

Year 3 Mandarin Overview Term 2

Chinese Mathematics and Dragon Boat Festival

中文数字 * 端午节



Unit Descriptions:

This term, there will be two main learning areas for focus:

1. Chinese Mathematics

Students will learn about numbers in Chinese and complete some simple addition and subtraction problems. Students will also learn to express phone numbers and ages in Chinese. The use of an abacus will be introduced as well.

2. Dragon Boat Festival

By exploring a range of words associated with the Dragon Boat Festival, students will develop their reading, writing and verbal skills in relation to:

- The history and origin of the Dragon Boat Festival
- Traditional ways of celebrating the Dragon Boat Festival

Learning experiences include:

1. Learning to count from zero to one hundred (Core Extension students will learn to count to one thousand)
2. Practise writing the numbers in Chinese characters
3. Reading, writing and solving addition and subtraction problems in Chinese
4. Participating in various class activities and games designed for consolidation of character recognition, writing and speaking skills
5. Reading story books about Qu Yuan and the Dragon Boat Festival
6. Watching a video about the process of preparing and wrapping glutinous rice dumplings
7. Making a dragon boat out of paper, following verbal and written instructions

Assessments include:

1. On-going assessments of character recognition and writing
2. Common assessment in Week 6/7
3. Oral presentation: retelling the story of Qu Yuan and the origin of the Dragon Boat Festival

Some resources used this term are:

1. Flashcards of new words in characters
2. On-line resources: videos and songs
3. Supplementary story books
4. Glutinous rice dumplings
5. Paper Dragon boats

How Can You Help At Home?

The following materials are designed to help you gain an understanding of the content covered in class as well as ideas for home learning. It is important to remind your child of the common assessment which takes place in Week 6 or 7 and take some time to practise at home.

Key words for assessment:

Year 3 Core Recognition Words

两	two	百	hundred	千	thousand
几	how many	岁	age/years old		

Year3 Core Writing Words

一	二	三	四	五	六	七	八	九	十	百	千	几
one	two	three	four	five	six	seven	eight	nine	ten	hundred	thousand	how many

Year3 Core Extension Recognition Words

两	two	百	hundred	千	thousand
几	how many	岁	age/years old	万	ten thousand
号码	number				

Year3 Core Extension Writing Words

一	二	三	四	五	六	七	八
one	two	three	four	five	six	seven	eight
九	十	百	千	几	万		
nine	ten	hundred	thousand	how many	ten thousand		

Please read through this article with your child. What questions can you ask to extend their understanding?



An abacus is a manual aid to calculating that consists of beads or disks that can be moved up and down on a series of sticks or strings within a usually wooden frame. The abacus itself doesn't calculate; it's simply a device for helping a human being to calculate by remembering what has been counted. The modern Chinese abacus, which is still widely used in China and other countries, dates from about 1200 A.D. It is possible that it derives from the earlier counting board used around the Mediterranean as early as 300 B. C. An Aztec version of an abacus, circa 900-1000 A.D., is made from maize (corn) threaded through strings mounted in a wooden frame

Introduction to Dragon Boat Festival



Falling on the 5th day of the 5th month according to Chinese lunar calendar, the Dragon Boat Festival is one of great significance. It has been held annually for more than 2,000 years and is notable for its educational influence. The festival commemorates the patriotic poet Qu Yuan (340-278 BC), and also acts as a chance for Chinese people to build their bodies and dispel diseases. Many legends circulate around the festival but the most popular is the legend of Qu Yuan.

Legend of Qu Yuan

As a minister in the State of Chu - one of the seven warring states before Qin (221BC - 206BC) in China's first feudal dynasty - Qu Yuan supported the decision to fight against the powerful State of Qin (one of the seven states during the Warring States Period (476 BC - 221 BC)) together with the State of Qi (ibid). However he was criticised by the aristocrat Zi Lan and was subsequently sent away from his country by the King. In order to show his love and passion for his country, he wrote many enduring poems such as Li Sao (The Lament), Tian Wen (Asking Questions to the Heaven) and Jiu Ge (Nine Songs) and is therefore regarded as a famous poet in China's history. In 278 BC, after finishing his last masterpiece - Huai Sha (Embracing the Sand), he drowned in a river while protesting his country occupation by the State of Qin.



On hearing of Qu Yuan's death, all the local people nearby were in great distress. Fishermen searched for his body by sailing their boats down the river, with zongzi being thrown into the water. Later, many people imitated these acts to show their respect for this great patriotic poet and this practice continues today.

Because Qu Yuan died on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month, people decided to commemorate him on that day every year. Dragon boat racing and eating zongzi have become the central customs of the festival. For two thousand years, Qu Yuan's patriotic spirit has influenced numerous people and he remains revered by the people from all over the world.

Customs

Many traditional customs and activities are held on the specified day by the Chinese people and even by some people in China's neighbouring countries. Among these customs are dragon boat racing, eating zongzi, wearing a perfume pouch, tying five-colour silk thread and hanging mugwort leaves and calamus.

Dragon Boat Racing:



Dragon boats are thus named because the fore and stern of the boat is in a shape of traditional Chinese dragon. A team of people works the oars in a bid to reach the destination before the other teams. One team member sits at the front of the boat beating a drum in order to maintain morale and ensure that the rowers keep in time with one another. Legend holds that the race originates from the idea of the people who rowed their boats to save Qu yuan after he fell in the river. It is said that the winning team will bring harvest and happy life to the people of their village.

Now, some of ethnic minorities in China also hold dragon boat races like Miao people and Dai people. Japan, Vietnam, and Britain regard it as an important game as well.

Eating Zongzi

Most Chinese festivals include the eating of a particular food among their customs and the Dragon Boat Festival is no exception. Zongzi is the special food eaten here. Made with sticky rice, it has different shapes and various fillings. In the north part of China, people favor the jujube as filling, whilst in the south they prefer sweetened bean paste, fresh meat, or egg yolk. Many families make zongzi by themselves. When making it, soaking the glutinous rice, washing the reed or bamboo leaves and wrapping zongzi with leaves are the most important parts.



Wearing a Perfume Pouch and Tying Five-colour Silk Thread



According to folklore, wearing the perfume pouch protects children from evil. So on this day, children decorate their clothes with diversely fragranced pouches. It is a kind of small pouch made of the colourful silk cloth stringed with five-color silk thread.

Another custom is to tie five-colour silk thread to a child's wrists, ankles, and around their neck. Five-colour thread holds special significance in China in that it is thought to contain magical and healing properties. Children are not permitted to speak while their parents tie the five-colour thread for them, neither are they allowed to remove it until the specified time. Only after the first summer rainfall can the children throw the thread into the river. This is thought to protect the children from plague and diseases.

Vocabulary

Numbers and accounting:

yī èr sān sì wǔ liù qī bā jiǔ shí
一 one 二 two 三 three 四 four 五 five 六 six 七 seven 八 eight 九 nine 十 ten

shù bǎi qiān wàn jiā jiǎn
数 number 百 hundred 千 thousand 万 ten thousand 加 addition 减 subtraction

dēngyú jǐ liǎng shù yí shù
等于 equal 几 how many 两 two 数一数 take a count

Telephone, address and age:

diàn huà hào mǎ zhù zài jǐ suì
电话 telephone 号码 numbers 住在 live in 几岁 how old

Sentence structures

- nǐ jǐ suì
1. 你几岁? (你多大?) How old are you?
- wǒ bā suì
2. 我八岁。 I am 8 years old.
- nǐ de jiě jiě mèi mèi gē ge dì dì jǐ suì
3. 你的姐姐(妹妹, 哥哥, 弟弟)几岁?
How old is your older sister (little sister, big brother, little brother)?
- wǒ de jiě jiě mèi mèi gē ge dì dì shí suì
4. 我的姐姐(妹妹, 哥哥, 弟弟)十岁。
My older sister (little sister, big brother, little brother) is 10 years old.
- sān jiā wǔ déng yú jǐ
5. 三加五等于几? $3+5=$ _____
- sān jiā wǔ déng yú bā
6. 三加五等于八。 Three plus five equals eight.
- qī jiǎn sān déng yú jǐ
7. 七减三等于几? $7-3=$ _____
- qī jiǎn sān déng yú sì
8. 七减三等于四。 Seven minus three equals four.
- nǐ de diàn huà hào mǎ shì duō shǎo
9. 你的电话号码是多少? What is your phone number?
- wǒ de diàn huà hào mǎ shì
10. 我的电话号码是…… My phone number is ...

Core Extension structures:

nǐ zhù zài nǎ li
你住在哪里？ Where do you live?

wǒ zhù zài kě lè jiē 21 hào
我住在可乐街21号 I live at 21 Coke Street.

nǐ zhù zài nǎ li
你住在哪里？ Where do you live?

wǒ zhù zài xīn jiā pō
我住在新加坡。 I live in Singapore .

Making your own flashcards

The following flashcard sheet includes some key characters for this term. You can print the sheet and then cut up the cards. Refer to the vocabulary sheet above to find out the pronunciation and English meaning for each word on the cards. If you print two sets, then you can play “snap” or “go fishing” with your child.

十	百
千	几
岁	数
号	两

码

万

A rhyme: Counting Frogs

zhī qīng wā zhāng zuǐ
一只青蛙一张嘴



yǎn jīng tiáotuǐ pū tōng yī shēng tiào xià shuǐ
一只青蛙一张嘴，两只眼睛四条腿，扑通一声跳下水。

两只青蛙两张嘴，四只眼睛八条腿，扑通、扑通跳下水。

三只青蛙三张嘴，六只眼睛十二条腿，扑通、扑通、扑通跳下水。

四只青蛙四张嘴，八只眼睛十六条腿，扑通、扑通、扑通、扑通跳下水。

关键字 Key words:

zhī	qīng wā	zuǐ	yǎn jīng	tuǐ	pū tōng
只	青蛙	嘴	眼睛	腿	扑通

Optional – Can you use your mouse to draw characters accurately enough for the computer to recognize your word? Try using <http://www.chinese-tools.com/tools/mouse.html>

Recommended on-line learning websites:

1. <http://betterchinese.com>
2. <http://www.digitaldialects.com/Chinese.htm>
3. http://www.echineselearning.com/?ecl=goadSalesKeyWords717&gclid=CPWT_qL9mLUCFU576wod1XIAZA