

# Chinese Calligraphy

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Subject: Ancient World History

Grade: 7<sup>th</sup>

## Academic Content Standards:

**Content Statement: 16** – The ability to understand individual and group perspectives is essential to analyzing historic and contemporary issues.

**Essential Question: What is Chinese Calligraphy and how is it different from written English?**

## Objective:

- Students will read about Chinese calligraphy.
- Students will use traditional ink and brush technique.
- Students will create their own Chinese character.
- Students will engage in discussion about how and why Chinese calligraphy is considered an art form.

## Materials:

Chromebooks or printed copies of article about [Chinese Calligraphy](#) aloud (there is a great video clip at the bottom of this article that would be great to watch in addition to reading about it. You can also enlarge the image of the 6 styles of calligraphy for better discussion)

Blank paper (rice paper would be ideal as it is better for absorption. It can be found on [Amazon here.](#))

Scrap paper

[Calligraphy brushes](#)

[Ink stick and stone](#)

Chinese Character worksheet and reference sheet (included below)

## Activities:

Prior to lesson:

- Arrange desks into groups of 4.
- Cover desks with butcher block paper or newspaper.
- Place copy of Chinese Calligraphy article and Chinese Character worksheets on cluster of desks.
- Place scrap paper, pieces of blank paper, calligraphy brushes and pots of ink on cluster of desks.

During lesson:

- Students must place all personal materials under desk.

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- Read article about calligraphy aloud to class. During discussion ask probing questions including
  - Considering the Latin language discussed in Rome unit, how do these characters differ?
- Teacher will model technique for getting ink onto the brush and allow students to prepare brushes.
- Students will watch a [Chinese Calligraphy Demonstration video clip](#). And follow step by step instructions on worksheet and scrap paper paying close attention to technique and order.
- Teacher will model making a final copy to be displayed.
- Students will practice their own technique and create a final copy without the aid of the worksheet.

### **Assessment:**

Students will be informally assessed based on their completion of a Chinese character.

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