

# Study Guide for Teachers

## Dance China NY

China Patterns

Performances, Workshops and Residencies



Young  
Audiences  
Arts for  
Learning

Connecticut

### ABOUT THE ARTISTS



The Dance China NY artists are a diverse collection of master award winning dancers and musicians from China and the United States. While electrifying audiences, they inspire youth to think of dancing as a positive outlet for artistic expression. Audiences are educated on the history, culture, foundation, and the dance styles China.

Dance China NY maintains the highest standard of professionalism and keeps in mind age appropriateness of its offerings. The program preserves the pure essence of Chinese culture and keeps the art form easily accessible through the context of more familiar terrain.

Artists performing "fan dance"



### OBJECTIVES

- To introduce audiences to the variety and diversity of Chinese life
- To educate students about the history of Chinese traditional dance and music
- To promote positive benefits of dance such as teamwork, artistic expression, outlets for energy, exercise and more.

### VOCABULARY AND TERMS

Chinese Art – Paper cutting

Chinese Music

Pipa (Pee-pah) – four-stringed Chinese lute

Erhu (Ar-hoo) – two stringed violin

Chinese Calligraphy

### RESOURCES

Books:

*Lion Dancer: Ernie Wan's Chinese New Year*  
by Kate Waters

*A Chinese Zoo: Fables and Proverbs* by Demi

*Chen Ping & His Magic Axe* by Demi

*Lon Po Po* by Ed Young

*The Moon Lady* by Amy Tan

*Chinese Folk Art* by Nancy Zeng Berliner

*China: Empire of the Written Symbol* by

Cecilia Lindqvist

Web:

<http://www-chaos.umd.edu/history/toc.html>

<http://www.apples4theteacher.com/holidays/chinese-new-year/index.html>

## BEFORE THE PROGRAM

Begin K – W – L chart on Chinese Culture & Dance  
(What do you know, want to know, want to learn?)

- Discuss Chinese tradition & culture
- Locate China & its regions on a map
- Discuss the art of Calligraphy
- Make Chinese lanterns, fans

## AFTER THE PROGRAM

- Complete Learn portion of K-W-L chart on Chinese Culture & Dance
- Enjoy Chinese food

### Discuss:

- What are regions in China?
- How does dance represent ideas and stories?
- What are some Chinese traditions?

## China Patterns

This program is for students of all ages. The artists introduce students to Chinese life through traditional dance and music. Students and teachers are involved in identifying traits, customs and patterns of life that are illustrated in Chinese dances and songs. This colorful program is performed in full costume and covers farming villages, to Imperial palaces, to drama of legendary battlefields.

Workshops Include:

Chinese Fan or Ribbon Dance  
Calligraphy  
Landscape Painting  
Paper Cutting and Name Seal Carving



## CURRICULAR LINKS

### *Connecticut State Department of Education*

#### Source: The CT Framework – Social Studies

- ✚ Goal 3: Historical Themes  
*Students will describe examples of how societies throughout history have used various forms of visual arts, dance, theater, myths, literature and music to express their beliefs, sense of identity and philosophical ideas.*

#### Source: The CT Framework – Dance

- ✚ **Standard 1: Elements and Skills**  
*Students will demonstrate the following movement skills and explain the underlying principles: alignment, balance, initiation of movement, articulation of isolated body parts, weight shift, elevation and landing.*
- ✚ **Standard 3: Meaning**  
*Students will observe and explain how different accompaniment (such as sound, music) can affect the meaning of a dance.*

## RESIDENCY

Multiple visits by members of the troupe lead to a shared performance and visual art exhibit by your class or group. Focus on dance, visual art, self esteem and team building.

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