

# Chinese Handscrolls: An Art Lesson for Elementary Students

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## Objectives:

- A. Students will describe the elements of art used to create a handscroll: line, color, form, shape, texture, value, and space (*language of visual arts*)
- B. Students will identify themes and purposes of the work of art in Chinese history and culture (*visual art history and culture*)
- C. Students will apply the knowledge they have learned to create their own handscroll using themes and techniques similar to those in the Chinese handscroll (*visual art expression*)

## Materials:

- A. Asia for Educators – Primary Source: *The Beijing Qingming Scroll*, artist Zhang Zeduan, <http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/songdynasty-module/index.html>)
- B. Computers available for student use
- C. Paper, pen, and ink or other appropriate drawing materials

**Time Allotment:** Two-class periods (can be extended to complete more elaborate projects)

## Procedure:

Introduction – Discuss factual and historical information about the handscroll (found on Asia for Educators <http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/songdynasty-module/index.html>)

Activities –

### Day 1

1. Demonstrate the actual size of the scroll in the classroom.
2. Create a small example of a handscroll scroll using long blank paper to demonstrate that only one image would be visible at a time.
3. Small groups or pairs of students find the AFE site on the computers.

4. Teacher guides the students to the handscroll on the site and assigns each group a different scene to research and analyze focusing on the artistic and cultural elements of the scene.
5. Students present their conclusions to the class

### **Day 2**

1. Students select familiar parts of their own lives or the lives and activities in their school, community, city, etc. to recreate in handscrolls
2. Students draw their scenes on long paper with special attention to the style, detail, and cultural content so that their scrolls “mimic” the style of *The Beijing Qingming Scroll*
3. Students discuss their scrolls with the class and display them

**Assessment:** Student participation in the discussion, analyzing activity, and artwork created

### **Resources:**

*The Song Dynasty: China in 1000 CE, The Most Advanced Society in the World*, Asia for Educators

Primary Source: The Beijing Qingming Scroll, artist Zhang Zeduan

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