



*Connecting Arts with School Curriculum* is an innovative education action research and development project for teachers and artists living in regional and remote Queensland. The project, designed especially for primary and middle schools, explores the values and benefits of teacher and artist collaboration in addressing arts and non arts curriculum in the classroom.

**Stage 1** of the project began in 2014 with a series of professional collaboration workshops for teachers in regional Queensland. From these workshops six pilot collaboration lessons were selected for further development and implementation in the classroom. This is a summary of one of those classroom sessions, presented as a case study.

**SCHOOL** Tanduringie State School

**TEACHER** Bronwyn Spencer

**LOCATION** Toowoomba

**ARTIST** Christine Brassington

**YEAR LEVEL** 6

**LESSON NAME** Geography, Painting and Printing

### LESSON IDEA

- Painting and Printing
- Look at different techniques used by different cultures in their artforms.
- Create a painting in Chinese style using traditional materials and techniques, and making a simple seal to sign it.

### CURRICULUM LINKAGES

**Geography:** The world's cultural diversity including that of its indigenous peoples.

**Visual Arts:** Develop and apply techniques and processes when making their artworks.

### APPROACH AND SEQUENCE OF LESSON

1. Reflect on previous lessons in regards to different styles used by people of different cultures around the world.
2. Explain the style & techniques used in traditional Chinese brush paintings, e.g. underpinning philosophy, special materials, special subject matter and symbolism.
3. Look at and explain techniques & processes (eg. How to hold brush, how to grind ink, sitting/posture, mind – body connection (focus) , movement using brush; explanation of different brush strokes – names, relationship to nature – students to attempt/ practice examples.
4. Have examples of different strokes displayed
5. Students create their own paintings
6. Teach potato carving to make “seal” to sign finished work
7. Oral presentation by students of their thoughts about the lesson & general

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## Resource requirements

Possible school resources

The Artists own work and various examples of brush strokes displayed.

Art materials: Butchers paper for practice, Chinese paper for finished painting, traditional black ink stick and ink stone, Chinese painting brushes.

To make seal – potato, carving tool, pieces of foam, lids, red paint. Containers of water, rags/paper towel for cleanup.

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## OUTCOME

- Students completed a painting in the Chinese style using traditional Chinese materials and techniques, completing it with a simple “seal” made by carving your initials on half a potato, which is used to sign the painting.
  - Students were able to recall key learning points.
  - Students were able to demonstrate practical skills taught during lesson, eg, grinding ink, how to hold brush, how to make the different strokes with the brush.
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## COMMENTS

**Teacher:** Listening to students reflections following the lesson showed how much they had actually learnt from one lesson and the pride they had in themselves for also being able to produce a piece of artwork that held a considerable amount of meaning. A number of students in the class have learning difficulties but they still learnt as much from that lesson as most of the other students because of the way it was presented.

**Artist:** We formed a good working relationship wherein our knowledge, skills and approaches complemented each other; as a result, the students were engaged, and the atmosphere felt dynamic and spontaneous.

**Students:** Like they were working together, like one person would say something and then the other person would add on to that, like a bit more information. I learnt that you can say a word in different tones and pictures and it would mean different things.

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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Documentation through photography (photo permission forms);
  - Feedback/Evaluation forms.
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## PHOTOGRAPHS



The lesson begins with a demonstration from the Artist on how to use the tools and materials.



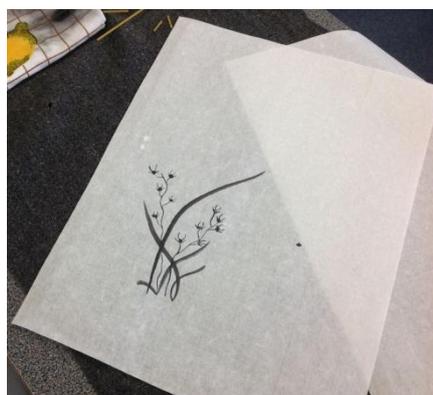
Collaboration in Process: As the Artist speaks the Teacher shows the sample images up close for the students.



The Artist works closely with students to see their designs.



Students try out the materials and techniques.



Finished Design in Chinese Painting.



Students try out the materials and techniques.