

NCTA Lesson Plan

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Title: The Lion Dance

Theme/Topic: The Lion Dance

Introduction: At the end of the Chinese New Year lesson, students will learn about the lion dance, make a lion head, and do the lion dance to appropriate lion dance music. If time permits, a short story will be read about the lion dance and coloring pages made available to students.

Subject(s)/Grade level(s): Social Studies, 7th grade

Suggested Duration of Lesson: 1 class period of at least one hour or two shorter class periods

Note: The creation of the lion head could be one class period and the history of and performing the lion dance a second class period.

Connection to Standards (Ohio):

- Social Studies 7: Government Strand: Civic Participation and Skills: 16. Analyzing individual and group perspectives is essential to understanding historic and contemporary issues. Opportunities for civic engagement exist for students to connect real-world issues and events to classroom learning.
- English Language Arts 7: Speaking and Listening: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 7 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Essential Questions:

- What is the Chinese lion dance?
- What is the significance of the lion dance in Chinese culture?

Learning Objectives:

- Upon completion of this lesson, students will be able to describe the Chinese lion dance, determine important information about the history of the Chinese lion dance, create a lion dance mask/head/puppet, and perform the Chinese lion dance.

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Materials Needed:

- Selected book.
- Selected video.
- Presentation of notes.
- Space to perform the lion dance.
- Supplies for making the lion mask, lion head, or lion puppet
- 2 cups of flour
- 2 cups of water
- Pinch of salt
- Plastic bucket or bowl
- White glue
- 1 large balloon
- Dishwashing soap
- 1-2 newspapers
- Heavy-duty scissors
- Hole punch or metal punch tool
- Elastic strap
- Water-based paints in different colors, including black and brown
- Paint brushes
- Buttons
- Glitter in different colors
- Fringe
- Hot glue gun
- Hot glue sticks
- Felt
- Thin wire or fishing line
- Cardboard
- Pom-poms
- Fabric
- Fake fur

Pre-Assessment of Prior Knowledge: Students will most likely not know anything about the lion dance. Students will have some understanding of Chinese New Year celebrations.

Teacher-Student Interaction:

1. Teacher will show teacher-created presentation from the notes taken from Professor Tsun-Hui's summer 2022 NCTA seminar. Discuss with students.
2. Teacher may read *Lion Dancer: Ernie Wan's Chinese New Year* by Kate Waters or *Lion Dance: An Ancient Chinese Tradition* by Adam Ye. Discuss with students.
3. Teacher will show a video of the Lion Dance. There are a number of good ones on YouTube (see resources links below). Discuss with students.
4. Teacher will display instructions on how to make a lion dance head. Printed copies of the instructions should also be available for students. Supplies needed to make the lion dance head should be out and available for students. Teacher can decide if students work in a group to make one lion dance head or if each student will make their own lion dance head.

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

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5. Give students at least 30 minutes to make the lion dance head.
6. Teacher can provide students with an assortment of coloring pages for early finishers and for students to take to work on later (see resource list below).
7. Once all of the lion dance heads are completed, have the student(s) put on the lion dance mask(s).
8. Then, play lion dance music and have the students attempt the lion dance. Note that you will need a large area, such as a hallway or outside in the courtyard to accomplish this.
9. Ask students to be sure their name(s) are on the lion dance mask(s) and turn them in.
10. Teacher can display the lion dance masks in the classroom or an area outside in the hallway.
11. Remind students to pick up one or more of the lion head dance coloring pages to work on.
12. Plan to do an exit slip during that class period or an opener at the start of the next day's class period to get student feedback (tell me three things that you learned about the lion dance).

Closing Activity: The teacher will display the lion dance heads created by students around the classroom or hallway (if an appropriate area is available). Teacher can ask students to return colored lion dance coloring pages and post on a bulletin board.

Post-Assessment: Students will demonstrate their learning through the successful creation of a lion dance mask and perform the lion dance in small groups.

Resource Links to Examples:

- NCTA 2022: Video of Lecture by OSU Professor Tsun-Hui. <https://youtu.be/pli-cQAt-uA>
- NCTA 2022: [The Lion's Roar in Taiwan: Genealogy of a Traditional Dance](#) (Education about Asia)
- Book. *Lion Dancer: Ernie Wan's Chinese New Year*. Waters, Kate.
- Book. *Lion Dance Drawing: The First Book on How to Draw the Lion Dance*. Soekanto, Bambang Edison.
- Book. *The Lion Dance Storyteller: The Goddess and the Lion*. Mah, Gary.
- Book. *The Art of the Lion Dance*. Yap, Joey.
- Book. *Lion Dance: An Ancient Chinese Tradition*. Yee, Adam.
- Book. *Lion Dance Explained*. Hu, William C.
- Sheet Music. *Chinese Lion Dance (Piano Tomorrow Series)*. Demarest, Anne Shannon.
- Coloring page. http://kids.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=22785
- Coloring pages. bpictures.info/lion-dance-coloring-pages
- Lion Paper Bag Head. <https://www.education.com/activity/article/lion-dance/>
- Lesson Plan. <https://mothership.sg/2016/01/this-nifty-guide-to-lion-dance-shows-that-you-dont-know-much-about-it/>
- Lesson Plan. https://www.ehow.com/how_6284782_make-chinese-lion-mask.html
- Lesson Plan. <https://study.com/academy/lesson/chinese-dance-lesson-plan.html>
- Video. <https://www.culturecreatures.com/learn-to-lion-dance>
- Video. <https://youtu.be/TDqQzxJZ4Zc>
- Video. https://youtu.be/3dZ_YeA8QwY
- Video. <https://youtu.be/fBt8f5EfPO8>

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- Video. <https://youtu.be/umv2aQVcn1s>
- Video. <https://youtu.be/XRqG5AXiwKE>

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

- A lion dance puppet could be made for younger grade levels or if time does not permit the creation of a larger mask.
- For high school classes, the students could create a paper mache or more complicated lion dance mask.
- This could be a cross-curricular lesson between Social Studies, English Language Arts, and Music class.