

Chinese Scrolls

Overview

Students will have the opportunity to create a unique work of art related to a story, by using the story's settings to inspire a panoramic Chinese-style scroll.

Standards

This craft project aligns with the following national standards, as outlined by McREL (Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning).

www.mcrel.org

- Visual Arts Standards 1, 3 and 4
- Language Arts Standard 6

Cultural Influence

Scrolls have been used in China for thousands of years. They were used for both written communication and artwork. Traditionally, the Chinese wrote from top to bottom, right to left, allowing scrolls to hang vertically to be read. Chinese artists also used scrolls to create wide, panoramic landscapes.



Time

One to two class periods

Materials

- Two paper-towel tubes per student
- Tape
- One sheet of 9" x 36" paper per student
- Watercolor paints or markers for each student

Note: Paints need to be watered down in order not to crack when the scroll is rolled up.

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Project Directions

- Paint or draw a panoramic (horizontal) scene from the selected story on one side of the paper, leaving an unpainted margin at each 9" end.
- Allow paint to dry.
- Tape one paper-towel tube to each 9" end of the paper.
- Roll up your scroll.

Teacher Preparation

- Select a book from **We Give Books** website (www.wegivebooks.org).
- Collect all required materials.

Classroom Instructions

- Direct your web browser to the **We Give Books** website at www.wegivebooks.org.
- Log in to your account and select a campaign to support.
- Choose a book to read and click the orange “Read Online” button to open it.
- Read your selected book to the students.
- After reading the selected book, have students close their eyes and picture their favorite setting from the story.
- Let students know they will be creating a panoramic Chinese scroll using their favorite scene in the book.
- Read the Cultural Influence section above to students to introduce them to the concept of scrolls.
- Share your scroll with students.
- Help students plan their projects with key questions: Will you depict multiple scenes or one? What do you think is going to happen with the ends of the paper? (Ends will be wrapped around the tubes, so students should not paint on ends.) How will you arrange where you are going to work to accommodate the size of the paper?
- Pass out supplies and let the students create!
- Once the panoramas are dry, tape the 9" ends to the paper-towel tubes and roll up.



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Ideas for Display

- Have students write a short description of how they liked working with large, horizontal pieces of paper to include in a display for the school. Did they find advantages to rolling up their work? What problems did such a large piece of paper create?