

Title: Introduction to the novel:
In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson

Curriculum : Language Arts

Grade Level Span: Grades 4-5

Purpose: Students will gather and interpret information about China to gain insight of the main character's culture.

Description: Students complete a web search.

Activities	Curriculum Standards	NETS for Students
1. Prepare a K-W-L Chart with the following categories: Chinese New Year, Naming a Child, Games, Moon Festival, Chinese Calendar, Eating Customs.		
2. Group students and assign each group one of the categories from the above K-W-L chart to research from the website: www.chineseculture.about.com . Students are responsible to find five new facts specific to their category.	Inquiry	ITSE 1, 2, 3 PI 1, 2, 3 & 4
3. Students present the researched facts to the class and complete their portion of the K-W-L chart.	Communication, Speaking	ITSE 4, 6 PI 5, 10
Activity: Direct students to the subheading calligraphy within the same website: www.chineseculture.about.com . Students then click on Chinese name. They are then able to find their own name written in Chinese. Students can copy the image, cut and paste it into a word processing file, enlarge and print it.	Technology	ITSE 4, 5 PI 4, 5 & 8
Activity: Using word processing, students write and publish a paragraph describing the five facts they learned from their search.	Technology	ITSE 4,5 PI 4, 5 & 8

Tools and Resources

(List all Web sites, specific software and hardware needs)

Website: www.chineseculture.about.com

Assessment

(How will you assess the students' learning? If you have a rubric, record it here. Be as specific as possible)

Students can be directed to work individually searching the website for the answers to a teacher-generated set of questions. Examples:

Why was Shirley considered to be ten years old, when in fact, she was only eight? When is the Chinese New Year celebrated? What are moon cakes and why are they part of the Moon Festival?

Authors (including contact information)

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(Have you taught this lesson sequence before? What are the great learning/experiences you had?)

Students have used this website to search for general information about the Chinese culture; however, it was not an assessed learning activity. The search, however, led the students to discuss the novel with more insight.