

I-SEARCH INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

China

- PARADOXES:**
Most Americans have little idea about the differences between the Chinese and Japanese. While both cultures have many similarities, they are quite different. Create a PowerPoint comparing and contrasting China and Japan.
- ATTRIBUTES:**
Many Chinese subscribe to all three of China's major religions – Buddhism, Confucianism, and Daoism. Create a short puppet show that demonstrates the main ideas of each religion and shows how a person may belong to all three at the same time.
- ANALOGIES:**
Buddhism is an Indian religion based on the life of Siddhartha Gautama. Research Siddhartha's life and create a fable using animals to tell his story.
- DISCREPANCIES:**
Most Americans know the story of Hitler and the actions of Germany against the rest of Europe during World War II. What is often overlooked, though, is the fact that Japan brutalized China in the late 1930s. Research the 1937 Japanese invasion of China and create a video newscast.
- PROVOCATIVE QUESTIONS:**
There is some evidence that Chinese explorers may have landed in America in the early 1400s, 70 years *before* Christopher Columbus. Make a model showing what you think Washington D.C. may have looked with Chinese-style architecture.
- EXAMPLES OF CHANGE:**
China is one of the oldest and longest lasting civilizations. Create giant timeline showing many major events in Chinese history. Make sure you cover all of the dynasties from the Qin to the Qing.
- EXAMPLES OF HABIT:**
The Chinese do not share the same freedoms as Americans. They do not have freedom of speech, the press, or assembly. Research daily life in China and create an interview with a Chinese person examining what it would be like to live there.
- ORGANIZED RANDOM SEARCH:**
There are three sites every visitor to China must see – the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, and the Terra Cotta Army. Create a model of any one of these sites and explain its significance to the class.
- SKILLS OF SEARCH:**
Research the foods eaten in China. Prepare a meal for the class based on these foods. Explain the challenges of feeding 1.5 billion people.
- TOLERANCE FOR AMBIGUITY:**
Confucianism is one of China's most popular religions. Create a mural with a number of the word of wisdom from Confucius and illustrate them. Explain to the class the importance of each saying.

PRODUCTS

A Dance/A Letter/ A Lesson	Oral Defense
Advertisement	Oral Report
Animated Movie	Painting Pamphlet
Annotated Bibliography	Pantomime
Art Gallery	Papier Mache
Block Picture Story	Petition
Bulletin Board	Photo Essay
Bumper Sticker	Pictures
Chart	Picture Story for Children
Choral Reading	Plaster of Paris Model
Clay Sculpture	Play
Code	Poetry
Collage	Political Cartoon
Collection	Pop-Up Book
Comic Strip	Postage Stamp, Commemoratives
Computer Program	Press Conference
Costumes	Project Cube
Crossword Puzzle	Prototype
Database	Puppet
Debate	Puppet Show
Demonstration	Puzzle
Detailed Illustration	Rap
Diorama	Radio Program
Diary	Rebus Story
Display	Recipe
Edibles	Riddle
Editorial Essay	Role Play
Etching	Science Fiction Story
Experiment	Sculpture
Fact Tile	Skit
Fairy Tale	Slide Show
Family Tree	Slogan
Fiction Story	Soliloquy
Film	Song
Filmstrip	Sound
Flip Book	Story Telling-Tall Tales
Game	Tales
Graph	Survey
Hidden Picture	Tapes–Audio–Video
Illustrated Story	Television Program
Interview	Timeline
Jingle	Transparencies
Joke Book	Travel Brochure
Journal	Venn Diagram
Labeled Diagram	Web Home Page
Large Scale Drawing	Working Hypothesis
Learning Center	Write a new law
Letter to the Editor	Video Film
Map with Legend	
Mazes	
Mural	
Museum Exhibit	
Musical Instruments	
Needlework	
Newspaper Story	
Non-Fiction	

11. **INTUITIVE EXPRESSION:**

Imagine you are a famous artist living during the Ming Dynasty. Create an original painting in the Chinese style that depicts the balance between man and nature.

12. **ADJUSTMENT TO DEVELOPMENT:**

China was content to live in isolation; they had no desire to deal with the Muslims or Europeans. That all changed after the Mongols took over. Write a poem that shows the impact of Mongol rule in China.

13. **STUDY CREATIVE PEOPLE AND PROCESS:**

Marco Polo is famous for living in Kublai Khan's court and returning to Europe with the ideas he learned. Create a magazine cover that shows his accomplishments and failures.

14. **EVALUATE SITUATIONS:**

China's first dynasty was the Qin. Design a webpage about the Qin Dynasty and some of their accomplishments, such as the Terra Cotta Army, the Great Wall, and standardized money.

15. **CREATIVE READING SKILL:**

Research a folk tale from the China that interests you. Use your research to write a "Choose Your Way through History" story that you can read to the class. Include several places in the story where the class must choose what happens next. Create several endings for their choices.

16. **CREATIVE LISTENING SKILL:**

Research the Chinese language (Cantonese). Teach the class how to say a variety of words and simple phrases in Cantonese.

17. **CREATIVE WRITING SKILL:**

Write a short illustrated children's book about Chinese dragons. Color it and don't forget to pay attention details.

18. **VISUALIZATION SKILL:**

China is known for its many inventions. Create a pop-up book that shows some of these inventions and their importance to us today.

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| Database | Prototype |
| Debate | Puppet |
| Demonstration | Puppet Show |
| Detailed Illustration | Puzzle |
| Diorama | Rap |
| Diary | Radio Program |
| Display | Rebus Story |
| Edibles | Recipe |
| Editorial Essay | Riddle |
| Etching | Role Play |
| Experiment | Science Fiction Story |
| Fact Tile | Sculpture |
| Fairy Tale | Skit |
| Family Tree | Slide Show |
| Fiction Story | Slogan |
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