

# The Feng Shui World Map

by D.H Van den Berghe

An interesting arrangement can be made putting the 5 elements and the 12 branches on the world map

There is 180 degrees of latitude going from the South Pole to the North Pole.

We can divide this into 5 areas of 36 degrees latitude each, and link them with the 5 elements as follows:

Metal	54° North - 90° North
Earth	18° North - 54° North
Fire	18° South - 18° North
Wood	54° South - 18° South
Water	90° South - 54° South

As we can see, all the ice of Antarctica and the oceans that surround it are under the element of Water, which is related to ice and winter.

In the Wood part we find South America, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand: areas which are known for their pristine nature.

The equator zone is obviously well placed under the element of Fire.

Under Earth we find a large chunk of the habitable land surface of our planet, and about two thirds of the world population.

The high North of the planet is under the influence of Metal.

The 12 branches can be assigned according to the longitude.

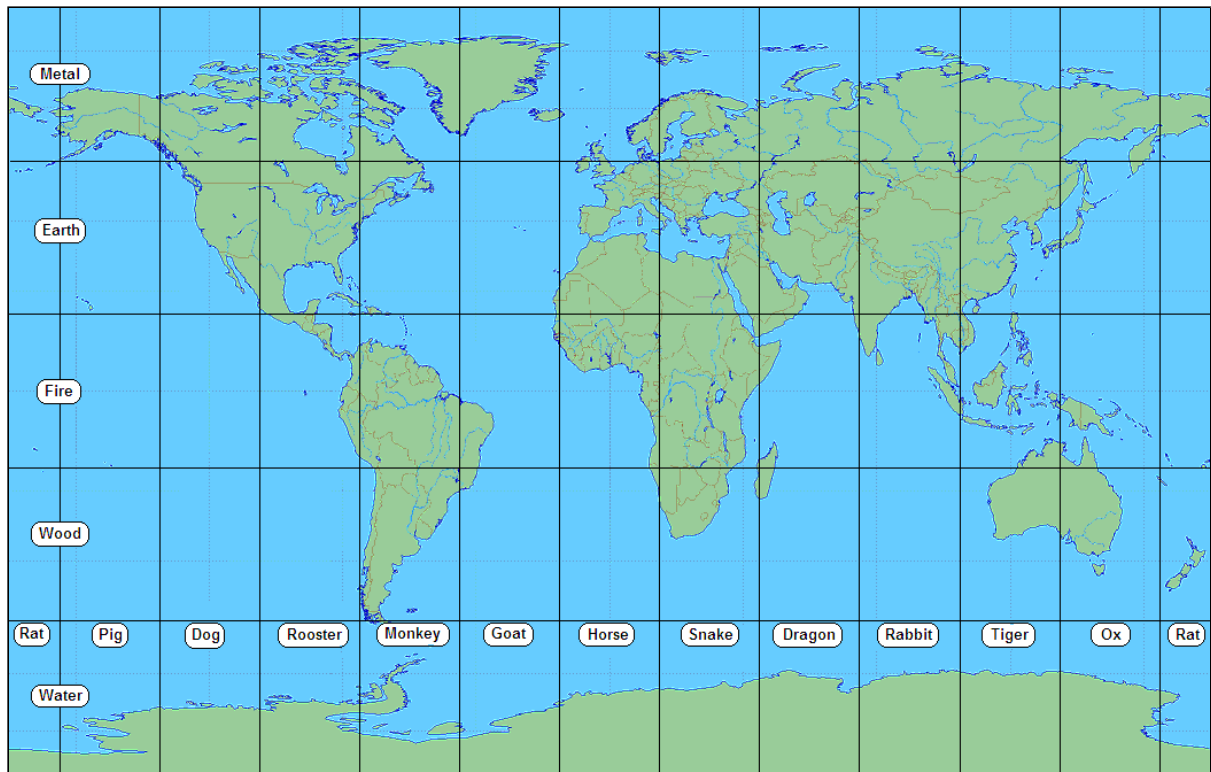
The middle of the Rat hour (midnight) marks the shift from one day into the next.

Similarly, the 180° East longitude line (international date line) has to be in the middle of the Rat zone, because this is the meridian where the date is changed.

So, the first country to greet each new day (and also each new year) is always New Zealand, followed by Japan and Australia, and so on...

This means we can easily assign each of the 12 branches to sectors of 30° longitude each.

The result is shown in this world map:



See why the Japanese are known to be hardworking according to long term plans (Ox)?  
 Or why people in most of South East Asia are always smiling and nice, inoffensive in all circumstances, which is so typically Rabbit.

China is Rabbit and Tiger. They have this saying : "Be quiet like a Rabbit, and move like a Tiger"  
 It means to be nice and friendly in most circumstances, but move decisively and strongly when necessary.

How about the United States which is mostly under Rooster?

Well, the Rooster is known to be very competitive and likes to show his (over)confidence.

And we can also clearly see this Rooster in the native Indian population, with their colorful culture even using bird feathers in their clothing..

The other half of the US is under Dog, which represents another aspect.

The Dog brings social engagement and work for good causes, as if to compensate for the competitive Rooster.

Western Europe is under the Horse. The Horse is a passionate explorer and traveller, always looking for something new to discover.

This is perhaps why European people set out to explore every corner of the planet and make colonies everywhere.

Charming Snakes live in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and most of Africa.

They can be quite slippery to deal with, and become cold blooded killers when threatened.

That's when they may use their poison bite.

Snake is also a symbol for wisdom and several important civilizations and religions were born in this area.

South America is mostly in the area of Monkey. The Monkey loves freedom and takes nothing too serious.

He moves in unpredictable ways, uncommitted, seeing the joke in everything.

One could argue that the international date line was chosen by convention, a political decision.

But these similarities indicate that the date line seems to be put very close to its correct position.

This is a useful map, which may help the different people to understand each other a little better.

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[earth@fourpillars.net](mailto:earth@fourpillars.net)

[www.fourpillars.net](http://www.fourpillars.net)