

Exploring the Asian Cultural Tradition Through Multimedia Art

Objectives:

1. Students will develop a basic understanding of Asian culture by creating a graphic and textual interpretation of a traditional Asian story, poem, or lesson- either Buddhist, Confucian or Taoist in message.
2. Students will produce an interpretation of a traditional Asian story using ComicLife software.
3. Students will communicate complex ideas through mixed media.

Essential Questions:

1. What is the moral, or message of the story, lesson, or poem that you chose?
2. In what ways is this message consistent with other characteristics of Asian culture?
3. How might this lesson serve as a guide to interpersonal relationships, or personal conduct for a reader?
4. In what way is this message similar to or different from a western tale with which you might be familiar?

Materials: Portions of...

1. "The East Asian History Sourcebook" Administered by Paul Halsall, Fordham University. Last Updated, 2001
[<http://academic.Brooklyn.cuny.edu/core9/phalsall/texts/analects.html>]
2. McCaan, David R. Early Korean Literature: Selections and Introductions. Columbia University Press, 2000
3. Murphey, Rhodes. East Asia: A New History, Third Edition, Pearson Longman. New York, 2004.
4. The Texts of Taoism. Translated by James Legge, Dover Publications, New York, 1962.
5. *ComicLife Software*

Activities:

1. Students will read several portions of traditional Asian philosophical texts.
2. Students will discuss, with classmates the characteristics of each philosophical texts. They should be reminded that these are just a small portion of each cultures' unique literary tradition, so their knowledge is very limited. In addition, students should understand that each Asian tradition is unique- not just to the west, but within Asia itself.
3. Using ComicLife software students will create a graphic interpretation of a traditional Asian text. Each product must contain at least eight frames.

- a. Students will then write a brief description of their product that addresses each of the essential questions.
4. Students will present their product to a group of 4-5 of their peers.

Assessment:

1. Products will be assessed based on how well their products communicate the message intended, as described in the students written description of their work.
2. Students will identify the use of traditional literature as a method of socialization.
3. Students will accurately interpret the traditional text, keeping its message in tact.