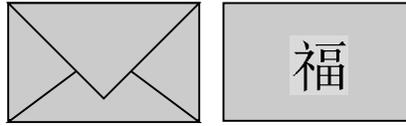


Chinese New Year: Lai-see Envelopes



A lesson for EASTWOOD ELEMENTARY

Kindergarten students ages 4-6

Time Frame: 2-3 workshops approximately 25 minutes each

Designed by Loren Fawcett, Education Assistant

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I. Theme/Subject:

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is the biggest holiday celebrated among Chinese people. It is often referred to as the spring festival because it signals the beginning of spring. It is a time when families and friends get together to say goodbye to the old and welcome the new. It originally lasted for about 4 weeks, but now only lasts for 3-5 days. On a lunar calendar, the new year begins the first night of the new moon after the sun enters Aquarius. This date is anywhere between January 20 and February 19 (on a solar calendar). Chinese years are grouped in sets of 12 with each year being represented by an animal (zodiac sign). It is said that a person displays the characteristics of the animal of the year in which they were born.

During Chinese New Year, a *lai see envelope* is typically given by the grown-ups and seniors (usually the married) to the visiting children and juniors. It is bestowed on the days of New Year, where the recipient says something auspicious on taking the red envelope.

II. Objectives/Concepts:

- Students will become familiar with the celebrations and traditions of Chinese New Year.
- Students will demonstrate their understanding of the concept of tradition.
- Students will recognize that different groups of people celebrate holidays unique to them.
- Students will listen and read along with Power Point presentation.
- Students will improve cutting skills with practice.
- Students will learn about another culture.
- Students will learn to ink and use rubber stamps.
- Students will practice coloring skills with crayons and colored pencils.
- Students will practice following directions.

III. Standards:

Made possible by the generous support from the Freeman Foundation

A. National Standards

1. Visual Arts

- NVA 1.4: Students use art materials and tools in a safe and responsible manner
- NVA 2.3: Students use visual structures and functions of art to communicate ideas
- NVA 3.2: Students select and use subject matter, symbols, and ideas to communicate meaning
- NVA 4.1: Students know that the visual arts have both a history and specific relationships to various cultures

2. Social Studies

- NSS-USH.K-4.4 The History of Peoples of Many Cultures Around the World: Understand selected attributes and historical developments of societies in Asia

B. Ohio State Standards

1. Visual Arts

- OVA 1-B.4.2 : Identify art forms, visual ideas and artistic styles and describe how they are influenced by time and culture; Compare and contrast art forms from different cultures and their own cultures.

2. Social Studies

- Skills and Methods *Obtaining Information* Benchmark A1: Obtain information from oral, visual, and print sources.

IV. Vocabulary:

- *Chinese New Year*: the first day of the lunar new year; the biggest holiday celebrated among Chinese people; often referred to as the spring festival as it signifies the beginning of spring.
- *FU (foo)*: good luck
- *Gong Hay Fat Choy!* ; *Xin Nian Hao!* ; *Guo Nian Hao!* (Happy New Year!)
- *Lai-see envelopes*: red envelopes containing money that are given to children during Chinese New Year
- *Lunar*: of or relating to the moon; measured by the moon's revolution
- *Tradition*: the handing down of beliefs, legends, and customs from generation to generation

V. Materials:

A. For Studio Activity #1:

- Red construction paper
- Scissors
- Tape

- Glue stick
- Markers
- Worksheets

B. For Studio Activity #2:

- Scissors
- Coin paper printouts
- Crayons (gold, brown, bronze, and/or yellow)

C. For Presentation:

- LCD projector
- Lap top
- Microsoft Power Point
- CD with Power Point presentation on Chinese New Year
- Hand-outs
- Projection screen

D. For Follow-up and lesson extensions:

- Handouts
- Visit to Allen Art Museum

VI. Strategies and Procedures:**A. Engage (motivation):**

Students will be introduced to the Chinese New Year through viewing a Power Point presentation and listening to the teacher's discussion of the holiday's background.

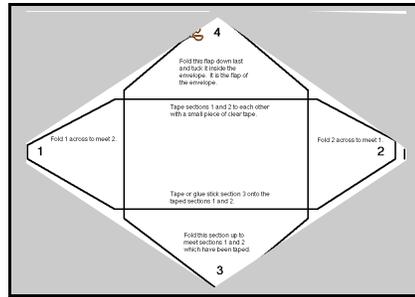
B. Explore:

Students will be encouraged to ask questions during and after the presentation. Students may visit their school or local libraries and further research Chinese New Year and or the culture of China.

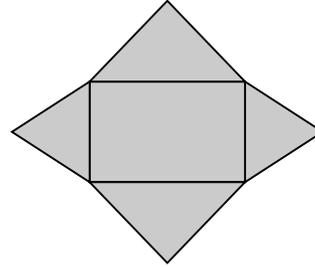
C. Create:**1. For lai-see envelopes:**

Students will create their own lai-see envelopes out of red construction paper. First students will cut out template and then trace onto red paper. Next, red paper will be cut out and students will then fold along edges (following directions on template). Students will secure the envelope

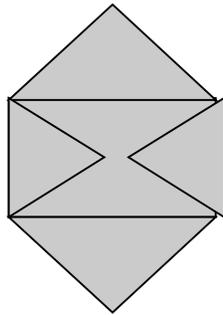
using tape and glue stick, and use markers to decorate the outside of the envelopes.



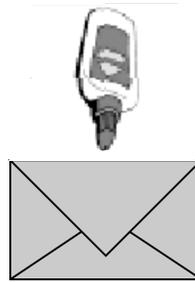
Step 1: Trace template onto red paper. Cut out.



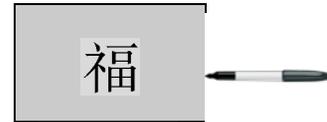
Step 2: Crease envelope edges along inside lines to create folds.



Step 3: Fold left and right flaps across to meet each other and tape together



Step 4: Tape or glue bottom flap onto the taped side sections.



Step 5: Using markers, decorate outside of envelope with Chinese New Year designs.

2. For paper money:

Students will color in coins on handout using either crayons or colored pencils. Students will then carefully use scissors to cut out each coin, practicing cutting along the lines. Center may be punched out with a hole-puncher if desired. Coins are placed inside the envelopes to mimic lai-see envelopes.

VI. Assessment:

Students will be evaluated based upon their ability to listen and follow directions. Neatly cut and colored coins and properly assembled envelopes will be assessed.

VIII. Closure:

Students will be encouraged to compare traditions such as gift giving of Chinese New Year to other holiday traditions and or celebrations of their own culture.

IX. Across the Curriculum:

- A. History:** Have students explore the tradition and origin of giving lai-see envelopes to children. Was money always given?
- B. Math:** Practice counting coins. Learn to count to ten in Chinese.
- C. Art:** Make rubbings of actual coins. Study color and texture.
- D. Science:** Have students study the climate of China and compare it to what their own weather is like during the Chinese New Year festivities.
- E. Reading:** Read picture books to the students such as the first three listed under resources (section X) below.
- F. Technology:** Have students research Chinese New Year via search engines on-line.

X. Resources:**A. Books:**

1. *Sam And The Lucky Money* by Karen Chinn, illus. by Cornelius Van Wright & Ying-Hwa Hu
2. *Happy New Year!/Kung-Hsi Fa-Ts'ai!*
by Demi
3. *Grandfather Tang's Story* by Ann Tompert

B. Websites:

1. www.educ.uvic.ca/faculty/mroth/438/CHINA/chinese_new_year.html
2. www.c-c-c.org/chineseculture/festival/newyear/newyear.html
3. www.kiddyhouse.com/CNY/
4. www.dennisflood.com/photos/featured/lantern_festival_2003.shtml