China- Lesson plan

Learning Intentions

Children will be able to:

- Recall key information about the Chinese New Year
- Recognise and explore elements of Chinese dance and tradition
- Develop an understanding of differences and similarities between Chinese culture and their own.

Introduction

You will need:

Before beginning the dance lesson carry out some work in your classroom based on China. Here are some ideas to get you started:

Fact finding-

- Explore what the children already know about China/ Chinese culture.
- How can we find out more?
- Make a class mind map.
- Compile a list of information which you would like to find out.

Fact or opinion?

- Ask children to write things which they have heard about China on cards (eg Beijing is the capital of China or Chinese food is unhealthy).
- Read each one to the class and ask whether it should be stuck on the ‘fact’, ‘opinion’ or ‘not sure, poster.

Find out at home-

- Ask the class to try and find more information at home.
- Do they know anyone who has been to China?
- Can they bring any relevant materials to share with the class?

Warm Up

You will need:

Once you are ready to begin your dance lesson, you can

- Red, yellow, green and blue hula-
try some fun ideas for warm up activities incorporating some of the information on our site:

**Mandarin hoops:**
- Lay out a variety of red, yellow green and blue hula-hoops on the floor.
- When you call a colour in Mandarin the children must go and stand in the correctly coloured hoop.
- Anyone in the wrong coloured hoop is out!

**The Mandarin Circle:**
- All the children sit in a circle.
- Go round the circle and give every child a number/colour in mandarin.
- When a child’s number/colour is called they must race around the circle and sit back down in their place.
- The last child to sit down is out.
- Another variation of this is to give each child a number between 1 + 10 and put 4 coloured bean bags in the centre. The teacher calls a number in Mandarin and a colour and the children of that number must race round the circle, with the first child to collect the correctly coloured bean bag winning a point.

**Mandarin groups**
- The children run around the hall.
- When the teacher calls a number in Mandarin the children must get into groups of that size.
- The children not in a group are out!

**Main Activity**
- Now you are ready to begin teaching your ‘Chinese New Year Celebration Dance’.
- Begin by teaching each section separately and then put them all together.

If there’s time end this session with The Culture Club song. You can join in the Culture-oke online or print the lyrics and download the music from the Stage School section.

Have fun!!!!

**Plenary**
- Ask children to suggest types of dance which are seen often in Northern Ireland.
- What are the similarities and differences between these dances and the Chinese dance which they have learnt today?

**You will need:**
- ‘Culture Club’ dance demonstration (You can watch this beforehand).
- CD
- Choreographers notes
- Lyrics
- MP3 download

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Follow up activities

You will need:

The Chinese New Year Story
www.topmarks.co.uk/ChineseNewYear/ZodiacStory.asp

- Read the story of how the years of Chinese Zodiac got their names.
- Make a group collage showing each of the animals.

Discover which year of the zodiac you were born in
www.topmarks.co.uk/ChineseNewYear

Make a Chinese Lion
www.bbc.co.uk/ni/schools/4_11/cultureclub/doit/dragon.shtml

Make a Chinese lantern
www.bbc.co.uk/ni/schools/4_11/cultureclub/doit/latern.shtml

Chinese Instruments
- Listen to the dance track. What kinds of instruments can you hear?
- Can you create a similar sound using the instruments you have in school?
- Can you create instruments using ‘junk’ from home?

Host your own Cultural Celebration

- Organise a cultural celebration in school. Include facts on Chinese New Year, a performance of the Chinese style dance and sing The Culture Club song “Come Together Everyone”. The Do It Den section of the website provides useful planning resources, music, dance routines, recipes, prop and costume ideas.

Project work
Why not use Culture Club as a launch pad for a project?

Here are some suggested topics:
- Dance around the world
- China
- Pandas
- Asia
- The Beijing Olympics

You will need:

Zodiac story
Art materials of your choice

Card paper scissors glue

Card paper scissors glue

Recycled containers etc from home.
Variety of instruments.

Your Celebration
www.bbc.co.uk/ni/schools/4_11/cultureclub/doit/celebration.shtml