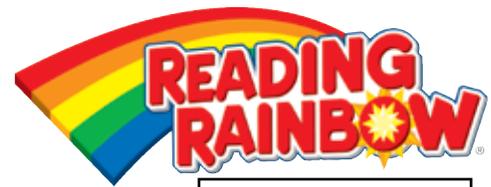


The Paper Crane

(GPN #39/PBS #409)

Author: Molly Bang



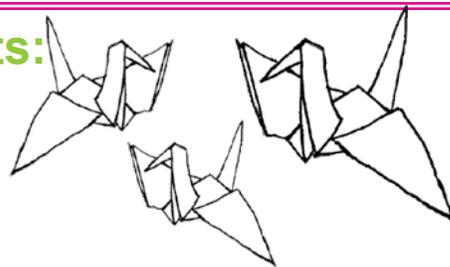
Program Description:

A mysterious man enters a restaurant and pays for his dinner with a paper crane that magically comes alive and dances. LeVar celebrates Japanese culture by visiting Gasho of Japan Central Valley, New York. Surrounded by lush gardens, LeVar dons a kimono and steps into the enchanting world of Japan, exploring the artistry of a Japanese vegetable carver and the art of origami. He takes a side trip to see how paper can be made out of old blue jeans, then joins Soh Daiko, an energetic and colorful group of Japanese drummers and dancers, as they perform the celebratory “festival of the drums.”



Social Studies Concepts:

- culture
- careers/occupations
- community
- geography



Classroom Activities:

Culture/Geography

Before viewing the video have students share what they think they know about Japan. Help them locate Japan on a map or globe, and discuss how far it is from the United States and from where you live. (How long would it take to fly to Japan?) Then have the class research Japanese culture and traditions including dress, food, art forms.



Culture

After viewing the video, have students recall what they learned about the importance of cranes in the Japanese culture. Discuss good luck symbols we have in our culture, such as the four-leaf clover and rabbit’s foot. Ask if they have symbols, colors, or numbers that represent good luck for them.



Culture

Plan a Japanese food-tasting fair, so students can taste small amounts of traditional Japanese food such as seaweed, rice, etc., and can experience using chopsticks. If possible, invite a person of Japanese heritage to the food-tasting fair to talk about food traditions. Also ask them to share pictures and background information about traditional costumes, and perhaps teach students some common words or expressions in Japanese.

—cont.

Art Careers/Occupations/Culture

Have the art teacher demonstrate several simple origami creations. [Simple-to-follow origami books and videos are also available from bookstores and art supply stores.] Provide students with colorful paper cut to size or purchased origami paper, so they can follow along.



Art Careers/Occupations/Culture

Another Japanese art form is the creation of folding screens. Some are carved with designs and painted black, others have wooden frames with hand-painted scenes of flowers or landscapes on silk that are stretched in each panel. [Locate pictures of these, so the class can see the artwork as well as the screen structure.] Artists also make miniature screens that are used as table-top decorations. Engage students in making miniature folding screens using cardboard folded in fourths for the screen, and decorating them with colorful paintings, drawings, or photographs.



Occupations

Replay the video or reread the book and ask students to pay special attention to the various jobs that are necessary to make a restaurant run smoothly. (Examples include: cook, waiter/waitress, dishwasher, bus person, food delivery, owner, host, etc.) Then have small groups role play working in a restaurant while others role play being customers. Identify both the goods and services made available in a restaurant.



Community

If your city has an Asian district, arrange for an Asian American volunteer to take the class on a field trip through the area so that students can learn more about their community. As an alternative arrange a visit to an Asian community center.

Do-At-Home Activity:

Take A Few Moments

Send home the “Take A Few Moments” activity sheet and encourage parents to sit quietly with their child in a park or on their porch to experience the quietness of nature.



Suggested Reading:

Review Books:

How My Parents Learned To Eat by *Ina R. Friedman*

“Paper” Through The Ages by *Shaaron Cosner*

Perfect Crane by *Anne Laurin*

Highlighted Book:

Easy Origami by *Dokuohtei Nakano*

Other Suggestions:

The Painter And The Wild Swans by *Claude Clement*

Cherries and Cherry Pits by *Vera B. Williams*

The Inch Boy by *Junko Morimoto*

The Great Race Of Birds And Animals by *Paul Goble*

Sylvester And The Magic Pebble by *William Steig*

Juma And The Magic Jinn by *Joy Anderson*

