

Lesson Title: An Introduction to Feng Shui

Class and Grade level(s): Grades 9-12, Consumers and Business

Goals and Objectives - The student will:

- Be familiar with the concept of *feng shui* and other aspects of Chinese culture
- Create a resource list of internet sites on *feng shui*

Time required/class periods needed: 2-3 class sessions

Primary source bibliography:

American Feng Shui Institute—Frequently Asked Questions. <http://www.amfengshui.com/faq/>

Carroll, Robert Todd. "The Skeptics Dictionary". <http://www.skeptdic.com/fengshui.html>

Introduction to Feng Shui Power Point on youtube:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_QnJFWrU2Q

Feng Shui: Creating Environments for Success and Well-Being (1999)
http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/feng_shui_creating_environments_for_success_and_well_being

Feng Shui Ultimate Resource. <https://www.thespruce.com/feng-shui-tips-for-beginners-1274536>

Hale, Gill. The Practical Encyclopedia of Feng Shui. Hermes House: 2002

<http://fengshuiforreallife.com/basics/>

Mickle, Kathryn. (Video) Find Balance and Harmony: A Feng Shui Tour. VHS
<http://www.amazon.com/Find-Balance-Harmony-Feng-Shui/dp/1889890049>

Moran, Elizabeth, Master Joseph Yu, and Master Val Biktashev. The Complete Idiot's Guide to Feng Shui, Second Edition. Alpha: 2002

Nava True, George. Look Before You Lease: Some Thoughts on Feng Shui
http://skeptdigest.awardspace.us/Some_Thoughts_On_Feng_Shui.html

DisneyWorld and feng shui: <https://audioboom.com/boos/759839-0003-disney-has-feng-shui>

Other resources used: n/a

Required materials/supplies: access to the internet, videos on feng shui, diagrams of housing locations, pictures of various buildings

Vocabulary: Feng Shui (风水 fung shway)—the words wind and water; Qi (气 ch'i) (chee)—the word for breath, energy, air, life force; Yin and Yang (阴阳 )—dark and light, opposites, feminine and masculine, balance; Luopan (罗盘仪)—compass, Bagua (八卦) – Eight Trigrams of the I Ching, Trigram

Procedure:

1. Introduction: Housing is one of the units studied in Consumers and Business. Factors that influence choice of shelter are discussed, and they include life stage, preferences, location (location, location) and amount of money available. For buyers of property in China (and perhaps elsewhere) another important factor to consider is *feng shui*. Discussion question: “If you were buying a home what factors would you look for in an ideal location?”
2. Class discussion on *feng shui* to assess what the students know or think they know about it. If you like, you can prepare a written quiz for this.

Discussion

What *feng shui* isn't: It isn't an Eastern philosophy grounded in superstition; it isn't a religion nor is it affiliated with any religion though many new-agers have claimed it as their own; it doesn't provide “cure-alls” for your problems; it isn't magic though it might feel like it

What *feng shui* is: It is an ancient Chinese art and science first developed about 6,000 years ago; it is based on observation and a combination of math, science, geology, and intuition; it is the study of the environment, places, people, time and how the energies of *qi* interact; it strives to balance the forces of yin and yang and to create harmony within your environment.

Schools of *feng shui*: There are three: form, compass, and black hat. The first two have merged into what is known as classical or traditional *feng shui*. Black hat schools began in the 70s and 80s “capitalizing” on the popularity of the tradition and offers “cures” such as mirrors, crystals, and red ribbons. Black hat is generally looked down on by traditional practitioners.

Who uses *feng shui* today? Feng shui is practiced throughout Asia and, increasingly, in the west. *Feng shui* masters are called upon to help individuals and businesses alike.

Here are some corporations who have used feng shui experts in the West:

Trump Towers in New York City
MGM Grand Hotel and the Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas
Sydney Harbor Casino and Hotel in Australia
DisneyWorld Hong Kong

Practical Aspects: Is it real? Superstition? Common sense? The theory of *qi* can't be proven, but it is the behind the idea of why we like to open a window in the spring, why open spaces and clean lines in a room are appealing, why ceiling fans are so popular (they keep the *qi* circulating).

Another practical aspect is “sight sheng.” Things that are tidy clean, organized appeal to most of us. Getting rid of clutter lets the *qi* flow more easily. According to *feng shui* masters, clearing out the clutter both literally and figuratively allows space for new riches to enter in. *Feng shui* or common sense?

Procedure cont.:

View diagrams and pictures of roads, houses, and buildings to for *feng shui* and common sense evaluation. Discuss.

Do a *feng shui* and common sense evaluation of the classroom. Make recommendations to improve the *qi* flow. Implement recommendations where possible.

Optional: Offer to evaluate other classrooms in the school.

Assessment/evaluation:

As part of the writing across the curriculum objective, after researching students will write choose a location and write an opinion paper on the "*feng shui*-ness" of that place citing source material to support their arguments. Paper should also include recommendations for improving the balance.