



EduTrend Contents

W4C · MULTICULTURAL ARTS · MIDDLE SCHOOL

East Asian Brush Calligraphy

Learn basic strokes with brush and ink

Ages 12–14

Level: Intermediate

60 minutes

Individual · up to 30

Activity 04

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 student worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 04 · AT A GLANCE

East Asian Brush Calligraphy

Students discover calligraphy as a respected art form in China, Japan and Korea. They learn the Four Treasures of the Study, practise brush holding and the basic strokes in the character yong, meaning eternal, and write a character with a meaning chosen from a list.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session students can:

- describe calligraphy's status and tools in East Asian cultures;
- hold a brush correctly and control pressure;
- write basic strokes and follow stroke order;
- evaluate their characters for balance and energy.

KEY WORDS

calligraphy · brush · ink · inkstone · stroke order · character · Four Treasures · balance

CURRICULUM LINKS

Art and design: mark-making and line. Geography and history: East Asian cultures. Languages: writing systems.

1**DISCOVER**

Meet the tradition

2**LISTEN**

Hear its people and meanings

3**EXPLORE**

Try the technique

4**CREATE**

Make your response

5**REFLECT**

Respect and connect

6**SHARE**

Present with credit

Materials (per student)

- Calligraphy brushes or soft round brushes
- Black ink or watered-down black paint
- Newsprint or practice paper, felt underlays
- Character sheets with stroke order
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Practise the basic strokes yourself.
- Prepare stroke-order sheets for simple characters with meanings.
- Cover tables and prepare water pots.
- Find images of calligraphy by master calligraphers.

SAFETY

Ink stains: aprons on and cover tables. Clean brushes carefully. No special hazards.

ACTIVITY 04 • SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Slow, confident strokes look better than careful hesitant ones: encourage one breath per stroke.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–10 min Hook	Show calligraphy scrolls and a calligrapher at work.	<i>"Why might writing be treated as art?"</i>
10–20 min Tools	Introduce brush, ink, paper and inkstone, and the upright brush hold.	<i>"How does pressure change the line?"</i>
20–35 min Strokes	Practise the strokes in yong following stroke order.	<i>"Which stroke is hardest to control?"</i>
35–50 min Characters	Write a chosen character, such as those for mountain, water or friend.	<i>"Is your character balanced?"</i>
50–60 min Critique	Select your best attempt and evaluate it.	<i>"Where does the character have the most energy?"</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Write a chosen character with correct stroke order and controlled brush pressure, and justify why your best attempt is balanced.

ACTIVITY 04 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The culture and craft in brief

Calligraphy, the art of beautiful writing, is one of the most respected art forms in China, Japan and Korea. The Four Treasures of the Study are the brush, ink, paper and inkstone. Calligraphers hold the brush upright and vary pressure to create thick and thin strokes.

The Chinese character yong, meaning eternal or forever, is traditionally used to teach basic strokes because it contains the main types of stroke. Characters are written in a set stroke order, generally from top to bottom and left to right. A calligrapher's style is judged on balance, rhythm and the energy of each stroke.

Common ideas to listen for

- "Calligraphy is just neat handwriting." It is an art form with many styles.
- "Stroke order does not matter." It affects balance and flow.
- "Going over a stroke fixes it." Calligraphers write each stroke in one movement.

Adapting the activity

Support

Use a pen or felt brush pen on a traced grid.

Stretch

Compare two calligraphy styles, such as regular script and cursive script.

WORKSHEET 1

The Four Treasures

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Name and describe each tool.

Tools

Treasure	What it is used for
Brush	
Ink	
Paper	
Inkstone	

WORKSHEET 2

Stroke practice

Practise the strokes.

Strokes of yong

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for practicing the strokes of the character 'yong'.

Practise each stroke in order in the boxes.

WORKSHEET 3

Self-critique

Evaluate your best character.

Character and meaning

Why this attempt is best

One target

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight students; copy as needed.

Student	Describes tools and status	Controls brush pressure	Evaluates balance

Suggested codes: W = working towards • E = expected • G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

East Asian Brush Calligraphy is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents W4C Multicultural Arts programme (middle school, level: intermediate). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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