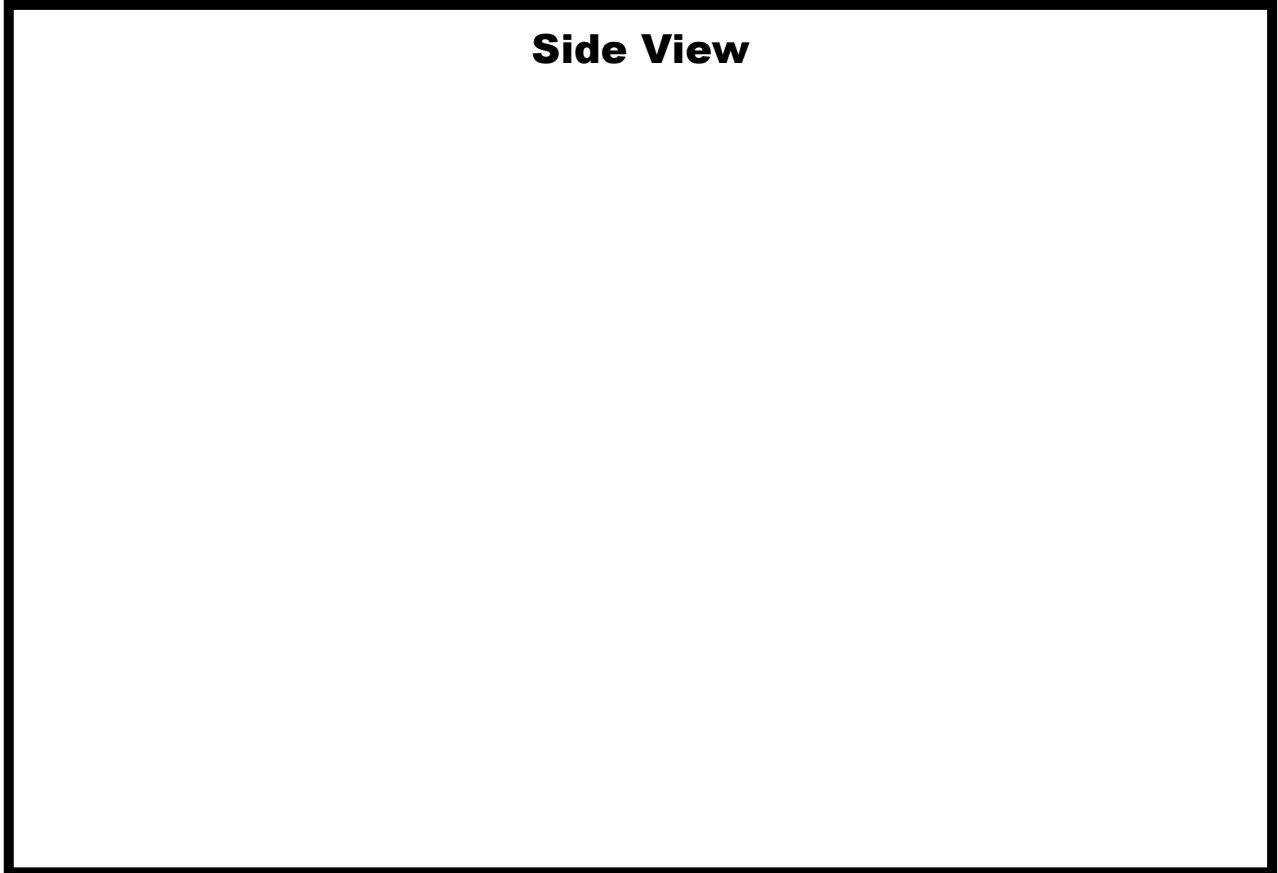
A little about real rats!!)

The rat has been introduced through human travel overseas to all continents. It is most common in coastal areas because it is a rodent that flourishes in areas inhabited by humans as well as on large ships. Primarily nocturnal. The rat builds nests for young out of sticks and leaves, and sometimes locates nests in burrows. Often rats use their climbing abilities to make a home in upper floors and ceilings of buildings. It has a highly adapted tail that is longer than its body. Generally rats feed on fruit, grain, cereals, and other vegetation.

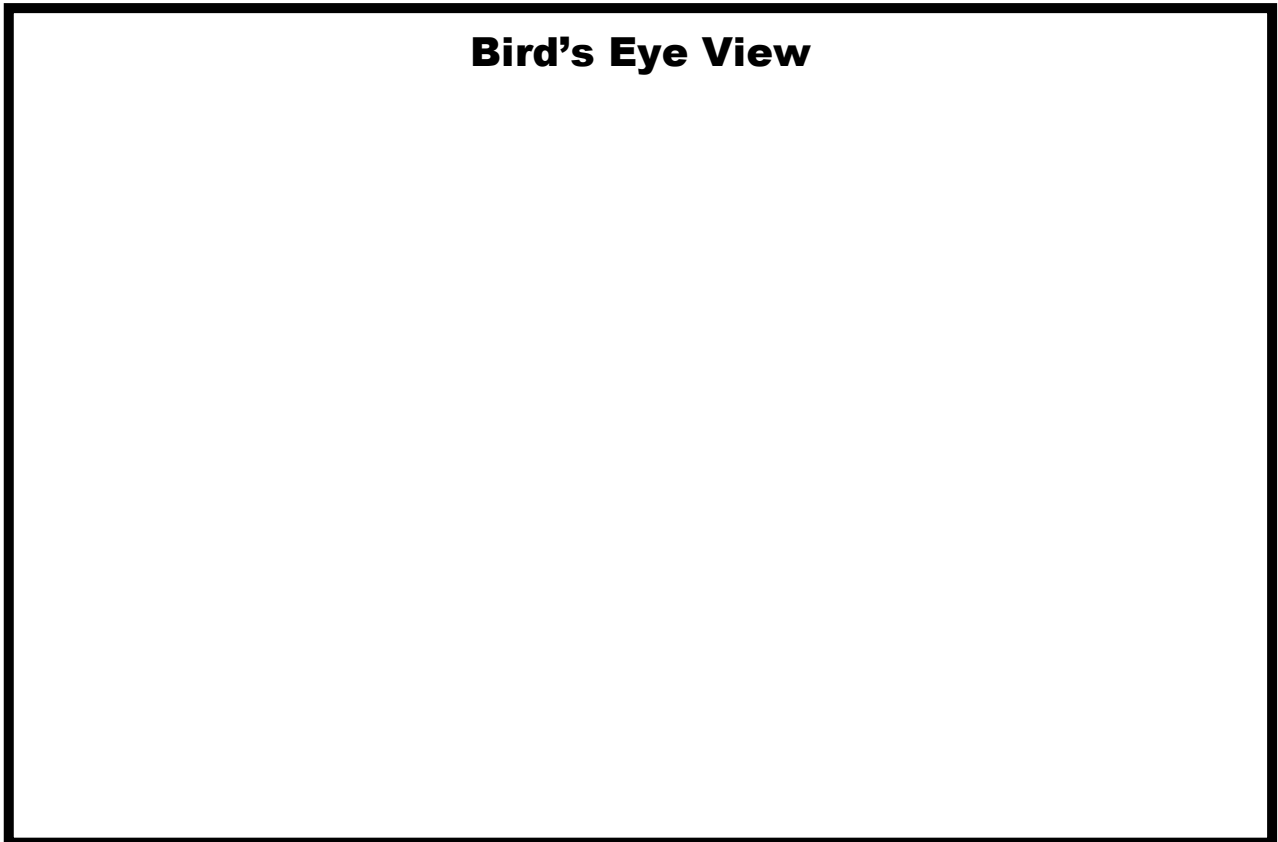
Specially bred rats have been kept as pets at least since the late 19th century. Rats are sociable, intelligent animals and can be trained to use a litter box, come when called, and perform a variety of tricks.

This is what our project will look like.

Side View



Bird's Eye View



Self Evaluation

Plus (things that are good about my rat project)

Minus (things that are not good about my rat project)

Ideas (things I would do differently next time)