5th grade Mandalas

Cross Curricular: History & Culture & Math

Student will learn about Tibet, Buddhism as a world religion, and symbols for traditional Mandalas. Students will learn to use a Compass and create patterns and symbols while personalizing their Mandala.

National Standards:

Perform: ART.VA.I.5.2-4
Create: ART.VA.II.5.1-5
Analyze: ART.VA.III.5.5
Analyze in Context: ART.VA.IV.5.1-3
Analyze and make connections: ART.VA.V.5.4

Resources:
Stop Motion video showing monks creating Mandala and ending ceremony: http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=stop+motion+sand+madalals&FORM=HDRSC3#view=detail&mid=54C91425ECF4A6A1DC4D54C91425ECF4A6A1DC4D

Materials:
Compass
Pencil & Eraser
Drawing paper
Colored pencils
Black Sharpies
(Ultra fine or fine)

Review history of Mandalas, intro to Buddhism, design examples, demo using a compass, practice design, final paper design, add colored pencils-show layering techniques, outline with ultra fine sharpie then cut out and glue on coordinating construction paper

5th grade Notans
Cross Curricular: History & Culture & Math

Student will learn Japanese elements of design using light and dark balance. Students will learn use different lines and shapes to create a balanced design while personalizing their Notan.

National Standards:

Perform: ART.VA.I.5.2-4
Create: ART.VA.II.5.1-5
Analyze: ART.VA.III.5.5
Analyze in Context: ART.VA.IV.5.1-3
Analyze and make connections: ART.VA.V.5.4

Resources:
This is a wonderful Prezi posted online that can be shared with students: https://prezi.com/7z1wsn_reepq/japanese-notan/

Materials:
Pencil & Eraser
Construction paper –pre-cut in 2 different size squares-various colors
Scissors
Glue sticks or rubber cement

Review history of Notans, intro to Zen, design examples, demo how to create your balanced design without over cutting into another segment, practice design, final paper design, then cut out and glue on coordinating construction paper
4th grade Chinese Scrolls: Mùlù 目录

Cross Curricular: History, Culture & Language

Students will learn the history of the scroll and history of the Chinese written language. They will illustrate their own scroll using their personal story.

National Standards:

Perform: ART.VA.I.4.2
Create: ART.VA.II.4.2-5
Analyze: ART.VA.III.4.2
Analyze in Context: ART.VA.IV.4.1-3

Resources: A Creation Story of the 4 Rivers (you can pick any creation story from China you find online that you prefer)

Materials:

Pencil & Eraser
Drawing paper (4” x 18”)
Black Ultra Fine Sharpie

6” Wooden sticks/dowels
Glue

Read a Creation Story, Intro to history of writing and significance of scrolls to language, literature, art in China, examples, practice design with reference to a story-emphasis illustration, final design with colored pencils, outline with ultra-fine sharpie if needed, add 6” wooden stick with glue-hold while drying
Legend of the Four Rivers (Creation Story)

Once no rivers or lakes existed on earth, only a single sea where four Dragons lived. The four Dragons—Long, Yellow, Eastern, and Pearl served the Jade Emperor, who lived high in the heavens. The Jade Emperor was especially fond of the people on earth as they were a joyful bunch and quick to offer up songs of praise when he sent rain to water their crops. It was the job of the four Dragons to watch over the people as they sailed and gathered fish from the sea. The Dragons enjoyed their work and took it very seriously.

All was good in the land until the Emperor married a new wife, the Fairy Queen. The Queen was jealous of the time the Emperor took caring for the people of the Earth, so she put him into a trance with her beautiful song so he would only pay attention to her.

Many days passed and the Emperor began to forget to send rain, preferring to listen to the songs of his wife. The land became withered and dry. The People became fearful they had angered the Emperor in some way. They sang to him, and shouted out praise but he could not hear over the enchanting songs of his wife.

A young boy came to the sea and called out, “Oh Dragons great, can you not save us? Our crops are failing and soon we will all starve.”

The four great Dragons of the sea listened to the cries of the boy and wondered why the Emperor no longer sent down the rain.

“Let us go ask for rain for the people,” spoke Long as he leapt towards the clouds. The other Dragons followed him towards the heavenly palace.

The Dragons entered into the court of the Jade Emperor, and found him listening to the Fairies. The Emperor leapt to his feet at the intrusion, “What is the meaning of this? Should you not be in the sea taking care of the waters?”

Long Dragon spoke, “Your Majesty, the crops are dying. We beg you to send rain before it is too late!”

“Oh, very well,” responded the Emperor. With a wave of his hand, he dismissed the Dragons. “Go back to the sea, and I’ll send rain tomorrow.”

The four Dragons bowed and replied, “Thank you, your Majesty,” and flew from the court.

Ten days passed and still no rain fell upon the ground. The people had eaten all the grass in the fields, and the roots and bark from the trees, and now lived only on white clay. Soon they would have nothing to eat and would die if water was not delivered soon.

The Dragons felt sad, for no more did the people sing out in joy. Only the sounds of suffering reached their ears. The Dragons decided they had to do something to cover for the Emperor’s forgetfulness.

Long Dragon looked out across the sea, an idea showing in his wise eyes.

“I see you have an idea. Out with it!” Yellow Dragon urged, “Quickly, time is scarce.”

“Do we not have lots of water here in the sea?” Long Dragon questioned. “We can scoop it up and spray it towards the sky and let it fall upon the land.”

The other Dragons danced with joy at the idea. They could save the people!

Long Dragon thought for a moment and continued, “We will be punished if the Jade Emperor finds out what we have done.”

“I will do anything to bring joy and song back to the people and silence the sounds of sorrow,” Yellow Dragon replied.

Black Dragon and Pearl Dragon leapt into the sea, gathered the water in their mighty jaws, and sprayed it into the clouds. Long Dragon and Yellow Dragon seeing the plan worked, joined them. The seawater soon filled the clouds and, before long, rain began to fall upon the land.
The people rejoiced and shouts of “It is raining! We are saved!” rang out across the land.

High above the earth, the Jade Emperor also heard them and came out of his trance. “WHAT IS THIS?” yelled the Emperor. “How dare the Dragons make it rain without my permission.”

In his fury, the Emperor sent forth his guards to capture the four Dragons and bring them to him. The guards surrounded the Dragons and they surrendered. They were taken to the Emperor’s palace to receive their punishment.

The Emperor, still in a fury and not back in his senses, would not hear the Dragons’ pleas and commanded the god of the mountains, “Bring me four mountains, and place them upon each one of the Dragons so they will never escape and disobey me again.”

The mountain god summoned his four largest mountains, which flew through the air from afar. He then set them atop the four Dragons, imprisoning them.

The four Dragons, wanting only to do good for the people forever, decided that they must always uphold their duties to keep the people safe and well even if the Emperor failed to hear their reasons why they had caused the rain. They transformed themselves into four rivers. The rivers flowed down from the mountains and into the deep valleys in the west, and across the plains into the sea at the edge of the eastern delta.

The rivers not only helped seed the clouds with rain but each had a special purpose.

In the far north, Black Dragon became the Heilongjian (Black River), which served as a border between China and Russia, keeping the people safe from invaders.

Yellow Dragon’s water flowed across the middle of the country and became the Huanghe (Yellow River). The river brought many minerals down from the mountain enriching the soil for the growing of rice and many spices.

In the lands to the South, Long Dragon became the Changjiang (Yangtze or Long River). The river was used as a quick way to travel, allowing the people to share crops and goods with those once too far away.

In the South, Pearl Dragon flowed to the sea as the Zhujiang (Pearl River.) The River supplied water to the people in the south of the country.

Now when the song of the fairies entrances the Jade Emperor, the people no longer suffer, for water from the rivers of the four dragons help supply the needs of the people.
3rd grade Chinese Slat Books: Jian Ce 板條書

Cross Curricular: History, Culture & Language

Students will learn the history of the slat book and history of the Chinese written language. They will create their own clast book and learn how to illustrate their own story and use their fine motor skills while learning to tie knots.

National Standards:
Perform: ART.VA.I.3.2
Create: ART.VA.II.3.2-5
Analyze: ART.VA.III.3.2
Analyze in Context: ART.VA.IV.3.1-3

Resources: Story of Yeh Shen (Chinese Cinderella story)
Materials: Colored Sharpies
Pencil & Eraser Yarn
Wooden Tongue Depressors Beads

Read Yeh-Shen, Intro to history of writing and significance of slat books to language and literature in China, examples, practice design with reference to a story-emphasis illustration, final design with pencils, wooden sticks and colored Sharpies, add yarn, beads and knots between each stick.
During the time of the Ch'in and Han dynasties, a cave chief named Wu married two wives and each gave birth to baby girls. Before long Chief Wu and one wife died leaving one baby, Yeh-Shen, to be reared by her stepmother. The stepmother didn't like Yeh-Shen for she was more beautiful and kinder than her own daughter so she treated her poorly. Yeh-Shen was given the worse jobs and the only friend she had was a beautiful fish with big golden eyes.

Each day the fish came out of the water onto the bank to be fed by Yeh-Shen. Now Yen-Shen had little food for herself but she was willing to share with the fish. Her stepmother hearing about the fish disguised herself as Yen-Shen and enticed the fish from the water. She stabbed it with a dagger, and cooked the fish for dinner.

Yeh-Shen was distraught when she learned of the fish's death. As she sat crying she heard a voice and looked up to see a wise old man wearing the coarsest of clothes and with hair hanging down over his shoulders. He told her that the bones of the fish were filled with a powerful spirit, and that when she was in serious need she was to kneel before the bones and tell them of her heart's desires. She was warned not to waste their gifts.

Yeh-Shen retrieved the bones from the trash heap and hid them in a safe place. Time passed and the spring festival was nearing. This was a time when the young people gathered in the village to meet one another and to find husbands and wives.

Yeh-Shen longed to go to the festival but her stepmother wouldn't allow it because she feared that someone would pick Yeh-Shen rather than her own daughter. The stepmother and the daughter left for the festival leaving Yeh-Shen behind. Yeh-Shen wanting desperately to go asked the bones for clothes to wear to the festival. Suddenly she was wearing a beautiful gown of azure blue with a cloak of kingfisher feathers draped around her shoulders. On her feet were beautiful slippers. They were woven of golden threads in a pattern of a scaled fish and the soles were made of solid gold. When she walked she felt lighter than air. She was warned not to lose the slippers.

Yeh-Shen arrived at the festival and soon all were looking her way. The daughter and stepmother moved closer to her for they seemed to recognize this beautiful person. Seeing that she would be found out, Yeh-Shen dashed out of the village leaving behind one of the golden slippers. When she arrived home she was dressed again in her rags. She spoke again to the bones, but they were now silent.

Saddened she put the one golden slipper in her bedstraw. After a time a merchant found the lost slipper, and seeing the value in the golden slipper sold it to a merchant who gave it to the king of the island kingdom of T'o Han. Now the king wanted to find the owner of this tiny beautiful slipper. He sent his people to search the kingdom but no one’s foot would fit in the tiny golden slipper. He had the slipper placed on display in a pavilion on the side of the road where the slipper had been found with an announcement that the shoe was to be returned to the owner.

The king’s men waited out of site. All the women came to try on the shoe. One dark night Yeh-Shen slipped quietly across the pavilion, took the tiny golden slipper and turned to leave, but the king’s men rushed out and arrested her. She was taken to the king who was furious for he couldn’t believe that any one in rags could possibly own a golden slipper.

As he looked closer at her face he was struck by her beauty and he noticed she had the tiniest feet. The king and his men returned home with her where she produced the other slipper. As she slipped on the two slippers her rags turned into the beautiful gown and cloak she had worn to the festival. The king realized that she was the one for him.

They married and lived happily ever after. However, the stepmother and daughter were never allowed to visit Yeh-Shen and were forced to continue to live in their cave until the day they were crushed to death in a shower of flying stones.