



## Dancing Dragons K - 2nd Grade

Three 45 minute sessions

Lesson Plan developed by Diane Baker  
PACE Teaching Artist



PACE is a program of the Acadiana Center for the Arts and Lafayette Parish School System.



## Essential Questions

- How do different cultures celebrate?

## Objectives

- Create a mixed media collage of a Chinese dragon using assorted media and techniques (construction paper, raffia, tissue paper, drawing, folding, tying, glueing )
- Reinforce art concept of warm and color colors
- Compare/contrast 2 celebrations (Louisiana vs. China)
- Learn about a foreign culture
- Have fun!

## Standards and Curriculum Connections

### Art, Social Studies, Geography, Science

2nd grade Social Studies GLE's:

2. Describe basic characteristics of maps and globes (G-1A-E1)
3. Use cardinal directions to locate places on maps and places in the classroom, school, and community (G-1A-E2)

51. Identify cultural elements (e.g., crafts, customs, music, folklore) of the local community (H-1C-E4)

52. Explain the customs related to important holidays and ceremonies in various countries around the world in the past (H-1D-E1)

2nd grade Science GLE's:

48. Describe a variety of activities related to preserving the environment (SE-E-A3)
49. Describe how consumption of resources can be reduced by recycling, reusing, and conserving (SE-E-A4)

## Key Terms

- cultural celebrations
- symmetry
- warm/ cool colors
- collage
- mixed media
- recycle
- re-use



## Materials

**Day 1:** 9" X 12" warm colored construction paper (red, orange, yellow), scrap construction paper (various colors), pencils, scissors, black markers, hole punches, patterns for K, glue

**Day 2:** 6" X 18" blue and green construction paper, tissue paper streamers of various colors, glue sticks, black markers

**Day 3:** raffia, 6" X 9" warm colored construction paper, scissors, scraps of paper, fabric, beads, ribbons, threads (shiny stuff) - recycled, 16 " wooden chop sticks

## Engage/Explore

**Day 1:** Begin by asking questions: After MLK Day, what big, Louisiana holiday is coming up? Mardi Gras! What are some Mardi Gras traditions - food, costumes, colors, parades. Half way around the world there is another celebration. Chinese New Year! Chinese New Year will be January 28, 2017. Have the students locate China on the map. What are some of China's Chinese New Year's traditions? (oranges, wearing red, hiding all knives, sweeping the floor, etc.) 2017 is the "Year of the Rooster" and Chinese New Year's ends with a dragon dance. Show pictures and read about the dragon dance in *The Dancing Dragon* by Marcia Vaughn, etc. Compare and contrast cultures - How is the Mardi Gras celebration similar to the Chinese New Year celebration? How is it different? Show pictures of dragons from books.

**Day 2:** Continue to talk about Mardi Gras celebrations and Chinese New Year - compare and contrast cultures. Ask questions as a review. Inform the students that they will work on the body of their dragon today.

**Day 3:** If possible, show a short movie of dragon dancers on the Promethian Board. Briefly review concepts about cultural celebrations from the previous sessions, saving enough time at the end to finish with the student's own dragon dance.

## Create

**Day 1:** After the discussion about Chinese New Year's and the dragon dance, let students chose 9" X 12" red, orange or yellow construction paper for the dragon's head. Demonstrate how to fold the paper in half horizontally. Give the students brief instruction on how to draw half a dragon face on the fold on one side of the paper in pencil. Tell them to be sure and fill the space - NOT too small! Cut along the lines drawn, unfold the paper and Voila! - they have a symmetrical dragon head. Next, distribute a packet of recycled construction paper. From the packet, let the students pick the colors they want to use and then show them how to draw with a pencil - eyes shapes and nose shapes. Cut the eyes and nose out and then glue on. Pass out black sharpies and show them how to outline the eyes, make eyelashes, swirls, etc. with black marker. If time allows, let them be creative by cutting and adding eyebrows, horns, nostrils. \*Kindergarteners will use patterns to trace around and cut. Holes will be punched for nose and chin whiskers.

**Day 2:** Students chose between blue and green 6" X 18" construction paper (cool colors). Then they will measure 1 inch on the paper, draw a line and begin folding the paper inch by inch like a fan. The body will be taped to the head from the previous class. The body of the dragon will then be decorated with tissue paper streamers and recycled scraps.



**Day 3:** Now the tail will be drawn and cut out. Pass each child one piece of 6" X 9" warm colored construction paper and 2 chopsticks each. Show them how to again fold the paper and cut out a symmetrical tail for the dragon. The tail will be taped to the head and body from day 1 and 2. Now the students will add drawings with a marker and collage cut paper and sequins to the final dragon design. Two chopsticks will be taped to the bottom. They are ready to parade their dragons around the classroom in the final dragon dance.

## Assets

- Question the children about the meaning of the vocabulary words: culture, tradition, warm/cool colors.
- Ask questions about the traditions of Mardi Gras and compare to Chinese New Year's. What is the similar? What is different?
- Did the students follow instructions?
- Did the students use their own creative ideas?
- Did the students create symmetry with the dragon's head?

## Resources

### Books:

*Bringing in the New Year* by Grace Lin  
Alfred A. Knopf, 2008.

*Cat and Rat* by Ed Young  
Henry Holt and Co., 1995

*Lion Dancer: Ernie Wan's Chinese New Year* by Kate Waters Illustrated by Martha Cooper  
Scholastic, 1991

*The Dancing Dragon* by Marcia Vaughn  
Mondo Publishing, 1996

### Websites:

<https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/chinese-new-year>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/ChineseNewYear/ChineseNewYear.aspx>

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/adventures-in-learning/2015/02/chinese-new-year-books-kids/>

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/unit/chinese-new-year-everything-you-need>

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/chinese-horoscopes/>



## Photo Resources



*An example of a finished dragon.*



*Dancing with a "real" dragon.*

