

The NIGHTINGALE



The **Little**
company

A DIVISION OF **SRT**

ACTIVITY PACK



ABOUT

SRT's The Little Company

The Little Company was founded in 2001 by the Singapore Repertory Theatre, based on the belief that children deserve the same quality of theatre as adults. We aim to enthral children from ages 2 to 12 with theatre that is written, designed and performed specifically for them by professional adult actors. Past performances include *Bear and Chicken*, *Upstairs in the Sky*, *The Ugly Duckling*, *Just a Dream – The Green Play*, *Pinocchio*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *The Three Little Pigs*, *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, *Red Riding Hood*, *Rapunzel*, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, *A Peter Rabbit Tale* and *Chicken Little*.

SRT Learning & Engagement

SRT's Learning and Engagement is committed to bringing meaningful and relevant programmes to young people, educators and the theatre industry. We believe that theatre has the power to engage and transform. As such, we collaborate with leading artists and educators in Singapore and around the world to provide:

- Inquiry based and experiential learning for YOUNG PEOPLE.
- Skill development in pedagogy and content for EDUCATORS.
- On-going training for professionals and emerging talents in the THEATRE INDUSTRY.



HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN



Hans Christian Andersen was born in Odense, Denmark, on 2 April 1805. He was the only child of a poor cobbler, Hans, and his wife, Anne Marie. At eleven years old, his father passed away and to support his mother, Hans Christian Andersen began working in factories. He told stories to his coworkers and made up songs to entertain them.

Hans Christian Andersen loved to travel and often drew inspiration from his travels to aid his writing. A common theme of his work is the unfortunate or the outcast. This is likely to have arisen from his personal experiences – the teasing he suffered as a child and the rejection he suffered as an adult.

He is best known for his fairytales such as *The Little Mermaid*, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, *Thumbelina*, *The Princess and the Pea*, *The Ugly Duckling*, *The Nightingale* and many more.

About The Nightingale

The *Nightingale* was first published in 1844. The Chinese concept for the story stems from Andersen's time in Tivoli Gardens, an amusement park and garden, which were opened in Copenhagen in August 1843.



Hans Christian Andersen had never traveled further than Istanbul and stayed mostly in Europe during his travels abroad, so his knowledge of China came from the decorative styles that were popular in Europe at that time.

Hans Christian Andersen died on August 4, 1875 in Copenhagen at age 70. His fairy tales have been translated into 150 languages and statues of Hans Christian Andersen can be found outside of the City Hall in Copenhagen and in New York City's Central Park.

Since then, his birthday April 2 is recognised as International Children's Book Day. It's also a day when his life and works are remembered and celebrated.



SETTING OF *THE NIGHTINGALE* – CHINA



China is an ancient country that is built on tradition and ceremony. Its Chinese name is “Zhong Guo”, which means the “middle Kingdom”. This is because since ancient times, it was believed that China was at the center of the universe.

The Great Wall of China (the largest man made structure in the world), the Forbidden City (It is the home of the Chinese Emperor) and one of the largest and oldest imperial tombs with its army of Terracotta Warriors can be found in China.

Its capital city is Beijing and the official language spoken is Mandarin Chinese.

China is home to two of the longest rivers in the world, the Yangtze and the Yellow River which are 5,797km and 4,667km in length, respectively. The Yangtze River not only serves as a lifeline to millions of people, but also to many unique and beautiful animals.

There are over 350 species of fish that make their home in the Yangtze River. Some of the fish that can be found in the river are the yellow head catfish, carp, the Chinese Puffer fish, the freshwater Finless Porpoise (also known as the Yangtze River Dolphin) and the Chinese Alligator.

Around the river, there is a whole different kind of animal activity. The Red Panda is home here as well as the Giant Panda. Other types of animals that can be found around the river are the Pangolin, the Mongolian gazelle and many more.





WORDS OF WISDOM

Curriculum Link: Literacy/Language

An idiom is a group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words. There are many examples of Chinese idioms such as:

- 自由自在 (zì yóu zì zài) – To be free and easy
- 亡羊补牢 (wáng yáng bǔ láo) – Better late than never
- 半途而废 (bàn tú ér fèi) – To start doing something, only to give up halfway
- 津津有味 (jīn jīn yǒu wèi) – To eat something deliciously

Educator: Discuss the meanings of the idioms with the students and encourage them to share any English idioms that they may have heard

of. Some examples of English idioms and their meanings are –

1. A piece of cake – Very easy
2. Be in hot water – To be in trouble
3. Cold feet – To be nervous
4. See eye to eye – To agree on something

Task 1: Encourage the students to research or read up about English idioms and to write it down.

Extension: Encourage students to make use of some of the idioms that they have written down into their compositions or stories that they may be writing soon.



MIX AND MATCH

Curriculum Link: Math/Art

A Tangram was a Chinese puzzle game that children played to help them learn about thinking out of the box and to learn strategy and critical thinking skills. They would use shapes that were usually made out of wood, to make a picture.

Task 1: Can you identify and count how many shapes are there in the tangram on the next page? How many squares and triangles are there?

Task 2: To use your tangram, cut out the square and then follow the lines to cut it into the other shapes. Use these shapes to try and create different figures. Look at the images on the right – can you copy them? Now try making your own picture!

Extension: Encourage your students to describe the new figures that they have created. What are they? What do they do?

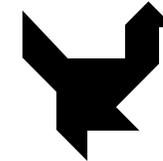
Tangram Puzzles



Apple



Bear



Bird



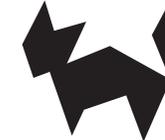
Boat



Bunny



Candle



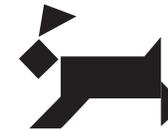
Cat



Chicken



Cow



Dog



Fish



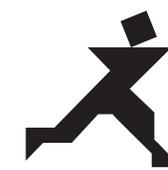
Giraffe



Horse



Person Riding Horse



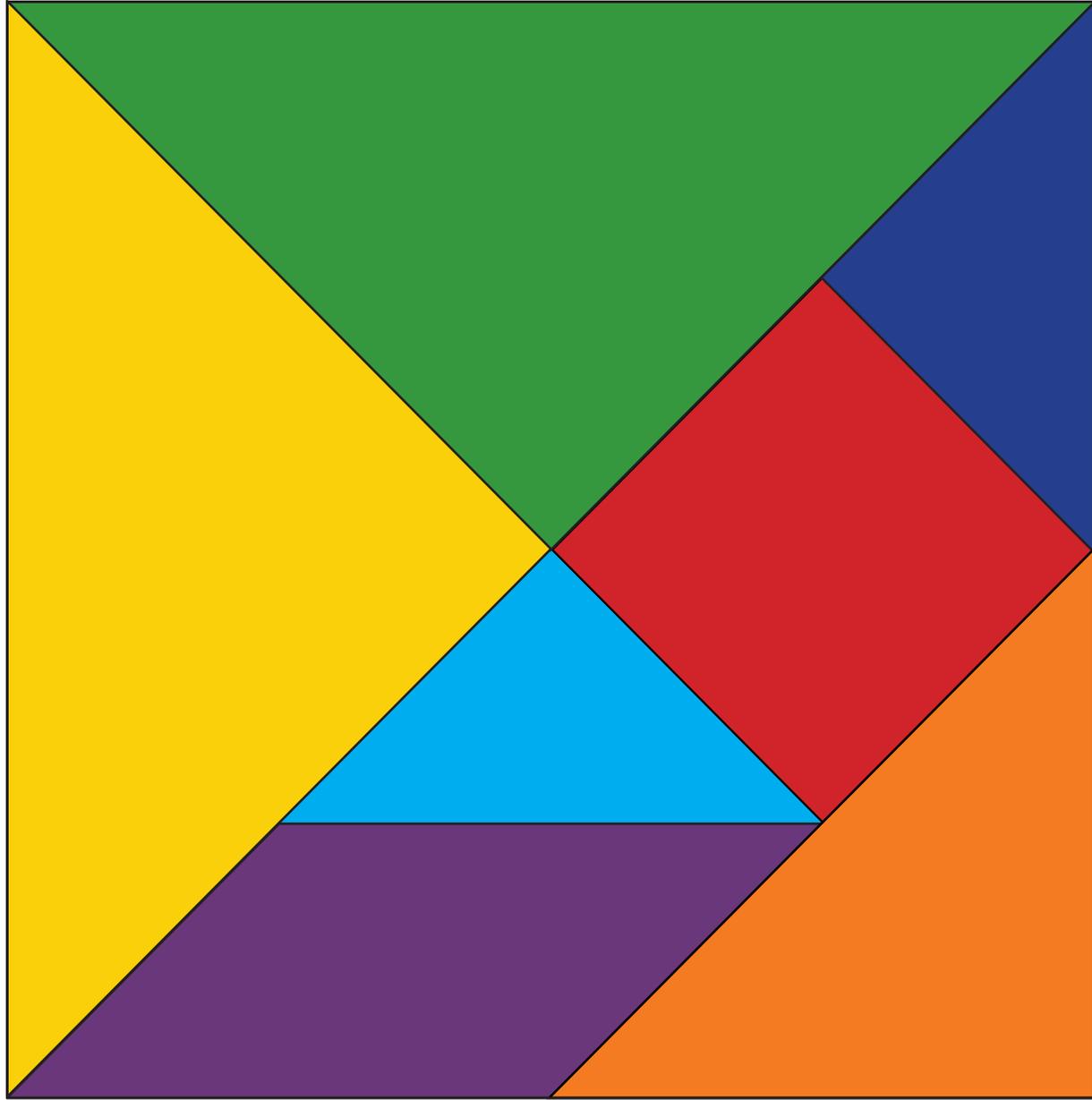
Person Running



Woman in Kimono



MIX AND MATCH





THE EMPEROR'S DRAGON

Curriculum Link: Art

The Emperor was a very important person in China and his symbol was the Dragon. His throne was even called the “Dragon Throne”. Dragons were thought to have power over water and the weather. They could even control storms, tornadoes, oceans and floods.

In ancient China, only the Emperor could wear clothes that had pictures of the dragon. This is because the dragon is a symbol of good luck, power and strength.

Task 1: Let's get creative and create our own dragon!



What you need:

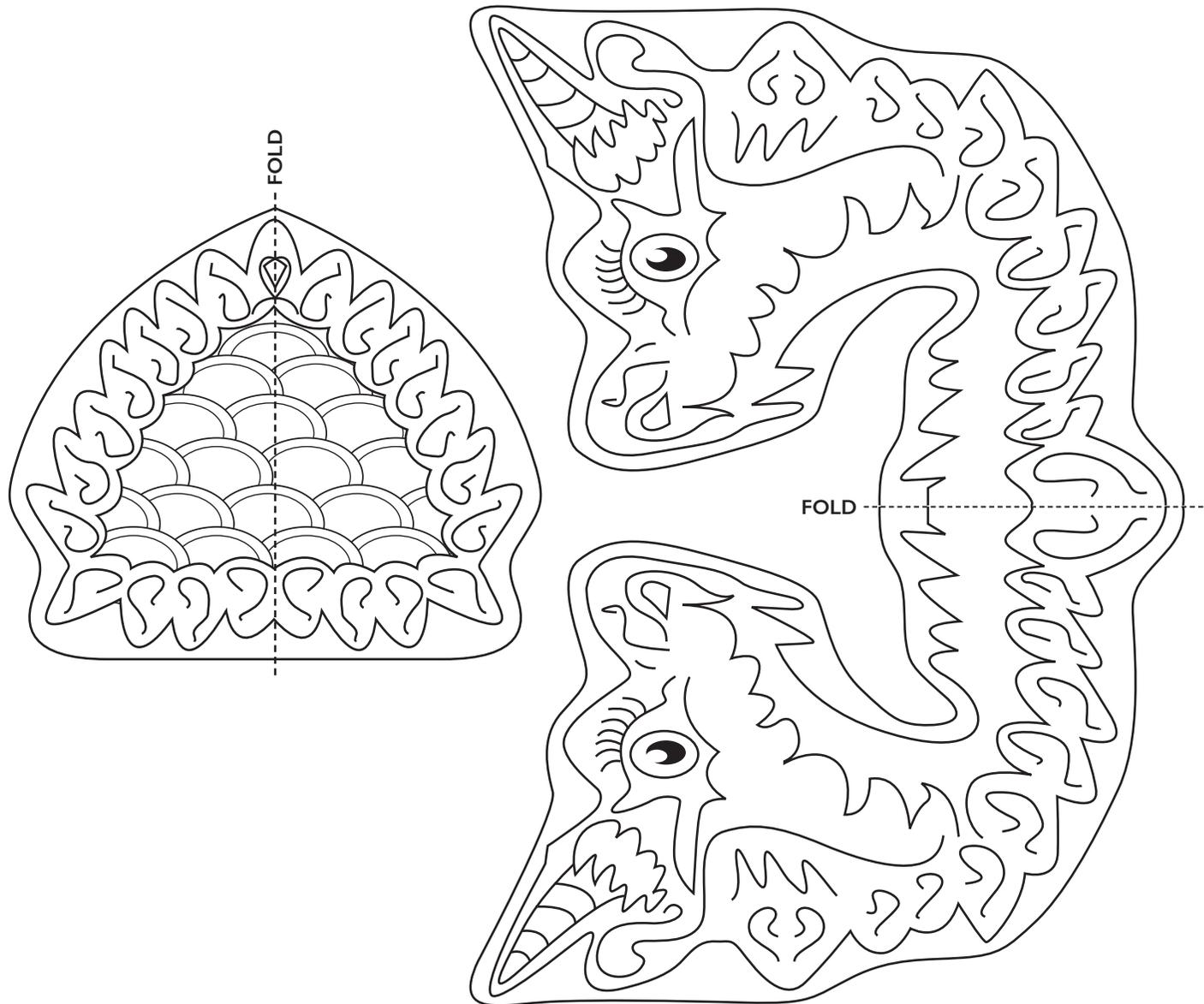
- Colour Pencils
- Construction paper
- Tape or glue
- Satay sticks or ice cream sticks

Method:

1. Colour and cut out the friendly dragon (found in the following page).
2. Cut out a strip of construction paper to match the width of the dragon's head and tail.
3. Fold the construction paper in a zig-zag pattern (refer to the picture on the left)
4. Tape or glue the head of the dragon to one end of the construction paper, and attach the tail to the other end of the construction paper.
5. Tape or glue the sticks to the back of your dragon puppet.
6. Hold the puppet by the sticks and make its body dance!



THE EMPEROR'S DRAGON





RAINBOW EQUATIONS

Curriculum Link: Art/Math

In Ancient China, the dragon symbolizes importance, power and strength. Only the Emperor could wear clothes that had pictures of dragons on them. The Dragons were considered the most sacred animal and it is featured in the carvings on the steps of the imperial palaces and tombs.

Task 1: Now it's your turn to create your own Dragon.

Method:

1. Print out a copy of your Dragon found **on the right**.
2. Solve the following Math questions in your picture.
3. Colour in your dragon with the colours based on your answers.



GREEN

3, 7, 12



YELLOW

5, 6, 11



PINK

8, 10, 13



BLUE

2, 14, 16



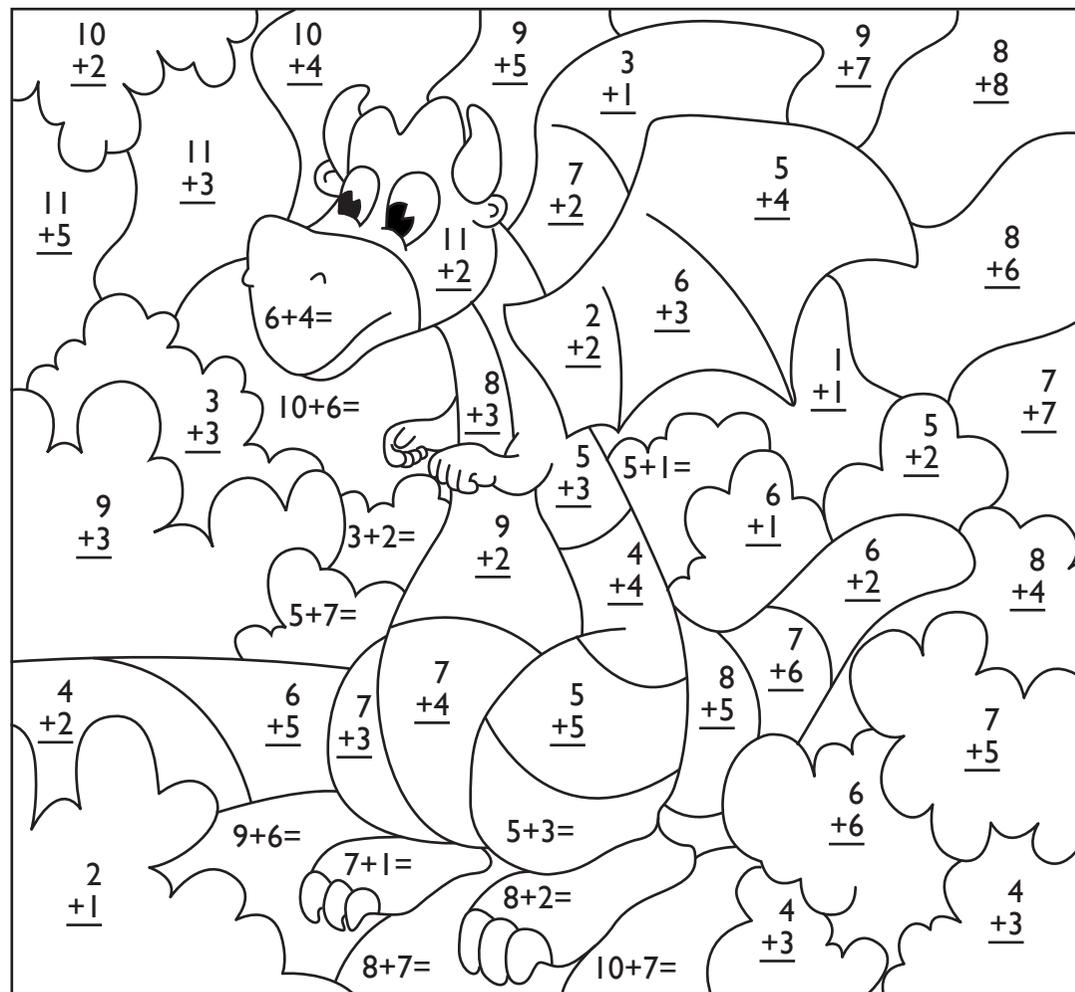
GREY

4, 9



BROWN

15, 17





DOING THE DIM SUMS

Curriculum Link: Math/Language

The Emperor's Protector has to make sure that everything he does is correct and pleasing to the Emperor. The Protector needs help in solving these tasks. Do you think you could help him?

Task: Using the characters in the table, can you solve the following questions?

一	1
二	2
三	3
四	4
五	5
六	6
七	7
八	8
九	9
十	10

$$\text{一} + \text{五} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$\text{二} + \text{四} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$\text{六} + \text{一} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$\text{五} + \text{三} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$\text{十} + \text{七} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$\text{九} - \text{五} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$\text{八} - \text{二} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$\text{十} - \text{五} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$\text{六} - \text{二} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$\text{四} - \text{三} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$



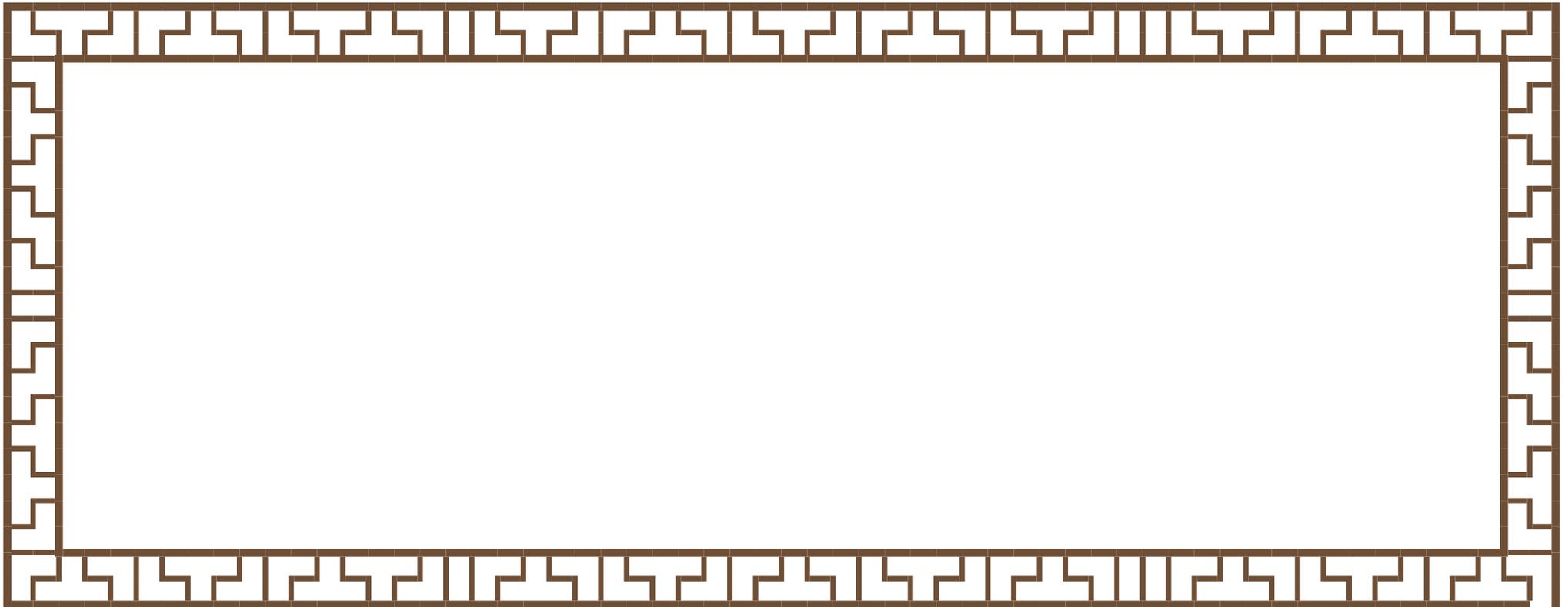
THE IMPERIAL BLUEPRINTS

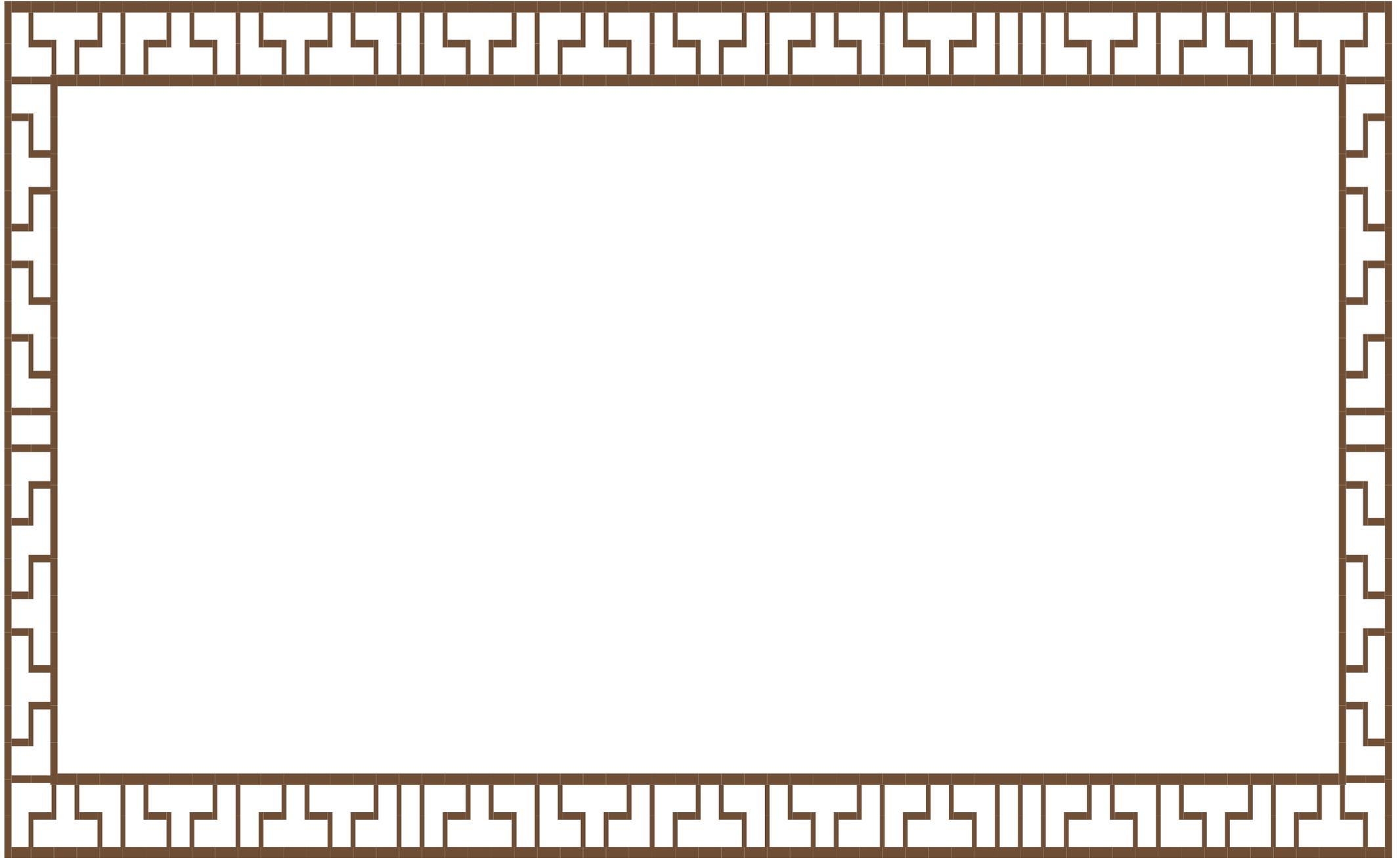
Curriculum Link: Language/Art

The Emperor lived in a magnificent palace made of porcelain, with rows and rows of never ending flowers. Imagine that you are now the Emperor of China and you have to build your new palace. What will it look like? What will you use to build your palace? Who will live in it and where?

Task: Encourage the students to draw and label a plan of their palace in the space provided in the next page

Extension: Create a show and tell segment in class for the students to present their work to their peers.







WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Curriculum Link: Literacy/Language and Drama

The Nightingale was based on a fairytale that was written in 1843. Why not try writing your own fairytale?

Task 1: Encourage the students to write their own story in groups using the characters that are found in The Nightingale.

Step 1: Choose your characters for your stories



Step 2: Decide what will be the setting for your story. Where does your story take place?

Step 3: Decide on the plot for your story. What is the problem or conflict in the story?

Step 4: How is the problem resolved? What is the conclusion to the story?

Task 2: In their groups, encourage the students to bring their stories to life by using their voices, actions, gestures and expressions.

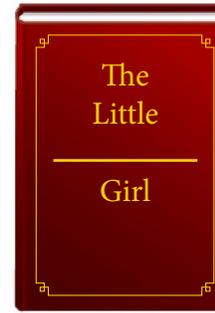
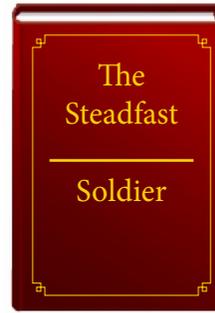
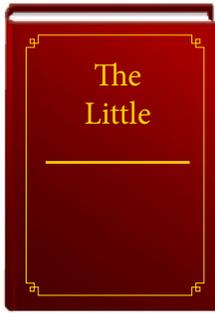
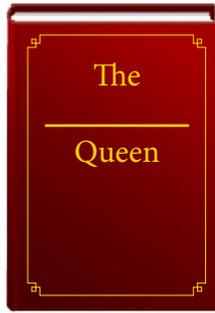
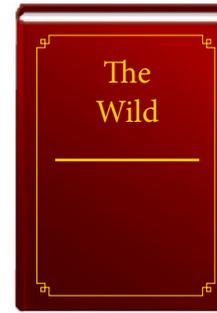
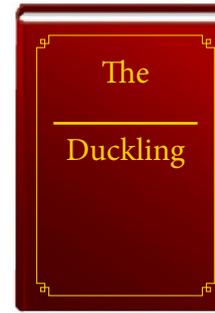
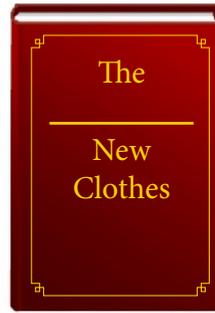
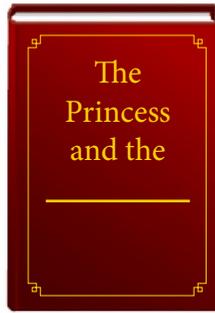
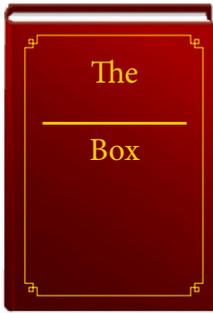


ONCE UPON A TIME

Curriculum Link: Language

Did you know that Hans Christian Andersen wrote over 168 tales. Let's see if you know and are able to identify some of the tales that he has written.

Task: Encourage your students to research and fill up the blanks for the different stories, if you happen to have the book, it would be great to introduce the various stories to them.



Answers: 1) The Tinder Box 2) The Princess and the Pea 3) The Emperor's New Clothes 4) The Ugly Duckling 5) The Wild Swans 6) The Snow Queen 7) The Little Mermaid 8) The Steadfast Tin Soldier 9) The Little Match Girl