

**LEVEL – Middle primary**

## CHINESE PAPER CUTTING

### DESCRIPTION

In these activities, students learn about Chinese papercutting. They research and discuss different types of papercutting and create their own simple papercutting.

These cross-curriculum activities contribute to the achievement of the following:

#### **Creative and visual arts**

- Selects, combines and manipulates images, shapes and forms using a range of skills, techniques and processes.

#### **English**

- Interprets and discusses some relationships between ideas, information and events in visual texts for general viewing.

### SUGGESTED TIME

approximately 10-20 minutes for each activity (this may be customised accordingly)

### WHAT YOU NEED

- class copies of Student handout
- printed samples of Chinese papercuttings, found on websites including:

<http://chinesemusic.co.uk/main/modules/index/> (explore the Chinese culture link)

[www.chinavista.com/culture/art/folkart/papercutting.html](http://www.chinavista.com/culture/art/folkart/papercutting.html)

[www.seu.edu.cn/art/english/ehome.htm](http://www.seu.edu.cn/art/english/ehome.htm)

[www.chinaartworld.com.cn/chinese\\_art.html](http://www.chinaartworld.com.cn/chinese_art.html)

<http://pasture.ecn.purdue.edu/~agenhtml/agenmc/china/artbo.html>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese\\_paper\\_art](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_paper_art)

[www.papercutters.org/](http://www.papercutters.org/)

[www.seu.edu.cn/art/english/enga4.htm](http://www.seu.edu.cn/art/english/enga4.htm)

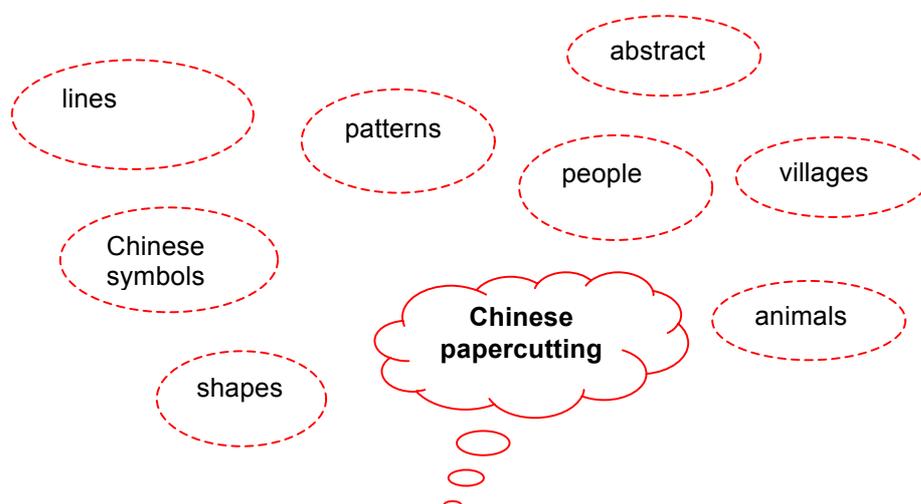


## ACTIVITIES

The following activities may be completed independently or combined as part of a more comprehensive learning sequence, lesson or educational program. Please refer to your own state or territory syllabus for more explicit guidelines.

### Types of Chinese papercutting

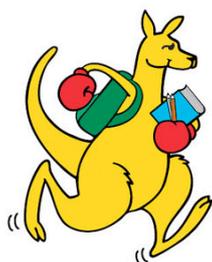
1. **Ask** the class to think about what a papercutting might look like. **Show** the class a few samples of Chinese papercutting (from the Internet sites listed in the title page). **Ask** the class to think about the shapes and other things they can see in each papercutting. **Brainstorm** these responses as outlined in the following sample:



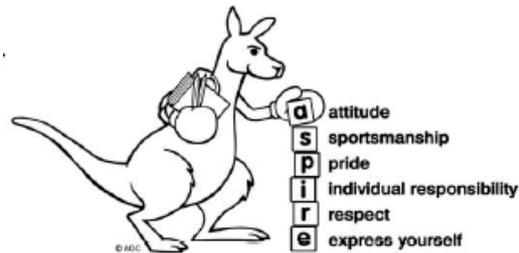
**Continue** the discussion by asking how these papercutting might have been produced and for what purpose. **Explain** that papercutting is still used to decorate homes in China. **Introduce** the basic concept of positive and negative space and how each is used in the designs.



**Distribute** student handout. **Use** a pair of scissors to cut out the main shape (circle). Carefully fold the circle in half, then in half again. **Use** the pair of scissors to cut out each inner shape (triangles and squares) then unfold to reveal the papercutting. Use art materials to add pictures and colours if desired. **Draw** other simple designs on coloured paper, such as snowflakes, animals or Olympic pictograms and carefully cut out the shapes with scissors.



## REFLECT ON a.s.p.i.r.e. VALUES



Discuss how designing and papercutting allows you to express yourself. Discuss how practising a traditional artform is a form of respect for a culture. What are some situations where the Australian Olympic team might express themselves?

## EXPLORE A LITTLE FURTHER

- **Design** some Chinese papercuttings related to sports being played during Beijing 2008 and display your pictures on the classroom wall.
- **Collect** photos and illustrations of different Chinese papercuttings from various regions of China.
- **Find** out more about other traditional Chinese arts such as calligraphy, pottery and painting.
- **Create** a more complicated papercutting, Ask an adult to help you use a blade or Stanley knife to cut it out.
- **Use** your papercutting as a stencil and apply paint (using an old toothbrush) to transfer your design onto paper.
- **Use** a search engine to find out more about plays performed with paper and leather cuttings, such as Zhejiang leather silhouettes and Jiangsu leather silhouettes
- **Use** a search engine to find out more about the different regions of China and their unique forms of paper cutting including:
  - Binzhou
  - Wei County
  - Nanjing
  - Pi County
  - Douxiang
  - Ansai
  - Sha'anxi
  - Fushan



## STUDENT HANDOUT

