

Chinese Zodiac
Grades 9-12

Lesson Summary: Students will understand how the lunar calendar varies from the standard calendar and how American zodiac symbols vary from Chinese zodiacs.

Estimated Duration: One class period

Standards Addressed: Globalization: Globalization has shaped new cultural, economic, and political ideas and entities. Global Connections: Advances in communications technology have profound effects on the ability of governments, interest groups, individuals and the media to share information across national and cultural borders.

Pre-Assessment: Students will make a journal entry of what they have learned so far about the Chinese New Year and the Chinese symbols previously discussed

Scoring Guidelines: Rubric will used to grade journal entry for content.

Post- Assessment: Students will make a journal entry discussing how the moon phases relate to the calendar and days of the month. Students will also journal how their zodiac sign relates to their own personality.

Scoring Guidelines: Journals will be grades based upon content, on the same rubric used for the pre-assessment.

Instructional Procedures:

- 1) Review what was learned about the Chinese New Year and discuss art projects of Chinese dragons.
- 2) In class discussion format we will talk about what is previously known about zodiacs and what people believe in regards to them. Students will have the opportunity to tell what zodiac symbol they have.
- 3) We will discuss the Chinese system of zodiac symbols. (Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig) We will discuss what year we are currently in.
- 4) We will discuss the difference in the two calendars (Lunar vs Gregorian).
- Lunar calendars are based on the time it takes the moon to travel around the moon while the Gregorian calendar is based on the time it takes the earth to circle the sun. The dates of the zodiac differ because of this.
- 5) Using photos of the phases of the moon, we will review each phase. Students will discuss how

each phase relates to the calendar and days of the month.

- 6) Students will determine their Chinese zodiac sign and determine which characteristics match their personalities. A discussion on accuracy of symbol to personality will take place.

Differentiated Instructional Support: Students will use guided notes for the moon phases as needed.

Extension: Proceeded by lesson on Chinese New Year. Students can make origami representations of their signs.

Homework Options and Home Connections: Students will determine which phase the moon is currently in by making a sketch of it at home.

Interdisciplinary Connections: Students will be creating Chinese dragons in art class, with Mrs. A.

Materials and Resources:

For Teacher: Moon phase photos, Lunar calendar with zodiacs,

For Students: Handout of zodiac years and descriptions, journal

Key Vocabulary: zodiac, lunar

Technology Connections: Slides of moon phases will be shown

Research Connections: Students will research the current phase of the moon

Attachments: None