

A Games Based Approach to Primary Mandarin



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Benefits of using games:

- purposeful interaction
- promotes participation
- builds confidence
- increases motivation / focus
- encourages independent work / thinking
- develops social skills
- allows teacher to monitor / support
- effective language learning tool

Name: Sarah

Progression Tracker

P5.

Date	What have I have learnt?	New spoken language?	New written language?	Comments:
10.1.18	Mandarin is spoken in China, Singapore and Taiwan.	Nǐ hǎo = hello zài jiàn = Goodbye	中 国	/
17.1.18	Chinese languages have no alphabet, they use characters. Chinese is older than English.	/	'S' = water 口 = mouth 日 = sun 小 = small 一 = 1 山 = mountain	Ancient characters were scratched on turtle shell and bones. They are more than 3000 years old.
31.1.18	Some modern characters look like pictures.	/	I can read 14 modern characters	I think it is easier to remember some modern characters because we saw the old ones first.
7.2.18	Chinese new year is the most important festival in China.	Nian Hóng hōu	好 运 = luck	At Chinese New Year, children get given hong bao with money in.

Characteristics of best games:

- clear linguistic goal
- simple game goal / outcome
- avoid elimination
- element of contest
- adaptable to different ability levels
- luck element
- appropriate pace / length
- appropriately placed in lesson

Language focus: numbers

LO: Learn to recognise number characters 1-10.

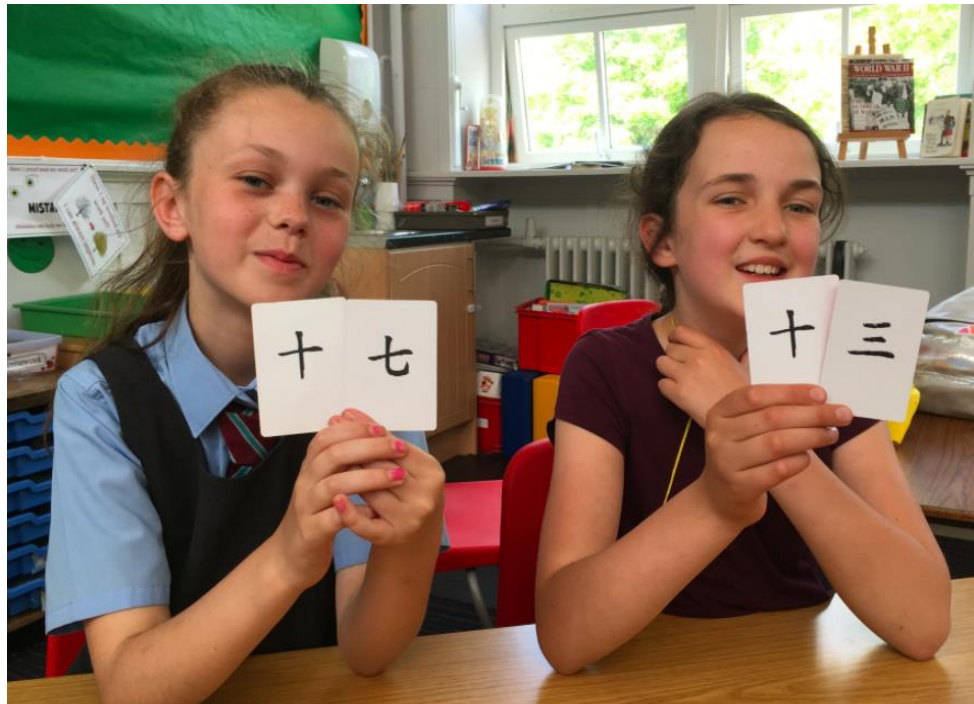


最大最小

LO:

Understand the two rules for building numbers 11-99.

Learn to recognise and pronounce numbers 11-99.



五五五



四是四
sì shì sì
十是十
shí shì shí
十四是十四
shí sì shì shí sì
四十是四十
sì shí shì sì shí
四十四只石狮子是死的
sì shí sì zhī shí shī zǐ shì sǐ de

十四

Language Focus: dates

LO: Learn to say the months of the year in sequence.

The Last word

Birthday Line

Hands under the table

LOs:

Learn that in Chinese, the date is written the opposite way round to the date in English.

Learn to write / say dates in Chinese to include month and day date.



Festival Dates for 2018

Festival	Date in English	Date in Chinese
Chinese New Year 	16 th February 2018	= 壬戌年, 二月, 十六号 ✓
Children's Day 	1 st June 2018	= 壬戌年, 六月, 一号 ✓
Dragon Boat Festival 	18 th June 2018	= 壬戌年, 六月, 十八号 ✓
Teacher's Day 	10 th September 2018	= 壬戌年, 九月, 十号 ✓
Mid Autumn Festival 	24 th September 2018	= 壬戌年, 九月, 二十四号 ✓ ⇒ nián 年

* Hěn hǎo!

You have written festival dates in the correct order!

Language focus: pictographs

LO: learn to recognise up to 30 modern characters by looking at their ancient equivalents.

Game 1: Matching memory game: ancient pictographs to English words.



tree

Game 2: Matching memory game: ancient pictographs to modern characters.



木

Game 3: Beat the clock: match all three.



tree

Game 4: Beat the Oracle.





Language focus: radicals

LO :Learn to recognise and pronounce 8 animal characters.

Learn to ask and answer the question: 你有没有...



鱼



鲨

shark

shā (shirt/are)

鲜

fresh

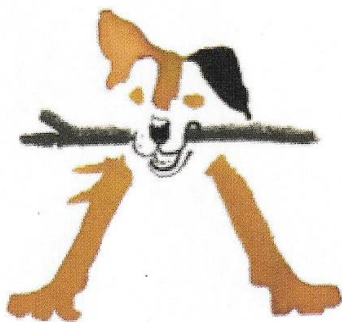
xiān (ship/yen)

鲸

whale

jīng (jeep/mowing)

犬彳



狗

dog

gǒu (girl/go)

猴

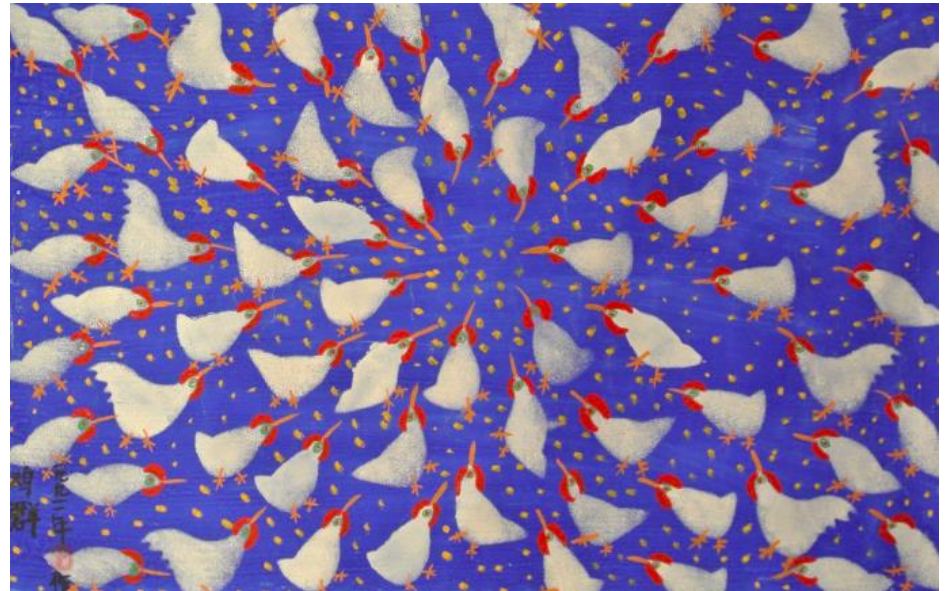
monkey

hóu (loch/go)

猫

cat

māo (more/owl)



LO:

Learn to recognise and / or pronounce up to 4 commonly used measure words: 个, 碗, 杯, 只。

Differentiation?

Extending learning beyond the game?

Tips for playing games:

- Teach children interactive language for playing the game
- Model game first
- Be firm / fair about enforcing rules
- Familiarize children with the names of the games to reduce the need for instructions
- Keep games in a box for fast finishers and encourage regular use
- Stop the game when children are all still on task

Useful reference books (not specific to teaching Mandarin but many of the games can be adapted):

Games for teaching Primary French - Daniele Bourdais and Sue Finnie (Crown House)

Practising Modern Foreign Languages in the Primary Classroom - Sue Cave (Brilliant Publications)

Primary Communications Box - Carol Nixon and Michael Tomlinson (Cambridge University Press)

500 Activities for the Primary Classroom - Carol Read (Macmillan Books for Teachers)

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Please contact me if you have any questions or would like further information about the games used in the workshop.