

One of the Power Points from the seminar talked about Moon Cakes. I remember that for some this was a delicacy, but I never found the taste (of those offered to me) that appealing. In Thailand last summer I saw how even U.S. brand eateries like Cold Stone and Swenson's had ice cream in the shape of Moon Cakes. Breeding with some ice cream filling or the whole cake ice cream but in the design of the Moon Cake. Later when I took this seminar I saw the huge market for Moon Cakes and saw how I could (just for fun, but perhaps a science/math-poll/graphing exercise) have students find different kinds of Moon Cake and maybe even create their own with an art project, Jell-O mold, or clay. Added to that would be the traditional aspect of the cake which is to present them to someone special.

I. Title of Lesson: Moon Cakes

II. Grade Level and Subject Area: 4<sup>th</sup> grade, various subject areas (modifiable to 3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>)

III. Standards

A. California State Standard: Visual Arts

#### 2.0 CREATIVE EXPRESSION

##### Creating, Performing, and Participating in the Visual Arts

Students apply artistic processes and skills, using a variety of media to communicate meaning and intent in original works of art.

#### 3.0 HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT

##### Understanding the Historical Contributions and Cultural Dimensions of the Visual Arts

Students analyze the role and development of the visual arts in past and present cultures throughout the world, noting human diversity as it relates to the visual arts and artists.

##### Role and Development of the Visual Arts

3.1 Describe how art plays a role in reflecting life

4.0 AESTHETIC VALUING

Responding to, Analyzing, and Making Judgments About Works in the Visual Arts

Students analyze, assess, and derive meaning from works of art, including their own, according to the elements of art, the principles of design, and aesthetic qualities.

5.0 CONNECTIONS, RELATIONSHIPS, APPLICATIONS

Connecting and Applying What Is Learned in the Visual Arts to Other Art Forms and Subject Areas and to Careers (such as the food industry).

B. CCSS Listening and Speaking

SP. 4.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 4 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

C. CCSS Literacy

RI.4.3 Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

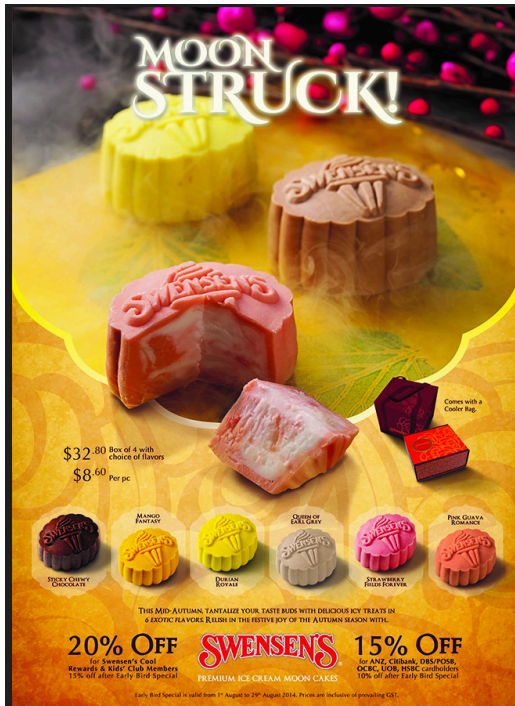
D. CCSS Writing

W.4.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

W.4.6 With some guidance and support from adults, use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others

W.4.7 Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

Engaging Context: teacher will present a Prezi (a power point like application) to show students various incarnations of moon cakes (gathered from all-serving Google). Having gone to Thailand this previous summer I will highlight the moon



cakes that I saw from Swensen's and Cold Stone (yes, I will tell them, there is a Cold Stone and Swensen's in Thailand, it's not all rice fields and temples).



Measurable Objectives: Students will create visuals through artwork and technology based on culturally relevant topics.

Total Time: 90 Minutes. Began on a Friday, had a break, students continue on weekend compiling pictures and ideas, return Monday to complete.

Materials List:

- Laptop, desktop, or other computer device
- Internet access
- Presentation software (Google Slides, Prezi, NearPod, KeyNote, Power Point, etc.)
- Paper, Crayons, Pencils
- Clay

Web Resources:

- Moon cake coloring page  
[http://resources.childbook.com/chinese\\_coloring/moon\\_festival\\_coloring\\_pages/moon\\_cake-n.jpg](http://resources.childbook.com/chinese_coloring/moon_festival_coloring_pages/moon_cake-n.jpg)
- Cutesy video called Moon Cakes by Tim Liu  
<http://vimeo.com/105404388>

Other resources:

## Books

- *Moon Cakes* by Loretta Seto
- *Taiwan: Lisa Lin's Painting "Making Moon Cakes"* by Jacqueline Touba
- *Thanking the Moon: Celebrating the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival* by Grace Lin

## PDFs

- Moon cakes video press kit:

[dropbox.com/s/q0geyjmk119phed/Mooncakes\\_presskit%20%28Print%29.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/q0geyjmk119phed/Mooncakes_presskit%20%28Print%29.pdf?dl=0)

Procedure:

In groups, students will read or be read some of the books detailed above. We will discuss the Moon cakes and their history along with the cultural significance and traditions. Students will then have an opportunity to research where else in pop culture are moon cakes seen. They will search images and create a presentation using Keynote, power Point, or other program to showcase their findings.

The next portion of the project can be done in different stages, or pick and choose depending on time constraints, budgets, and interest level.

**Visual Representation**

Students will create their own artwork based on a Moon cake design. They will use various media (pastel, water color, crayon, color pencil) to make it. This can work either with a different group using a different type or, the class as a whole can stick with one type. The completed projects will be given to other students in the class or school.

**3D model**

Using clay, students will first sketch and then design a moon cake. Here there is the opportunity for greater creativity since they are making a solid model. Vocabulary on geometric designs will be used as well. Placed on lunch trays the completed projects can be shared in a gallery walk, or presented in a more traditional fashion with music playing in the background.

**Edible**

I practiced making this at home during the vacation with chocolate Hostess cupcakes. They already have a bit of a design on them. I bought the simple frosting tubes from the grocery store and tried to write out a simple Chinese characters. Not easy but fun. I used this website to help me out: [http://www.cultural-china.com/Kaleidoscope/cultural\\_tool/Chinese\\_Symbols/](http://www.cultural-china.com/Kaleidoscope/cultural_tool/Chinese_Symbols/)

If this was done in the class, I would ask a parent who bakes to bring in moon cake shaped cupcakes so that we could try to decorate. We would of course first try to write the character on paper before bringing out the frosting tubes. Then again we can share amongst each other or another class, ideally a lower grade class.