# Integrated Art Lesson Title: Painless Paper Cuts

**Description and Overall Focus:** Students will learn how to make a Chinese paper cut at the significance of this form of art to the Oriental culture.

**Length of Lesson**
45 minutes – 1 hour

**Grade Range**
Middle School & Upper Elementary

**Sunshine State Standards**
(see attached)

**Objective(s)**
The objective of this lesson is to teach students some of the art used in the Asian culture and its importance in their celebrations. They will also have the opportunity to learn about the upcoming “Exploding The Lotus” exhibit at the Art and Culture Center, Hollywood.

**Materials:**
- Panda bear template photocopied on white paper
- Small sharp pointed scissors (fingernail scissors are the best!)
- Black construction paper to place behind the cut-out panda
- Glue stick
- (If time allows) Dragon template photocopied on white paper

**Introductory activity**
The lesson will begin with a short description of the upcoming “Exploding The Lotus” exhibition that will be held at the Art and Culture Center, Hollywood from February 28th - March 25th. This exhibit will feature from Asia and many other cultural groups. The students will also be given information about Chinese Paper Cuts and the history and uses of this fascinating art form.

**Core activity**
Students will begin by taking the panda bear template and carefully cutting and removing the black areas leaving open holes. They then will glue their white cut-out paper onto the black construction paper provided. This will complete the project and help the students see the finished panda. If time permits, they can try making the dragon paper cut.

**Closure activity**
Students will display their finished projects so that I can comment on how they did. At this time, I will let them know that they removed the black “positive shapes” and that the white “negative shapes” were left.

**Assessment**
Students will have learned the Chinese word for paper cuts, have heard typical Asian music and created an art project that is typical of this culture.

**Teacher follow-up idea**
Attached to this lesson is a paper cut template of a lotus flower. This is an opportunity for the students to create another project using the same principles. When complete,
the flower can be placed on a window as the Chinese do.

**Student follow-up idea**  
Students can design their own paper cut or look at the website listed below for more ideas.

**Book/Web references**  
Making Chinese Paper Cuts by Corinne Borja  
www.isaacnet.com/culture/papercut.htm

Art and Culture Center of Hollywood  
www.artandculturecenter.org  
Lesson plan prepared by Sherie Tengbergen, artist and educator
Panda Bear Template
Print on white paper and then cut and remove all areas marked "R".
Finished white template of Panda Bear glued on top of black construction paper.
Begin by cutting out the shaded areas with a pair of small scissors. Then cut along the outline leaving the image of two dragons facing each other.
Cut and remove the white paper areas until you are left with a black positive "lotus flower."