

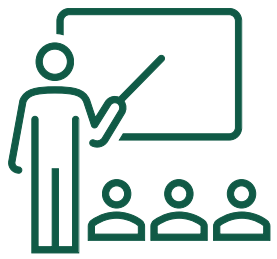
Myths and History

Explore the ancient past through stories and places



A TEACHER LED ACTIVITY

Listen to the Story - Explore the Garden - Discover Connections



Instructions

Teacher led activity

This resource is designed for teachers leading students on a guided tour of the Chinese Garden of Friendship. Its purpose is to help school groups explore the Garden while making meaningful connections to classroom learning for Stage 1: *People learn about the past by engaging with stories, images, objects and sites.*

Duration: 45- 60 minutes.

Students will:

- Hear the legend of Chang'e, the Moon Goddess.
- Explore the Garden's Moon Gate, water features, plants, and rocks.
- Connect elements of the story to locations within the Garden

Suggested flow of the visit:

- Story Time: Read the provided story, '*The Legend of Chang'e*'
- Garden Exploration: Visit key features while observing and discussing
- Reflection & Creative Activity: Encourage students to respond through drawing and discussion.

Printing:

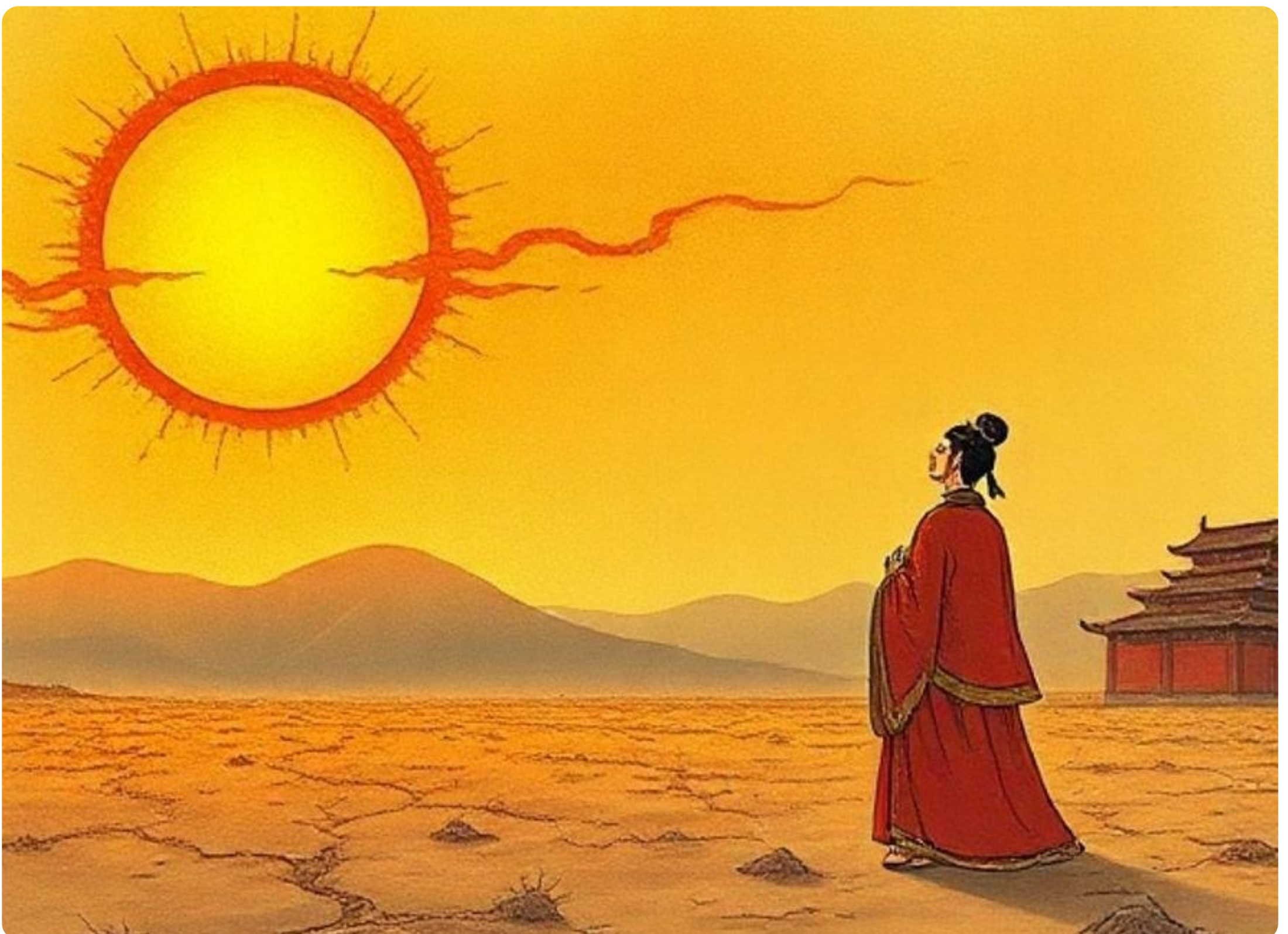
The final 2 pages are student friendly pages, and it is recommended that enough copies of these pages are printed to supply the students. The rest of the pages should be provided to all accompanying teachers.



Story

In China, families celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival, a time to give thanks for the harvest and look up at the bright, round moon. Long ago, a story was told about how the Moon came to be so special. This is the legend of Hou Yi and Chang'e.

A long, long time ago in ancient China, the Jade Emperor, ruler of the heavens, had ten sons. Each son took the form of a blazing sun. One by one, they were meant to rise into the sky, taking turns to shine their light upon the Earth. But the sons grew restless. "Let's play together!" they cried. And so, one morning, all ten suns rose at once. The heat scorched the land. Rivers dried, crops turned to dust, and animals had nowhere to hide. People prayed for relief. In a quiet village lived a skilled archer named Hou Yi and his wise wife, Chang'e. Together they saw the suffering of the people, and Hou Yi grew desperate. He began to think of a plan...





Story

Early the next morning, Hou Yi made ready. He slipped on one shoe at a time. He placed his nine arrows in a satchel and slung his bow across his shoulder. The sun blazed above, the ground burned beneath his feet, but still Hou Yi climbed. Step by steady step, he made his way up the mountain in the scorching heat. At last, he reached the peak. He stood firm, drew his bow, and aimed at the first sun.

Now, let's imagine we are Hou Yi.

Pull back your bowstring...

Whoosh!

The arrow flew through the sky.

Boom!

The first sun exploded into sparks, drifting into the heavens as stars.





Story

One by one, Hou Yi shot down the suns until only one remained. The world cooled, rivers flowed again, and crops grew strong. The people rejoiced, and even the Jade Emperor was moved. To honour Hou Yi, the Queen Mother of the West gave him a gift – a shining elixir of life. It was enough for two people to share. If Hou Yi and Chang'e drank it together, they could live forever side by side. If you had a magic potion, what would you do with it? But Chang'e, in her wisdom, said they should wait. "Let us drink it when the full Moon shines brightest," she said, "so our forever life begins beneath its light."





Story

One day, when Hou Yi was away, a thief crept into their home. He tried to snatch the elixir for himself. Chang'e knew she could not let it be stolen. She quickly raised the elixir to her lips and drank.

At once, she felt her feet lift from the ground. Her body grew lighter and lighter. She began to float, her sleeves fluttering like wings. Can you imagine floating like Chang'e? Close your eyes, stretch out your arms, and feel yourself rise into the sky.





Story

Legend has it that Chang'e flew all the way to the moon, where she lives to this day. From there, she watches over the earth and all the plants that grow upon it. It is said that when the Moon is brightest, you can see her standing there, shining in the night sky. From that night on, Hou Yi would look up when the Moon was full and wave to his beloved wife.

Even now, every year, on the 15th day of the 8th month, families in China gather to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival. This is the time when the Moon is fullest and brightest, and people give thanks for the harvest, light lanterns, and share sweet, round mooncakes. All the while, we look to the Moon and remember Chang'e, the Moon Goddess, who still watches over us.





Explore the Garden

Teacher Instructions (do not read aloud):

After the story, guide students through the Garden and explore how it connects to the story. Use the prompts below to support discussion and exploration. A student version is provided on the next page.

Read to Students:

The story of Chang'e is part of Chinese culture, just like this Garden. Chinese gardens have a long history and special meaning. Some parts of this Garden connect to the Moon Goddess, such as the moon, water, rocks, flowers, or quiet spaces, while others reflect China's history. Let's be Story Detectives as we explore.

PAVILION

The Moon is a symbol of family and togetherness. **Moon Gates** are special doorways found in Chinese Gardens.

- Step through the circle—what can you see?
- Why do you think it's called a "Moon Gate"?

Story Link:

- What can you see through the Gate that reminds you of the sky?

WATER

Water is used in Chinese gardens to create a feeling of calm and balance.

- Listen to the **waterfall**—what does it sound like?
- How does the water make you feel?

Story Link:

- Imagine floating above the garden like in the story—what might you see in the water below?

PLANTS

- Can you find a plant you like? Why do you like it?
- What shapes or colours can you see?

Story Link:

The **Osmanthus** flower is part of Chang'e's story and is connected to the magic drink.

- Can you find this flower? What does it smell like?
- Why is it important in the story?

ROCKS

Rocks are very important in Chinese gardens they represent **mountains**.

- Touch a rock—does it feel smooth or rough?
- Do any rocks look like mountains or shapes?

Story link:

- Can you find a rock that reminds you of the moon?
- What else do the rocks make you think of from the story?



Explore the Garden

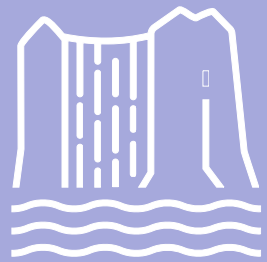
Step through a circle frame

Pavilions



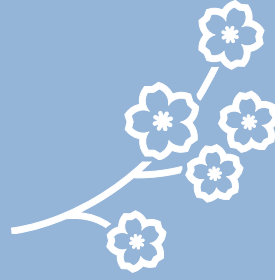
Listen to the sounds of a waterfall

Water



Find a plant you like

Plants

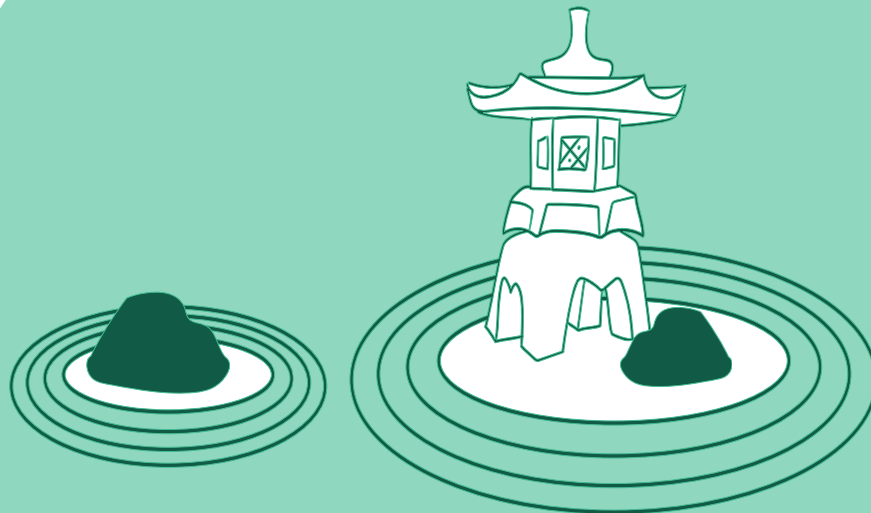


Trace the lines and bumps of a rock

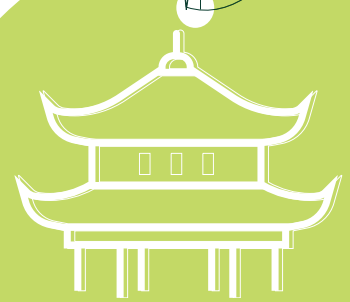
Rocks



Find these 4

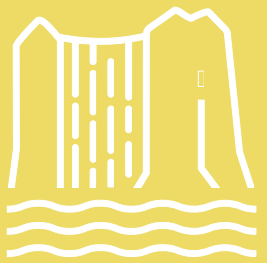


match them to the story



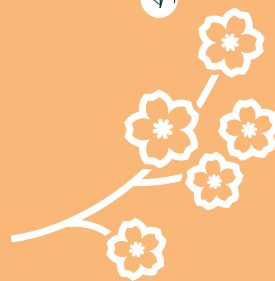
Pavilions

Make the shape of a moon with your hands



Water

Water reflects the sky. Imagine floating above it.



Plants

Find the Osmanthus flower



Rocks

Find a rock that looks like a mountain



Creative Activity

Draw your favourite part of the story as though it happened in the Garden.

A large, empty rounded rectangular frame with a dark green border, intended for a drawing. It occupies the central portion of the page.