

Ming-Ai (London) Institute “East West Festive Cultures” Project

Lesson Plan

qīxījié

Topic:七夕节

Key stage: KS4 or higher level

Age group: 14-16 years old

National Curriculum Subject: Modern Foreign Languages (Chinese Mandarin)

Requirements of students' Mandarin standard: basic knowledge of pinyin, some numbers, YY/MM/DD

Objectives

- Tell the Chinese legend of Niu Lang and Zhi Nu
- Introduce the Qixi Jie, the so-called Chinese Valentine's Day, and the Chinese traditional way to celebrate the Qixi Jie
- Build up vocabulary, grammar and culture knowledge
- Discuss what is love and make students understand much broader the meaning of “love”
- Assess students learning outcome through classroom performance and homework

Learning outcomes

- Knowledge:
 - Better understanding of Chinese culture
 - Know about the difference of the Qixi Jie and the western Valentine's Day
 - Better understanding of the broader meaning of “love”
 - Use of the typical adverbs “不” and “无” to express negative meaning
- Skills:
 - Improving listening, speaking, reading and writing skills through various activities;
 - Building up vocabulary, grammar points and sentence structures;
 - Learning the rules of saying multi-digit numbers and decimal fraction numbers in Chinese
 - Enhanced pronunciation and communication skills
- Attitude:
 - Learn and respect for other cultures and heritage
 - Encourage to respect and love other people

Differentiation

Ask students what they have known about the Western Valentine's Day or Chinese traditional festivals and ask them to form into small groups to discuss.

Equipments & Teaching Materials

Computers, projectors, videos, images, flash cards

Lesson Outline (90 minutes)

	Activities	Time
Starter	Story telling: the Chinese legend of Niu Lang and Zhi Nu (show the animation provided on project website)	5 mins
Introduction	Qixi Jie and traditional celebration activities - Images	8 mins
Development	- New words in the text - Listening activities - Chinese grammar a. The rules of saying multi-digit numbers and decimal fraction numbers in Chinese b. The use of typical negative adverbs “不” and “无” - Group discussion on what is “LOVE” and each group makes a Chinese sentence to express what is love	42 mins
Conclusion/Plenary	Check learning outcome - Guide the students to review what they have learned in the class	5 mins

Homework/ Extension Activities

Collect information through different ways (internet searching, go to library, ask family members, friends etc.) to find out the reasons why many Chinese also think Yuanxiao Jie (Lantern Festival) is “ Chinese Valentine’s Day”

Assessment

Listening, speaking and writing skills

Reference

Animation provided on “East West Festive Cultures” project website.

Detailed Lesson Plan (90 mins)

Time	Content/Teacher Activity	Student Activity	Resources
5 mins	Story telling: the Chinese legend of Niu Lang and Zhi Nu. Use the animation provided on the project website.	Whole class	Computer and projector
8 mins	Background information about the Qixi Jie and traditional activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When is Qixi Jie - What are the traditional activities for celebration - Why Qixi Jie is regarded as “Chinese Valentine’s Day” 	Whole class	Written text Images PPT presentation
15 mins	- New words and expresses <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Flash cards b. Word & Picture match c. repeating - Go through the text paragraph by paragraph - Ask students questions to guide them to better understand the contents	Whole Class Small groups practice	Flash cards PPT presentation
15 mins	Chinese grammar and sentence structures <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The rules of saying multi-digit numbers and decimal fraction numbers in Chinese b. The use of typical negative adverbs “不” and “无” 	Whole class	PPT presentation Examples Students practice
12 mins	Group discussion: what is “LOVE” in general Each group is asked to work out a Chinese sentence to express what is love; and the tutor will walk around to help each group complete their sentences, if necessary A representative from each group to read out their sentence and explain the meaning to other classmates The tutor will write out the Chinese characters for each sentence (on the coloured cards) and stick them on the board in the classroom to enhance students’ reading skills	Whole class Group practice	Discussions Coloured cards
5 mins	- Guide the students to review what they have learned in the class - Give students homework	Whole class	

课文:

七夕节

据了解，七夕节又名乞巧节、女儿节，来源于中国四大民间爱情传说之一的牛郎织女故事。传统习俗中，妇女要在七月初七的夜晚进行各种乞巧活动，或穿针引线验巧，或做些小物品赛巧，或摆上些瓜果乞巧。近年来，七夕节的其他意义逐渐淡化，只有牛郎织女的爱情故事流传下来。人们传说在七夕的夜晚，抬头可以看到牛郎织女的银河相会，或在葡萄架下可偷听到两人相会时说的话。七夕节也就有了“中国情人节”的味道。

那么，现在的中国老百姓到底愿不愿意过七夕节呢？国内一门户网站公布的“2005 七夕中国情人节调查”显示，在参加投票的 3735 人中，35.31% 的人表示愿意过七夕节；59.14% 的人表示非常希望七夕节成为法定假日；67.18% 的人认为，七夕节和中秋节、春节一样，代表了中国的民俗文化。

不过，也有一些年轻人表示，他们更认同西方的情人节，对中国的七夕节不太感兴趣。

其实七夕节是一个富有浪漫色彩的传统节日，七夕节作为传统文化确实应该保护，但不仅仅是“中国的情人节”，而应该尊重历史和传统，还原七夕节的内涵。