

Taoism

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I. Purpose:

A. Big Concepts:

1. To become familiar with Taoism.
2. To gain knowledge of eastern philosophy.
3. To transfer knowledge gained using the higher order thinking skills for analysis.

B. Essential Questions:

1. How do the principle beliefs of Taoism compare with your beliefs or your societies beliefs?
2. Who is the key figure of Taoism?
3. What are the assumptions or principles of Taoism?

II. Rationale:

- A.** To expose students to Taoism.
- B.** To enhance appreciation of other beliefs or thoughts.

III. Materials:

- A.** Class set of: The Heritage of Chinese Civilization, by Albert M. Craig (Prentice-Hall, New Jersey: 2001)
- B.** Class set of: East Asia-A New History, by Rhoads Murphey (Pearson Education 2004)
- C.** Class set of: The Tao of Pooh, by Benjamin Hoff (Penguin Books, New York: 1982)

- D. Drawing Paper, colored pencils-enough for whole class
- E. Class set of 'blue books'.
- F. Character Analysis Handout 1/student

IV. Activities:

- A. Read pp.16, 21-23 of The Heritage of Chinese Civilization, by Albert M. Craig (Prentice-Hall, New Jersey 2001)
- B. Read pp. 46-48, 80 of East Asia-A New History, by Rhoads Murphey (Pearson Education 2004)
- C. Read The Tao of Pooh, by Benjamin Hoff (Penguin Books, New York: 1982)
- D. Hold daily discussions of readings.
- E. Have students create a pencil drawing of a nature scene as a Taoist.
- F. Have students choose one character from The Tao of Pooh, by Benjamin Hoff and write a character analysis addressing the topics listed on the 'Character Analysis' handout.

V. Assessment:

- A. Nature Scene
- B. Character Analysis-blue book

VI. Intended Grade Level: Japanese 3 (11-12th grade)

Character Analysis Handout

After having read The Tao of Pooh by Benjamin Hoff, you will choose one character from the following list and write a character analysis.

Characters:

Pooh
Eyeore
Piglet
Rabbit
Owl
Christopher Robin
Tigger
Bisy Backson

Your character analysis should address the following topics:

- What major events occurred in this characters life?
- What is this character's philosophy of life? How does this character respond to difficulties?
- How does this character act in various situations described in the text?
- With what other character would this one identify most?
- To which character would this one react negatively?
- How do this character's actions express Taoism?
- What lessons would this character want to teach us from the point of view of his old age?

[questions adapted from (www.faculty.de.gscu.edu)]