



NCTA Lesson Plan Template

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Title: Chinese mythical beasts in Marvel's *Shang Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*

Theme/Topic: Chinese Myths

Introduction: Students become familiar with Chinese mythological beasts that continue to hold a place in contemporary culture, learning the different names, physical characteristics, and symbolic meanings and/or stories related to them, as well as identifying historical representations in art, archaeology, and written works, furthering an understanding of the cultural legacy of these myths.

Subject(s)/Grade level(s): Chinese language and/or culture; Middle School

Estimated Time: Two or three class periods

Connection to Standards/Common Core:

5 C's from ACTFL World-Readiness Standards for Learning Language: Communication, Culture, Connections, Comparisons, and Community

Essential Questions (2-3 questions):

Learning Objectives (2-3 objectives):

Materials Needed: Computers for research; copy of movie *Shang-Chi* if possible (Disney+)

Pre-Assessment of Prior Knowledge: Introduce the topic by asking students to name mythological beasts they are familiar with from cultures other than China, and then those from China. Is there overlap? What do these creatures represent? Of those that saw *Shang-Chi*, which were included?

Teacher-Student Interaction:

- Show slides with images of the six creatures seen in *Shang-Chi* (帝江 dìjiāng **DEE-GEEang**, 麒麟 qílín **CHEE-LEAN**, 凤凰 fènghuáng **FUNG HWAH-ng**, 九尾狐 jiǔwěihú **JOE-WAY-WHO**, 石狮 shíshī **SURE-SURE**, 龙 lóng **LOWng**) while guiding them in the use of descriptive language about the images shared and other pertinent language at their proficiency level.

*Crediting your sources: There are many ways to give credit, but for materials that will be shared online or in other public venues, using parenthetical citations and a works cited page is a good idea. Useful guidelines for [creating citations in MLA format](#) can be found at the Purdue University Online Writing Lab (OWL).

NCTA Lesson Plan Template

- Students work together in small groups to research an animal of their choice from those above. They should compile the following information into a group slide or slides: physical characteristics (including color); cultural meaning and/or stories; where found in Chinese cultural resources (particular book, legend, etc); at least one historical image found in Chinese art, architecture, archaeological finds, etc; and at least one modern-day image (anime, film, art, etc). Students can search for information online and/or use classroom resources (see possible items below).
- The teacher should model what is expected with an example slide of another mythical beast, such as the Chinese 貔貅 píxiū **PEA-SHE-oh**.
- (Other Chinese mythical beasts not found in *Shang-Chi* that could be used if more are needed: 鯤 kūn **COON**; 鵬 péng **PUNG**; 鲲鹏 kūnpéng **COON-PUNG**; 白泽 báizé **BUY-DZUH**; 年 nián **KNEEen**; 鳌 ao2 **OW**)
- When work is complete, students practice their presentations using the target language. Students present to the class and answer questions.

Closing Activity:

Watch sections of film with Chinese mythical creatures from 1:07:02 - 1:09:36

OR on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74veE0Bon5w> 1:41:17 - 1:41:58 for dragon
[Shang-Chi Morris jumps over Mythical Lions HD Clip #Shorts](#)

Post-Assessment: Use online class game like Flippity to review information

Resources:

[Every Mythological Creature in Marvel's Shang-Chi](#)

[Chinese Mythological creatures explained : Shang-Chi and the legend of the Ten Rings](#)

Mythic Creatures in Shang-Chi the Movie: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuZDv8I2b-U>

<https://www.immortal-studios.com/post/mythical-creatures-of-shang-chi-and-the-legend-of-the-ten-rings>

[88 Chinese Mythical Creatures to Know About - Owlcation](#)

Chinese bestiary: <https://immortalmountain.wordpress.com/glossary/chinese-bestiary/>

Qilin: [China's mythical Qilin](#)

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Song Dynasty Nine Dragons painting:

<https://beyond-calligraphy.com/2012/03/06/nine-sons-of-the-dragon-king/>

[Chinese Dragons vs. Western Dragons + Other Mythical Beasts](#)

[Illustrated Myths & Legends of China: The Ages of Chaos and Heroes Paperback – May 22, 2018](#)

[Fantastic Creatures of the Mountains and Seas: A Chinese Classic Hardcover – Illustrated, June 1, 2021](#)

[The Classic of Mountains and Seas \(Penguin Classics\) Paperback – January 1, 2000](#)

Extension Activities/Extending the Lesson/Cross-Curricular Connections:

Art activity to make cards with picture of mythical creature on one side with Chinese characters and pinyin and definition on the other side

Watch Wang Leehom's Descendants of the Dragon for dragon as Chinese identity and geography: [王力宏 Leehom Wang - 龍的傳人](#)

Lion and Dragon dance:

[History of Lion dance taught by Dr. Sun Hui from Ohio State University.](#)

Print version:

[The Lion's Roar in Taiwan: Genealogy of a Traditional Dance - Association for Asian Studies](#)

Watch *Big Fish Begonia* for anime film with many additional mythical beasts and legends, based loosely on Zhuangzi: [Big Fish & Begonia](#)