

PATRICIA M. BANAS
CHINESE PAPER-CUTS

PURPOSE:

The target grade of the lesson is high school students in grades 10-12. To expose students to the art and culture of China, and to increase dexterity while learning the art and skills of papermaking.

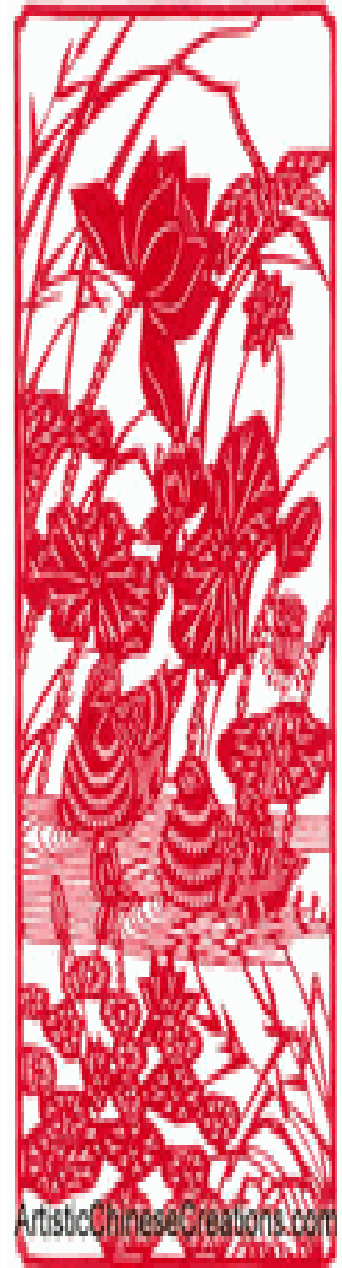
Students will also study the application of the elements and principles of design to the cuts and then apply this knowledge in the form of a graphic design.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- What are some elements (color, size, type) considered in creating a paper-cut?
- What are some art applications/uses for the paper-cuts you create?
- Who created paper-cuts and for what purpose?
- Can you name another culture that also has an art form that is based upon cutting paper and the use of positive and negative space?

MATERIALS:

- Thin red paper
- White paper
- Other colors of thin paper
- Very sharp scissors
- X-acto knives
- Cutting boards
- Pencils
- Sketch paper
- Packets of designs
- Rubber cement
- Markers
- Rulers
- Computers to print out text



TEACHER RESOURCES

- Video on China and Chinese Art
- Power point presentation on paper-cutting, it's history, categories and cultural traditions
- Packets containing designs and charts of various symbols
- Examples of Chinese graphics from various print media
- Chinese Paper-cut example
- Examples of paper-cuts from other cultures (Day of the Dead banners- Mexico, Wyciniki- Poland, Kiri-e, Japan)

ACTIVITIES

Class #1

- Begin the first class with a video on China and the arts of China. Students to follow along with guided notes.
- After the video, review important items in the guided notes and discuss.

Class #2

- Teacher directed five-minute review
- Power Point presentation on the art of Chinese paper-cutting- students will have the hand-out versions of the power points to follow along and take any additional notes.
- After the presentation, students will choose one of the four templates.
- Teacher demonstration on how to use the tools correctly, and make a paper-cut from red paper.

Class #3

- Students finish their template paper-cut and mount onto red paper.
- After 15 minutes- most students should have completed the assignment. Teacher presentation on how to apply the elements and principles of design in the creation of a papercut. Emphasis will be on positive and negative space, pattern and unity.
- Students will look at the packets and examples to use as inspiration to sketch designs for their own paper-cut design that says something about them. They are to consider and use symbolism.

Class #4-5

- Students should be completing designs, make a (or several if needed) practice cuts before they begin on their own design on a colored paper of their choice.
- Class work time...

Classes #6-10

- Teacher presentation on Chinese graphics and show examples
- Brief review of graphic design ideas (covered previously and frequently)
- Students assignment: to design and make a paper-cut (size, style, colors) of their choice and use it in some type of graphic design about someone they know, using symbolism, that will be given as a gift to that individual.

ASSESSMENT:

- Group critique
- Art project rubric

GRADE ADAPTION:

The lesson could easily be used for middle or elementary by scaling down the amount of information presented and by making less detailed paper-cuts.

