Lesson Plan Title: Chinese New Year

Developed by: Heidi Sloan, 2018 Teacher on the Trail™

Discipline / Subject: Interdisciplinary: Language Arts, Math, Art, Reading vocabulary

Topic: Chinese Culture

Grade Level: 2nd – 8th grades

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs: Sample of drawing a husky by illustrator Eric Brooks; *Alaska's Dog Heroes* by Shelley Gill, *Togo* by Robert J. Blake, or another sled dog book; Math: word problem to project onto screen; list of Chinese years and the animals

Lesson Summary: in this interdisciplinary activity, students learn about the Chinese culture by reading the Chinese zodiac animals, applying the Year of the Dog character qualities to sled dogs in the Iditarod. There are multiple activities to use with this theme including math, writing, and vocabulary enrichment.

Standards Addressed: (Local, State, or National)
VA 3.1 The student will demonstrate skills for historical thinking, geographical analysis, economic decision making, and responsible citizenship by:
c) interpreting charts, graphs, and pictures to determine characteristics of people, places, or events in world cultures;
e) comparing and contrasting ideas and perspectives to better understand people or events in world cultures

The student will explain how the contributions of ancient China and Egypt have influenced the present world in terms of architecture, inventions, the calendar, and written language.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.8
Distinguish among fact, opinion, and reasoned judgment in a text. Read the info on the animals/traits. (see idea in **Other Information**)

Learning objectives:	Assessment:
1. The student will learn descriptive adjectives, their meanings, and write creatively about dogs while gaining understanding of some Chinese traditions. 2. The student will recognize an opportunity to use a pattern or table to solve a math word problem.	Written story or summary Math word problem strategy

Procedural Activities
 1. Introduce students to the Chinese zodiac symbols that repeat every 12 years. Let them know that 2018 is the Year of the Dog.
2. Read one of the sled dog books aloud or highlight several dogs on mushers' websites:
http://teamzappa.com/meet-the-team
http://spkennel.com/the-dogs/
http://www.dewclawkennel.com/dogs.html
https://www.howlingridgekennel.com/our-team
3. Discuss the characteristics of sled dogs; what do you think their strengths are? This is good vocabulary work. List words from the discussion on the board. Discuss meanings.
4. Allow students to create a drawing of a husky to follow up their discussion on the strengths.
5. These may be used for a further activity, designing a Chinese kite with the dog featured, learning the Chinese symbol for dog, and reviewing contributions made by the Chinese.
6. Another activity is to go to mushers' websites and read through the descriptions of the sled dogs. Do their strengths fit with the Year of the Dog? Students could choose a dog to feature in a creative writing story.
6. Solve the math problems using the rotation of the Chinese animal symbols. This could lead to making a pattern or a table as a strategy.

Materials Students Need:
Art:
Copy of how to draw a husky by illustrator Eric Brooks
Construction paper for kite or lantern
Math word problem

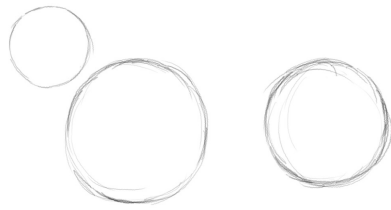**Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:**
Search for mushers' dog kennels and read about dog personalities
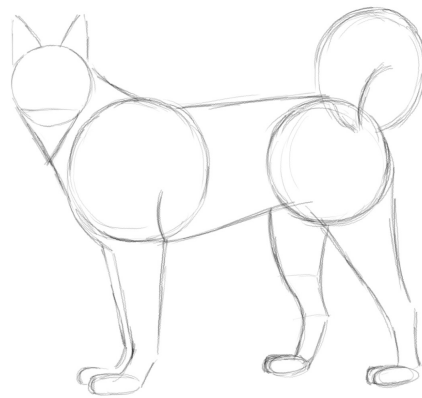
Other Information
Older students: What is accurate about Chinese strengths of The Year of the Dog that you have seen? What is an opinion? Is reasoned judgment used? Write an analysis.

Modifications for special learners/ Enrichment Opportunities
Read aloud; have dog strength vocabulary printed, defined, and maybe illustrated for students to learn and understand
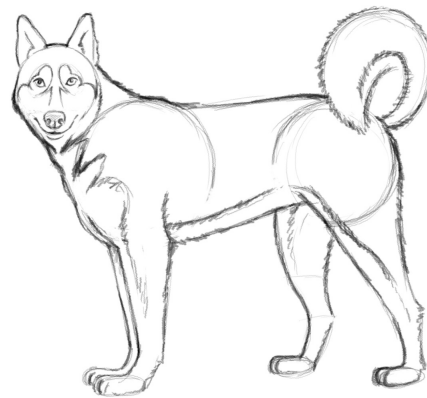
STEP 1: Three circles. The head, the chest, and the hips.

STEP 2 : Connect the circles with lines. Add additional basic shapes - triangles, curves, and a few more circles to create overall shape.

STEP 3 : Create more form and personality for your Alaskan Husky by shaping the eyes, nose, and fur markings. Draw lightly!

STEP 4 : Begin to darken the details. Start filling out the shape - especially a little more weight to the neck and shoulders. Lines start to get a furry texture too, and you might erase just a little now from areas in the face and legs.

STEP 5 : Start to darken the colored areas of fur. I started at the head and worked my way down the body.

STEP 6 : The final darkening of the fur and maybe a little shading under the body or around the eyes and curving tail. Great job!