

Fahm Saechao
Grade Level: Kindergarten
Lesson Duration: 30-35 Minutes

Learning birthdays with Chinese calendar

Topic: This is a visual art lesson on learning about birthdays with the use of the Chinese calendar.

Rationale: This visual arts lesson address and contribute to the understanding of colors in patterns. The skills of using tools and processes, such as the use of scissors, glues, and paper are also addressed. These skills are necessary for students to function in our society. In order to improve these skills, students need to practice often and in a safe environment such as a classroom.

Strands, Objectives, Standards:

Creative Expression:

Students will be able to demonstrate beginning skill in the use of tools and processes, such as the use of scissors, glue, and paper.

(VA-Gr.K-2.2)

Artistic Perception:

Students will be able to recognize and describe simple patterns found in their necklace.

(VA-Gr.K-1.1)

Teaching Strategies:

A combination of direct instruction and guided discovery will be used.

Vocabulary:

Pattern- lines, shapes, and colors repeated in a variety of predictable combinations.

Chinese calendar- a system of measuring time used by the Chinese.

Procedures:

Introduction:

Have the students gather in a circle at the carpet. Show student the completed Chinese necklace made of color Macaroni in a pattern. (This necklace should represent the year you were born in.) Tell students that they will be making a similar necklace today. Have a discussion about the difference between the Chinese and American calendar. (How Chinese celebrate the year and Americans celebrate the day, month, and year of birth). Tell the students the year you were born in and look for the animal to represent that year with the students. Read the qualities of that animal to students. Ask students to show a hand of what year they were born in. Look up the animal year with the students and read the qualities of those animals to the students.

Activity:

- Describe to the students the three different activity stations they will be working at. (Activities are listed below).
- Have students volunteer for one of the first two activities. Send students to their activity stations. (Materials should already be set up at the stations.)
 1. Students will color, cut, and then paste their animal year picture to a piece of color paper. Students will then tell an adult, and or write his or her own birthday on the back of the color paper. (Have a completed model of the necklace to show students).
 2. Students will make a chain for their necklace out of color Macaroni and wires. Show the students a model of the completed necklace and talk about the pattern the chain makes. This is review—talk about what a pattern is. A pattern is lines, shapes, and or colors that are repeated in a design. Tell students they have to make a different pattern than the model. Challenge the students to make a pattern with more then two different colors.
 3. Once students have completed stations one and two, they will stay at their last station that they are at to complete activity three. In this last activity the students will put their necklace together. Have student sit in a chair once they have their animal picture and necklace chain in front of them. The teacher and the adult at the other station will go around and twist the wire closed for the necklace chain. The teacher and the adult will then demonstrate how to tape the animal picture to the necklace chain.

* Give about 15-20 minutes for each activity. Have the adult at the station check for clean up before allowing students to go to the next activity station. *

Closure:

Send students to the carpet for a whole group presentation of their completed necklaces. Have students tell what animal year they are born in, and the pattern in their necklace.

Clean-up:

While students are heading to the carpet, collect the materials.

Assessment:

The assessment is on the completed necklace and the presentation. Check to see if students cut along the line for their animals. Informal assessment—listen for patterns in the necklaces while students are presenting their pattern necklace to the class.

Materials:

1. Chinese Calendar
2. Pictures of the different animals on the Chinese calendar
3. Color papers
4. Tape
5. Markers
6. Scissors

7. Glue
8. Colored Macaroni
9. Wire

Extension:

In Kindergarten students are still learning their birthdays, so another activity you can do with the students is make a birthday graph by month. Have a piece of paper the size of 4” by 3”. Print this sentence on it, “I was born on _____.” Students will write the month they were born in on this line. (Of course, prewritten months of the year would need to be available for students to copy since they cannot spell yet.) Note: Some students will not know their birthday, so you would need a list of the students’ birthdays. Once students have written their birthdays, have them draw a picture of themselves. Finally have students paste their birthday in the correct month on the birthday graph. At the end the class can discuss how many students have birthdays in the different months.

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Support:

1. Have parent helper and or myself work one-on-one with student.
2. Hold onto student’s hand to guide with cutting.
3. Have students tell you their birthday as you write for them on the back.

Challenges:

1. Challenge the students to make a pattern with more than two different color Macaronis.
2. Have this student help other students with making patterns.

English Language Learner:

1. Model what to do one-on-one with student.
2. If possible ask another ELL to translate instruction.