

**CRANE HOUSE | WEB-BASED CURRICULAR REFERENCE**

**# 1 Posted 11/2007**

Funded by GE Foundation Grant

**WHAT'S IN A WORD?**

**Learning About Chinese Writing**

**The Pictogram**

Curriculum and Pictograms Written by Lillian Hwang Peiper

<b>Grade Level(s)</b>	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
<b>Subjects; Curricular Connections</b>	Social Studies, Geography, World History, Ancient History, Art, Art History, World Languages, Language Arts, Creative Writing
<b>Summary</b>	This lesson introduces students to the earliest type of Chinese writing in the form of <i>pictograms</i> . This lesson further introduces a type of writing system that does not use Roman alphabet letters to spell out words phonetically. The student will learn that the earliest Chinese written words derived from picture-writing ( <i>pictograms</i> ), for which each word, or <i>character</i> , has its own pronunciation and meaning.
<b>Time</b>	3 hours, or 3 class sessions
<b>Goal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The student will understand a form of Chinese writing and a form of Asian writing system.</li><li>- The student will express thoughts based on the world's oldest <i>living language</i>, i.e., a language that has evolved but continues to be written in its earliest and most basic form.</li><li>- Based on understanding of the earliest form of Chinese writing, the student will gain insight about the origins of many other written languages of the world.</li><li>- The student will, by extension, understand how the written word reflects the culture of a country's peoples and how culture and language are intertwined and inseparable.</li></ul>
<b>Objectives</b>	To create a semblance of sentences, then story, by using Chinese <i>pictograms</i> .
<b>Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To organize information from the oral to the written stage</li><li>- To visualize how oral language becomes written language</li><li>- To practice linkage of pictures to ideas</li><li>- To acquire a different type of writing system</li></ul>
<b>Resources/Materials</b>	Pencil, markers, writing paper, drawing paper, <i>Grid of Chinese</i>

	<i>Pictograms</i>
<b>Activities/Procedure</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Instruct students about general Chinese writing.</li> <li>2. Instruct students about <i>pictograms</i> as the earliest form of Chinese writing.</li> <li>3. Divide students into groups.</li> <li>4. Give each group a copy of <i>Grid of Chinese Pictograms</i>.</li> <li>5. First ask each group to develop a short story that contains as many <i>pictograms</i> as possible. Develop the story orally first.</li> <li>6. Next ask each group to designate a) a scribe or recorder, who will write the story on paper; b) an artistic person, who will write in the <i>pictograms</i>.</li> <li>7. Then ask each group to work out their story on paper with the recorder, substituting English words with as many as possible words from the <i>Grid of Chinese Pictograms</i>.</li> <li>8. When the story is completed, ask students to use markers to highlight and color the <i>pictograms</i>.</li> <li>9. Ask students to volunteer read and <i>translate</i> another group's created <i>pictogram</i> story.</li> </ol>
<b>Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ask students why <i>pictograms</i> would be the first form of Chinese writing.</li> <li>- Observe students as they create their own Chinese <i>pictogram</i> story.</li> <li>- Check for accuracy of <i>pictogram</i> usage.</li> <li>- Check for students' understanding of how the Chinese created the <i>pictogram</i> and why the Chinese used <i>pictograms</i> as their first writing form.</li> </ul>
<b>Extensions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Schedule an interactive, multidisciplinary cultural workshop with an Asian educator at Crane House's site or at your school to learn additional Chinese or other Asian hands-on activities.</li> <li>- Connect with other subject teachers to create multidisciplinary units (e.g. Art &lt; &gt; English; Language Arts &lt; &gt; Art History; Social Studies/History &lt; &gt; Art; World Languages &lt; &gt; Art History; etc.).</li> <li>- Create compound words based on <i>pictograms</i>.</li> <li>- Invent new <i>pictograms</i> and test if others can understand the word meanings.</li> </ul>