



The Monkeys Fish Out the Moon

adapted from
Chinese Children's Story



Standards Met

- 1.1 Communication – Interaction
- 1.2: Communication – Interpretation
- 1.3: Communication – Production
- 3.1: Connections – Reinforce other content areas
- 4.1: Comparisons – Chinese language patterns
- 5.1: Use Chinese beyond school

Objectives:

The students will...

- demonstrate knowledge of commands through actions.
- demonstrate comprehension of “The Monkeys Fish out the Moon” by acting out the story as it is told in Chinese.
- apply knowledge of parts of the body and verbs from the story

This story uses playful monkeys to express an important life message. The life message of this story is the importance of teamwork.

<http://www.childbook.com/The-Monkeys-Fish-Out-the-Moon-p/sc264.htm> - purchase book at this site. It is in English and Chinese

This children's story was taken from a Tibetan tale called “The Monkeys and the Moon”. Its theme is *When the foolish have a foolish leader they all go to ruin like the monkeys which wanted to draw the moon up from the well.*

<http://www.ianslunarpages.org/moonmyth1.html> - The Tibetan tale plus other myths concerning the moon.

<http://www.beijing-kids.com/magazine/2008/09/24/Local-Lingo> - This version ends with the monkeys all falling into the well. Its theme is pursuing an impractical goal.

<http://shanghai.cultural-china.com/html/Arts---Culture/Film/Classic-Film/Classic-Cartoon-Film/200811/12-1342.html> - animated film using paper cut figures

The film is based on a fairy story of “Monkeys Fish Up the Moon.” A bunch of greedy monkeys found the moon fallen into the water and wanted to keep it. Consequently, they got nothing.

Anticipatory Set

Have students create a paper plate monkey.

Monkey Paper Plate Directions

<http://www.dltk-teach.com/rhymes/monkeys/mask.htm>

<http://www.crayola.com/free-coloring-pages/print/chinese-new-year-year-of-the-monkey-coloring-page/> - Coloring page for Chinese Year of the Monkey

Activity Sequence

Input

- Have the students TPR key words from the story
- Tell the story in Chinese using the Power point presentation
- Retell the story using the Power point presentation and have the students TPR the words that they know
- Circle using yes/no questions about the story

Guided Practice

- Complete the Frayer Vocabulary Model using the words from the story.
- Hide a picture of a vocabulary word while one student is out of the room. The student tries to find the picture with the help of the class. As the student gets closer to the picture, his/her classmates say the word in Chinese louder and louder. When the student goes away from the picture, the name is said softer and softer.
- Have the students sequence pictures from the story and match them with their corresponding captions
- Practice verbs from the story in the following ways:
 - ✓ Give the students the verb in Chinese and have the students TPR the action
 - ✓ Show the visual of the verb and have students say it in Chinese
 - ✓ Have students draw the actions for the verbs as the teacher says it in Chinese
- Put a word from the story on the back of each student. By asking only yes/no questions, the student will try to find out which word is on his/her back. When a student thinks that he/she has the correct answer, he/she asks someone to verify that answer. If the answer is correct, he/she removes the paper and places it in correct category on the board (semantic mapping). This may also be done in pairs or small groups.
- Review the story again by having the students stand with the correct visual as you read the story.
- Practice body parts using the following activities:
 - ✓ **Mix and Match**
Have the students draw the different body parts to be studied on 3X5 cards. They then need to write the corresponding word in the target

language on another 3X5 card. The students mix all of the cards together and then match the picture with its corresponding word in the target language. These cards could also be used to play the game memory or concentration.

✓ **“A Tu Ti Ta” (Dr. Jean Feldman)**

Chorus: A tu ti ta, a tu ti ta (Hands over head and clap)

A tu ti ta

A tu ti ta, a tu ti ta

A tu ti ta

Stick thumbs up in front of you as you say in the target language,

“Thumbs up” (shù dà mǔ zhǐ)

Recite the chorus while doing each of these movements.

Elbows back, Feet apart, Knees together, Stick out tongue, Close eyes,

Turn around. (wān shǒu zhǒu , dǎ kāi jiǎo , xī gài kào yì qǐ , yǎn

dǎ kāi , zhuǎn shēn)

✓ **Tape the Part on the Body**

Divide the class into groups of three. Put parts of the body in the Chinese on post it notes. Have one person in the group be the model and the other two members of the group are going to paste the post it notes on the corresponding body part. The group that gets done first and has the most correct is the winner.

✓ **Body Parts Scramble**

The teacher points to a body part in a picture, on a blackboard, on a student-demonstrator, on himself/herself. The teacher identifies the part incorrectly in the target language. The students can point to the correct body part (the one that corresponds to the spoken cue), or the students can point to the incorrect body part (to which the teacher pointed) and give the correct noun in the target language.

✓ **Simon Says**

Students must obey all commands which begin with “Simon **shuō**...”

Students who follow a command which doesn't begin with “Simon **shuō**...” are eliminated. Start the commands slowly and then speed up bit by bit. The game ends when all the students except one have been eliminated.

- Students can play the following games using vocabulary from the story: Human Bingo, Bingo, Pictionary, Hangman, and Fly Swatter game

Extension

- Create a class book with each student completing a page showing the importance of teamwork. For example, one page could be students studying together with the

caption. **wǒ mén yī qǐ xué xí.** The pictures could be hand drawn or from a computer.

- Complete a class picture dictionary of words from the story.

Evaluation

- Check comprehension of the story with simple yes/no questions or either/or questions.
- Do a stand and share activity where the students each share one part of the story.
- Say verbs and have the students act them out.

Closure

- One last retell of the story with the students filling in the blanks when the teacher pauses.

Additional Resources for Extension Activities

❖ Math

Elementary Monkey Lesson Plans

<http://www.dltk-teach.com/rhymes/monkeys/mask.htm> - lots and lots of ideas for lessons with monkeys from art to social studies

Math with Monkeys

<http://www.sums.co.uk/playground/n6a/playground.htm> - interactive site using monkeys to teach fractions

Five Little Monkeys

<http://www.preschoolprintables.com/felt/fivemonkeys/feltmonkeyc2.shtml> - change the five little monkeys to 10 little monkeys to help review numbers – this site has cut outs that can be used on a felt board

Primary Math Measurement Activity

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/MathMeasuringMonkeyTailsK.htm>

❖ Art

Art and Ecology

http://www.nga.gov/education/classroom/art_and_ecology/art_monkeys.shtml - tropical forest with monkeys – lots of ideas using art and science

Sock Monkey Art Lesson

<http://deepspaceparkle.blogspot.com/2010/02/sock-monkey-art-lesson.html> - explicit instructions on how to create a sock monkey – fun way to introduce the lesson

❖ Science

Primary Rainforest Unit

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/SSMDRainForestUnitK.htm> - lots of activities for primary students concerning the rainforest

Rainforest Art Lesson

<http://deepspaceparkle.blogspot.com/2008/02/rainforest-animals.html>

The Golden Monkey – an endangered species

<http://www.einaudi.cornell.edu/curriculum/monkey/monkey/> - talks about the golden monkey as an endangered species and a symbol of good luck

❖ Social Studies

Cultural Lesson – The Monkey King

<http://www.aaronshp.com/stories/036.html>

Cultural Lesson – The Year of the Monkey

http://www.theholidayspot.com/chinese_new_year/more_zodiacs/monkey.htm

Moon Festival – Mid-autumn Festival

Moon Festival

This festival is a time to give thanks and reunite with family.

It is held between September and October.

The moon shape symbolizes the family circle.

It honors the legend of Moon Goddess.

Families eat under the moon to send good wishes to the goddess.

They eat moon cakes.

symbolize long life and good health

round pastries filled with sweet beans, dried fruit or nuts

center might have duck egg yolk

During Yuan dynasty, revolutionaries sent messages inside cakes.



Additional Resources for the Moon Festival

<http://chineseculture.about.com/library/weekly/aa093097.htm>

<http://www.chinapage.org/Moon/moon00.html>

<http://www.chinesefortunecalendar.com/midfallstory.htm>

<http://chinesefood.about.com/od/mooncake/a/moonfestival.htm>

<http://www.chinavoc.com/festivals/Midautumn.htm>

<http://kevdesign.com/midautumnfestival/lanternrelated.htm> - make own Chinese lantern

http://www.chiff.com/home_life/holiday/harvest-moon-festival.htm

<http://www.chinavista.com/experience/moon/moon.html>

<http://www.chcp.org/MoonFestival.html>

<http://www.chinavista.com/experience/moon/moon.html>

<http://www.moonfestival.org/overview.htm>

http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/angier/DimSum/china_dim_sum_moon_festi.html -
recipes for moon cakes