

9/5

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Action Plan for the Study of Ancient China

This action plan has been prepared for students in the fourth grade of different levels of ability.

The study of ancient China would last for one week in each of the fourth grade classes. Each day would consist of one forty-five minute segment. The last day would be the Celebration of China Day. The celebration would last all day. The students would visit each one of the fourth grade classrooms to experience something different about China.

Day One

To introduce the study of China the students will look at the geography of China. The discussion will be about how a country's geography affects its people. The students will look at the vastness of China and the many landforms found there. The students will create and label a map showing certain bodies of water, deserts, mountains, and plateaus. They will also create a legend on their maps. After the maps are finished the students will glue them on construction paper and display them in the classroom.

Day Two

The students will begin a study of five of the ancient dynasties of China. The first dynasty to be studied will be the Qin Dynasty. The students will read and discuss Shihuangdi, considered to be the first emperor of China. The students will learn about the accomplishments of this dynasty such as the beginning of the Great Wall, establishment of one written language, one monetary system, one calendar, and one single system of weighing and measuring. The students will create a timeline to be displayed on the wall of the classroom. Each dynasty will be placed in chronological order. Beneath each dynasty will be listed its major accomplishments.

Day Three

The students will read about and discuss the Han Dynasty and the Tang Dynasty. The study of the Han Dynasty will include the Silk Road and the making of paper. They will also learn about Emperor Wudi and the fact that he started a public school for boys. The study of the Tang Dynasty will include a discussion about how the Tang emperors loved the arts, especially poetry. It was also during this dynasty that tea became very popular in China. During the Tang Dynasty paper money began to be used instead of coins. The

students will learn about the invention of gunpowder. These two dynasties will be added to the timeline along with their accomplishments.

Day Four

The students will read about and discuss the Song Dynasty and the Ming Dynasty. The discussion of the Song Dynasty will include the Khubilai Khan and Marco Polo. The students will learn about The Khubilai Khan's creation of a postal system. The discussion of the Ming Dynasty will be about the Forbidden City and the voyages of Zheng He. The students will compare Zheng He and his voyages to the voyages of Christopher Columbus. Each of these dynasties will be added to the timeline along with their accomplishments. Each student will create an emperor's robe (handout #4). They will choose a design from the handout (#5) that shows certain symbols and what they mean. The students will color their robes and mount them on construction paper. The robes will be displayed in the hallway.

Day Five

Celebration of China Day! Each of the four fourth grade classrooms will be set up as a center. In each center the students will do a different activity. The classes will rotate so that only one class is in each center. The celebration will take all day to complete.

Center One

In this center the students will each receive a bowl of cooked rice. They will be given chopsticks and the handout (# 6) that shows how to use them.

Center Two

The students will make bookmarks. They will be given a handout (#7) that shows some Chinese characters. They will first practice making the characters and then they will paint them on their bookmarks.

Center Three

In this center the students will make a Yin-Yang kite. The students will create the kites following the directions on handout # 8.

Center Four

The students will get to play desktop ping pong. The students will use the directions on handout #9.

Bibliography

Pearson Learning Core Knowledge, Copyright 2002.

Teacher Created Materials: Thematic Unit Ancient China, Copyright 1999.

Hands on Heritage China: Edupress , Copyright 1995

Scholastic Professional Books: Culture Kit China, Copyright 1996

Creative Teaching Press, Inc. China World Neighbor Series, Copyright 1995



MAP OF CHINA #1

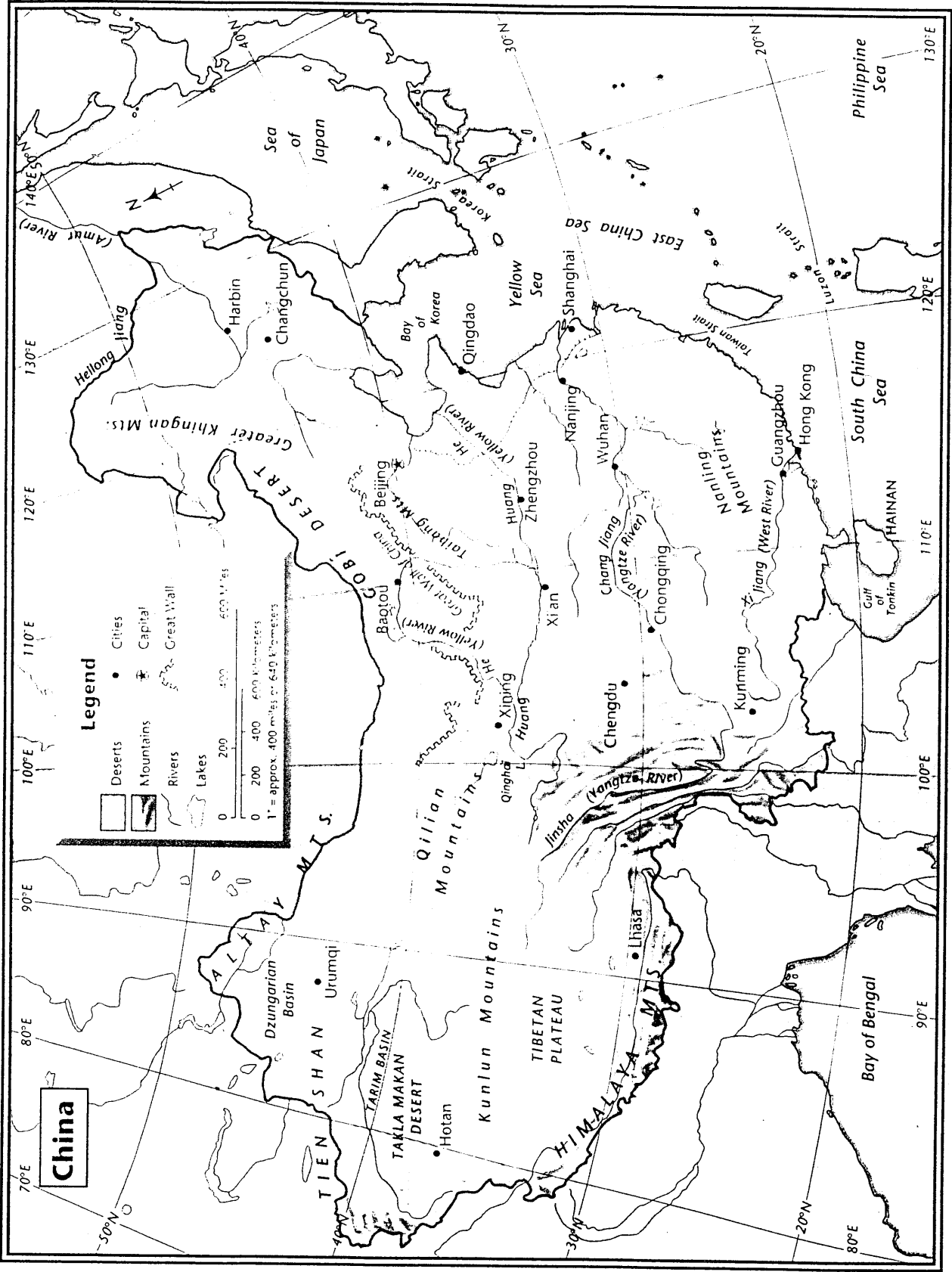


Identify and Label
Map of China

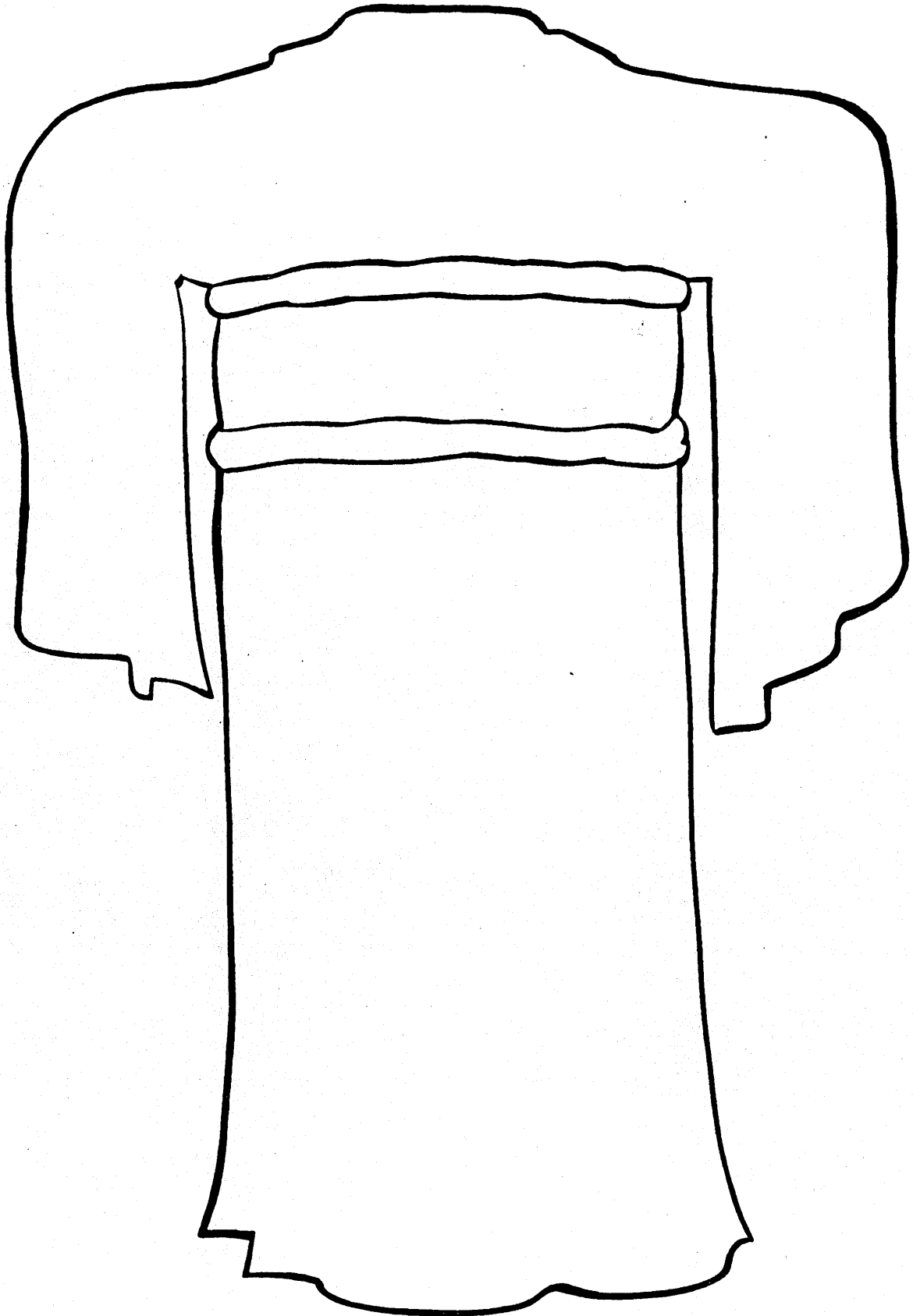
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2. Kunlun Mts.
3. Tibetan Plateau
4. Altay Mts.
5. Qilian Mts.
6. Gobi Desert
7. Himalaya Mts.
8. Bay of Bengal
9. Greater Khingan Mts.
10. Yangtze River
11. Nanling Mts.
12. Yellow Sea
13. Sea of Japan
14. South China Sea
15. Bay of Korea

Name _____

Map 1.



The Emperor's New Robe (cont.)



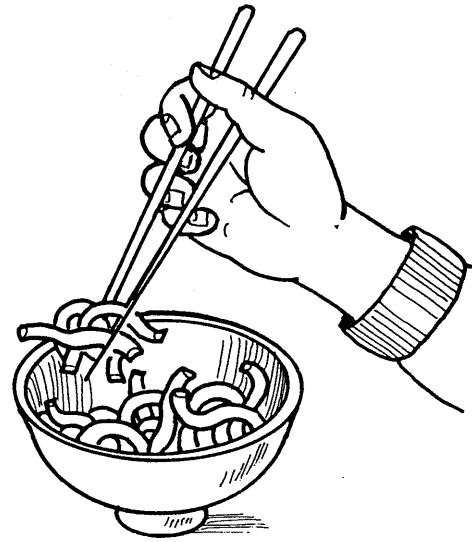
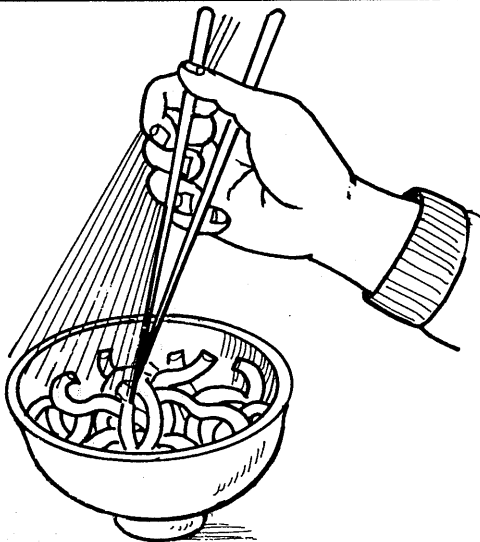
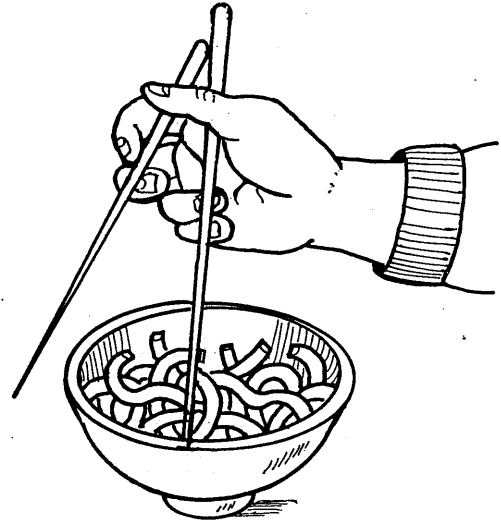
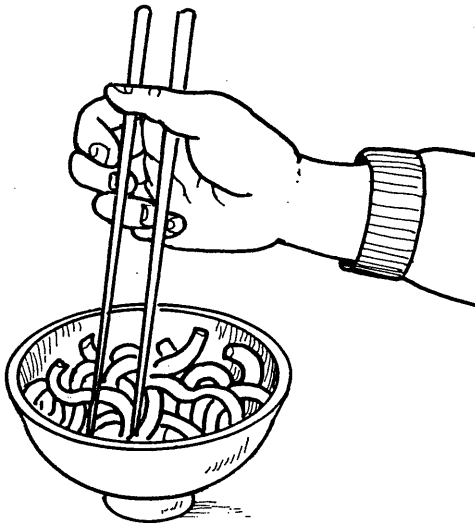
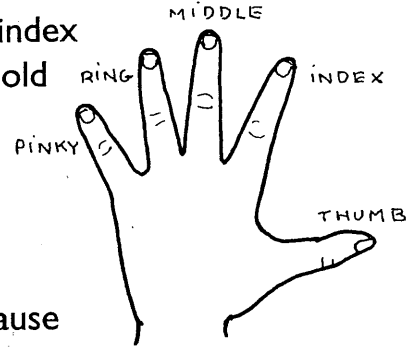
The Emperor's New Robe

Use the examples below to design and color the robe on page 69. Cut out the new robe and mount it on a sheet of dark-colored construction paper. On the back describe what the symbols and colors of your robe signify.

 <p>Emperor T'ai Tsung</p>	 <p>Dragon—power, rain, spring, new life</p>	 <p>Fu—happiness</p>
 <p>Porcelain Lady</p>	 <p>Phoenix—beauty, peace, long life</p>	 <p>Lion—guards against evil spirits</p>
	 <p>Crane—long life</p>	 <p>Praying Mantis and Flowers—good fortune</p>

Using Chopsticks

1. Take the thick end of one chopstick in the crook of your thumb. Rest the lower part lightly against the inside of your ring finger.
2. Hold the other chopstick between the tips of your index and middle finger. Hold it with your thumb, as you hold a pencil.
3. Move the outside (second) stick back and forth while you hold the inside (first) stick still.
4. Now you are ready to pick up some food.
5. Never touch your mouth with your chopsticks, because every one eats from the same bowls.
6. It is not polite to cross your chopsticks on your plate or bowl.





IDEOGRAPH CHARACTERS



sun

moon

vehicle

horse

man

heart

tree

eyes

fish

mouth

dog

hand

go

field

see

stream

return

father

make

walk

Make a Yin-Yang Kite

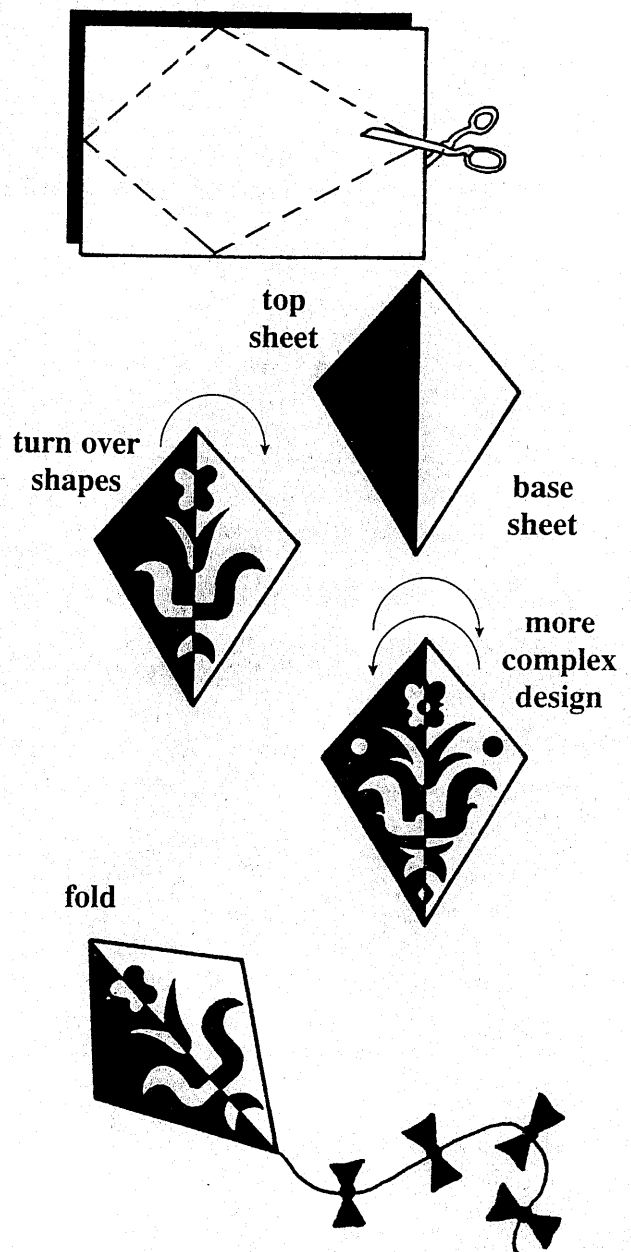
Kites were used by the ancient Chinese to scare away enemies and evil spirits, as well as during celebration festivals. Make a kite that represents the Chinese concept of balance, or yin and yang.

Materials:

- 2 large sheets of construction paper in contrasting colors
- scissors
- yarn
- glue

Directions:

1. Cut both sheets of paper into a kite shape.
2. Use one cutout kite as the base color. Use the other kite as the accent color. Cut the accent colored kite in half lengthwise.
3. Use the long center line of the kite as a pivot point. Lay the accent color half kite on one side of the base kite. Cut shapes out of the accent kite. Glue the cutout shapes on the base kite to mirror the locations of the cutouts from the accent kite.
4. When all your designs are cut out, glue the accent half kite to its side of the base kite.
5. Follow the same procedure with the other side of the kite, but change the design.
6. When the glue is dry, fold the kite down the middle to create more dimension. Use yarn and leftover scraps of construction paper to make a tail for your kite.
7. Hang the kite from the ceiling or on a bulletin board.



GAMES AND TOYS

The Chinese people are recognized for their success at diving, table tennis, and women's volleyball in worldwide competition. Table tennis is a popular leisure activity in China, as well. Concrete table tennis tables are commonly found in parks or the recreation areas of work units. The Chinese also enjoy badminton, baseball, basketball, soccer, and swimming.

Ti Jian Zi Fun

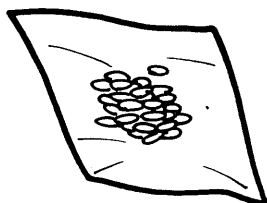
Ti Jian Zi, a game similar to *Hackey Sack* in the United States, is popular in China. The goal is to keep the game piece, a shuttlecock, in the air, using only your feet. Have your students make game pieces by following these directions:

Materials

6" square piece of fabric
rice
rubberbands
glue
feathers

Directions

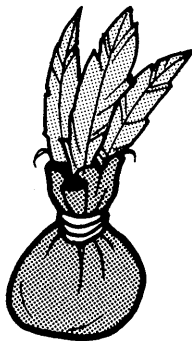
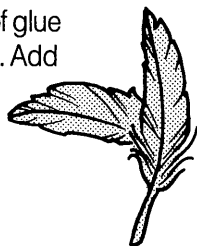
1. Fill a 6" piece of fabric with a small amount of rice.



2. Pull all the corners together and wrap them tightly with a rubberband.



3. Put a mound of glue in the opening. Add 3 feathers.

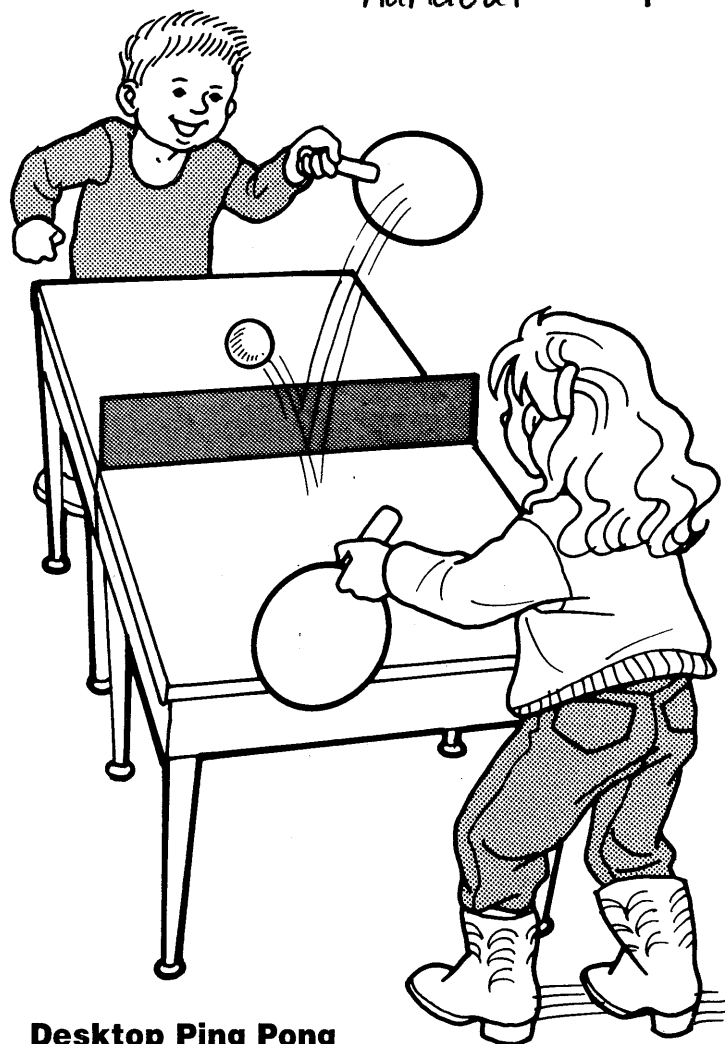


4. Let dry.

Demonstrate for your students:

- * Place the game piece on the side of your foot.
- * Kick it in the air.
- * Keep it in the air, using the side of your foot.

Note: Koosh[™] balls make great game pieces, too.

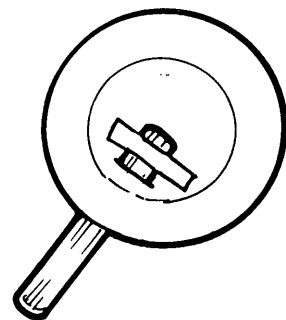


Desktop Ping Pong

In 1971, an American ping-pong team was invited to tour China as a step in the developing relationship between the two countries and the phrase "ping-pong diplomacy" was coined. Discuss how playing sports and games together can build friendships and encourage mutual respect. Have students follow these directions so they can play a desktop version of ping pong.

Materials

ping-pong balls
sturdy cardboard paper plates
tongue depressors
masking tape
tagboard



Directions

1. Push 2 student desks together.
2. Use masking tape to attach 6" strips of tagboard between the 2 desks to make a net.
3. In the hollow of the paper plate, cut a slit in which a tongue depressor will fit as a handle. Use masking tape to hold the tongue depressor in place.

(To simplify, eliminate step 3 and have students just hold the paper plate.)