

**Lesson Title: Cricket Cages**

**Class and Grade level(s) Art, 2nd Grade**

**Goals and Objectives**

**The student will be able to:**

- identify a cricket cage
- create their own cricket cage out of clay
- work with the slab method of clay construction

**Time required/class periods needed 3 40 minute class periods**

**Primary source bibliography**

<http://www.asianartmall.com/cricketcagearticle.htm>

<http://www.jackboulware.com/featured/cricket-fighting-in-china>

Insect Musicians and Cricket Champions: A Cultural History of Singing Insects in China and Japan by Lisa Gail Ryan

**Other resources used**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5GQPsoI4hZY&NR=1>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8E6q9W8Ur2k&feature=related>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0UtOL6TZ3o&feature=related>

**Required materials/supplies**

- Clay
- Rolling stick
- Clay tools or a pencil

## **Vocabulary**

Cricket (蟋蟀 xīshuài)  
slab method

## **Procedure**

Ideally this will be done in conjunction with a science unit on insects.

1. Begin by sharing the book **Insect Musicians and Cricket Champions.** Make connections with their science class study of insects.
2. Discuss the historical background and importance of crickets throughout Chinese history.
3. View the Youtube sites listed to see and hear the actual crickets.
4. Have students draw their idea for a cricket cage.
5. Demonstrate how to roll a slab of clay and how to construct a small box.
6. Pass out clay, rollers and coversheets.
7. Allow to dry before firing them in the kiln.
8. Students will paint the outside of their cricket cages with acrylic paint or glaze.
9. Encourage students to create a cricket to live in their cage. This cricket can be drawn or modeled out of clay or paper.

A great collaboration project with the regular classroom teacher would be for the students to write a story about the cricket that lives in their cage.

## **Assessment/evaluation**

Students artwork will be assessed on the following:

Original sketch of cage

Successful implementation of slab technique

Paint or glaze work

Effort

