

Topics: World Cultures
(Asia), Chinese New Year

Materials List

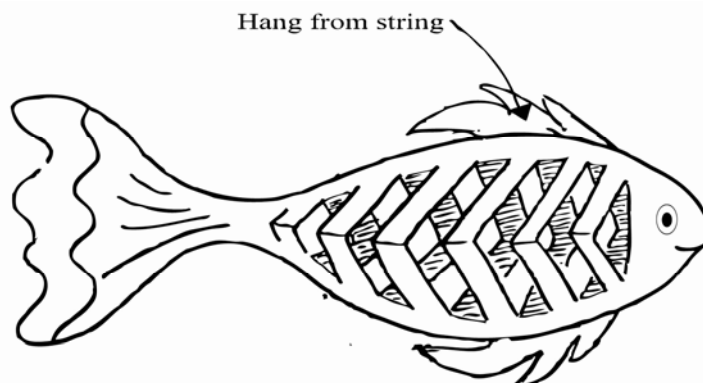
- ✓ Double sided colored paper (contrasting colors work well)
- ✓ String
- ✓ Hole punch
- ✓ Ruler or straight edge

This activity can be used to support the teaching of:

- Civilizations of China (CA Social Science Standards: Grade 7, 7.3.0)
- Art reflects cultural values and traditions throughout the world (CA Visual Arts Standards: Grade 7, 3.1)
- Participating in the visual arts (CA Visual Arts Standards: Grades 1 & up, Creative Expression, 2.0)

Hanging Carp Fish

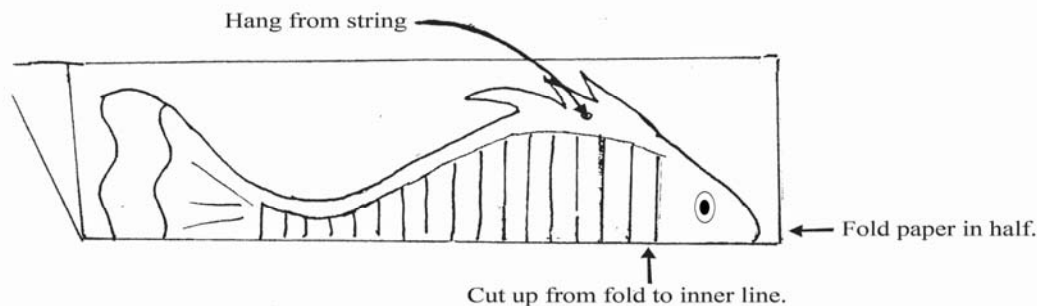
Perfect for Chinese New Year



This hanging fish is a great activity for teaching aesthetic awareness and an appreciation of different cultures and art forms.

Assembly

1. Fold paper in half lengthwise. Draw half of a fish on fold; draw vertical lines ~2.5 cm (1") apart from the fold to a line ~2.5 cm (1") from the top of the fish.



2. Cut through both thicknesses of paper along the fish outline. Cut up from fold along the vertical lines. (See illustration)
3. Unfold paper and bend strips so that the strips alternate forward and backward.
4. Punch hole at top of fish (at good balance point). Hang fish from string.

The Content Behind the Activity

Ethnic and cultural groups often express their culture through symbols and celebrations. In Chinese culture, the carp symbolizes endurance, perseverance and fortitude. The carp swims upstream, against the current, and legend has it that a carp that is able to leap over the mythical "Dragon Gate" will become a dragon. Because of this, the carp is held up to the young to inspire them to strive for success in business and at their academic studies.

Web Resources

- Chinese New Year - <http://www.chinavoc.com/festivals/spring/springfestival.htm>