Yeh-Shen: A Cinderella Story from China

(Social Studies activities)

**Day 1:**

* Read aloud Look What Came from China
* Students will record something that came from China on their recording sheet (stop 3 times while reading to allow time for this)
* Make a class chart of things that came from China—add pictures if you want to.

**Day 2:**

* Look back through the story of Yeh-Shen focusing on the illustrations. Notice the fish in most illustrations. Discuss that the Chinese people use animals to symbolize things that are important to them. In China, the fish symbolizes abundance. Talk about the meaning of this word. Some questions you might ask after discussing:
  + *Do you think the fish provides an abundance of things for Yeh-Shen?*
  + *Why do you think the fish is an important character in this story?*
* Students will write to answer the last question written above. (There is a handout for this.)
* Remind students that the Chinese gave us kites and show them the fish pattern so they can create a fish kite of their own. Students will need 2 copies of the fish pattern. I had them draw an eye on each fish before they colored. The confusing part is that they will need place the fish so their mouths are opened towards each other (< >) and draw an eye on each one. This will seem like one side is upside down, but it will work out in the end. My students finished coloring their fish during morning work the following morning—you may even need to allow the 3rd day of Social Studies instruction for them to finish coloring…or make the fish pattern smaller. ([www.thecraftyclassroom.com/CraftJapanCarpKite.html](http://www.thecraftyclassroom.com/CraftJapanCarpKite.html) is a website that has directions for making a different fish windsock. It is actually a Japanese craft, but since it is a fish I don’t think that would matter. )

**Day 3:**

* Complete fish kite—add streamers and attach writing completed during day 2.

**Day 4:**

* Read Lion Dancer: Ernie Wan’s Chinese New Year
* Discuss the tradition of Chinese New Year
* Watch some actual Lion dances on YOUTUBE

**Additional Resources:**

Brainpop Jr.—Ancient China (it covers many of the inventions that are in the book from day 1)

United Streaming has 2 songs that are from China

Compare the nonfiction text to the fiction text