

Introduction to China Box

The East Asian Studies Center presents China Box, a teaching tool for teachers to expose their students to the Chinese language and culture. The items were selected and obtained during our last two trips to different parts of China. Each item in the box informs and reflects on different aspects of the Chinese culture. Therefore we hope, through the concept of realia, that students can see, feel and hence experience Chinese culture.

The items are divided into 4 categories, namely- 'Going to School,' 'Chinese Games,' 'Daily Life in



China,' and 'Chinese New Year.' In this guide, descriptions of the items and suggested class activities are provided for each of these categories. We have not provided any particular lesson plans with the China Box as we believe that the teacher knows how to best use and apply these items in his/her classroom. We hope that you will find this box helpful in planning your lessons.

We appreciate your comments and feedback on our China Box. In addition, when you return the box, we would like to hear how you used the items in your lessons/classroom and the outcome of your lessons. If you have lesson plans based on the materials in the box and would like to share them with other teachers, please submit them when you return the box. With your permission, we would like to include the lesson plans in the box as a resource for other teachers.

II. Chinese Games

Despite the development of the modern toy industry in China and its influence on Chinese kids, traditional toys and games continue to play a major role in contemporary Chinese culture. Traditional toys and games enables kids to keep in touch with the Chinese language and culture as fundamental Chinese ideals and desires usually surround game themes and objectives. Take the



Chinese Animal Chess for example. Through this game, kids learn both hierarchy in the animal kingdom and how the tiniest thing such as the rat can change the whole course of the game. Today, new Chinese games and toys are invented to reflect the same kind of ideals and desires and you will find that these games are more often educational than recreational.

Description of Items



12. Chinese Animal Chess



13. Lion Finger-Puppet



14. Chinese Chess

15. China Map Puzzle



Activities

I. Animals in The Animal Chess

Suggested Reading: page 26 on Zodiac Animals

Find the animals in the Animal Chess set. Begin by identifying the animal on each piece. Find out which ones are in the Chinese Zodiac!

II. Make A Hand-Puppet

(Used with permission of Maryanne Kim, EASC)

Materials:

Lunch sacks (paper bags)

Orange and white paper

Black poster board (cut into very thin strips up to 3 inches long)

Scissors

Coloring crayons/markers

Glue sticks

Black ribbon (napkin works, too)

Preparation:

Cut head and ears out of orange paper (connected or not). Cut out of white paper a mouth (teeth and tongue can be colored onto later). Optional, make an orange “beard” for the tiger. Cut the orange paper in long strips with a one rounded end (for the tail).

Activity:

Let the children color face of a tiger onto the head pattern. Have the children glue the head onto the paper bag (to use as a puppet). Glue the mouth under the flap of the paper bag. The children can color the teeth and tongue onto the mouth before or after they glue the mouth on. If you prepare the beard, they can glue that on, under the mouth. Draw/color black and orange stripes onto the paper bag for the stripes of the tiger. Glue four whiskers (thin black strips of black poster board) onto each side of the face. Turn the bag over and glue the tail to the back (you may

curl the tail around a pencil, marker, or crayon first if you want a curled tail). Tie the black ribbon (or napkin) to the end of the tail (as in the book). Let the kids put their hands in the puppet to make it “talk.”

