

Taichung City Dan Dun Cultural Exchange Exhibit Educator's Guide

Learn about Taiwan
and The Da Dun Fine Arts Exhibition of Taichung City



Flow Out by Kuan-Hui Lu

[Taichung City Da Dun Cultural Exchange Exhibition](#)

Jan. 16 - Feb. 28

The Institute of Texan Cultures, the Cultural Affairs Bureau, Taichung City, Taiwan, the East Asia Institute, and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office of Houston present the Taichung City Da Dun Cultural Exhibition. The exhibition presents 110 art pieces, including some works of previous prize winners of the 13th Da Dun Fine Art Exhibition. Categories include crafts, sculpture, digital art, photography, printmaking, watercolor painting, oil painting; glue color painting, seal engraving, calligraphy, and ink wash painting. The purpose of the exhibition is to introduce the American audience to the latest artistic development in Taiwan. For more information on the exhibit go to texancultures.com.

NOTE TO THE EDUCATOR

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For more information on the exhibition and Taichung City visit the following sites:

Rules and Regulations for the 13th Da Dun Fine Arts Exhibition of Taichung City

http://www.tccgc.gov.tw/english/07news_1.asp?m2=14&id=4856

Welcome to Taichung

<http://english.tccg.gov.tw>

Cultural Affairs Bureau, Taichung City

<http://www.tccgc.gov.tw/english/index.asp>

Taichung Travel

<http://travel.tccg.gov.tw/english/home.asp#>

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Exhibit Background for Educators

“About the “Da Dun Fine Arts Exhibition of Taichung City”

Around 1720, Chinese immigrants from mainland China built a settlement in central Taiwan upon a large mound of raised earth that would not be vulnerable to flooding. This area came to be known as “Da Dun” (“da” means *big* in Chinese, and “dun” means *mound*). Today it is also known as Taichung City.

Taichung City started to organize its Da Dun Fine Arts Exhibition in 1996 in order to create a platform for artists [to learn from each](#) other through collaboration. Initially, the exhibition was strictly a local event, displaying the works of residential artists in Taichung City. By 1999, it had expanded to the national level, and by 2002, it had become an international exhibition with more than a thousand artists participating annually.

There are eleven entry categories in the Da Dun Fine Arts Exhibition: crafts, sculpture, digital art, photography, printmaking, water color painting, oil painting, glue color painting, seal engraving, calligraphy, and ink wash painting. There is a monetary reward for the top three works of art, with first place artists receiving roughly \$6,200 [U.S. dollars].

The Da Dun Fine Arts Exhibition of Taichung City: 2009 Culture Exchange Exhibition in San Antonio presents 110 art pieces, including some works of previous Da Dun prize winners and the winning pieces of the 13th Da Dun Fine Art Exhibition. Organizers of the exhibition seek to showcase the latest artistic trends in Taiwan, while attracting more American participants in the competition.

Taiwan Tidbits: Background Information for the Educator

"*Ilha Formosa*" – Beautiful Island, a purported comment of Portuguese sailors, who are said to have been the first Westerners to lay eyes on the island.

BACKGROUND

- An 1895 military defeat forced China to cede **Taiwan** to Japan.
- **Taiwan** reverted to Chinese control after World War II .
- In 2000, **Taiwan** underwent its first peaceful transfer of power from the Nationalist to the Democratic Progressive Party.
- The island has prospered; it has become one of East Asia's "economic tigers."

PEOPLE

- Population: 23 million
- The native Taiwanese are descendants of Chinese who migrated from Fujian and Guangdong Provinces on the mainland.

EDUCATION

- Six years of elementary school and three years of junior high are required for all children.
- Ninety-six percent of junior high graduates continue their studies in a senior high or vocational school.
- Taiwan has an extensive higher education system with 163 institutions of higher learning.

LANGUAGES

- A majority of people in Taiwan speak Mandarin Chinese.
- Native Taiwanese and many others also speak one of the Southern Fujianese dialects, Min-nan, also known as Taiwanese.

CULTURE

- Taiwan's culture is a blend of its distinctive Chinese, Japanese, and Western influences.

CUISINE

- Pork, rice, and soy are very common ingredients.
- Seafood is very popular in its wide variety.
- Taiwan has an abundant supply of various fruit, such as papayas, melons, and citrus.



The 13th Da Dun Fine Arts Prizes

The following are the first-place winners for ten of the eleven categories in The Da Dun Fine Arts Exhibition of Taichung City: 2009 Culture Exchange Exhibition.

1. Watercolor Painting Category



Artistry: Spring Poem

Artist: Ze-Cing Sun

Prize: First Prize, the 13th Da Dun Fine Arts Exhibition of Taichung City, 2008

Description: Breeze creates ripples on the lake. Reflections over the water tremble. There is tranquility in action, and action in tranquility. Egrets are either standing or flying, conveying the dynamism of the picture. The powerful contrast of colors aptly sets off a sense of tension and uneasiness so as to represent the artist's impressions and expectations toward the current situation.

2. Oil Painting Category



Artistry: To Memorize the Struggle for a Better Future

Artist: Jen-Jay Koe

Prize: First Prize, the 13th Da Dun Fine Arts Exhibition of Taichung City, 2008

Description: I used the ladder to symbolize desires in the different stages of life. It is a magnificent view and aspirations of the mind seeing through the coat! The contour in the shape of "Taiwan" also implies an expectation for the future. The plaster underneath is covered with "negatives," in hoping to leave behind and memories of the past and to look forwards. For their whole existence, people seek for a good life, and before they can eventually achieve it, there will have been efforts to be made and struggles to be fought. In the end, they can achieve peace in the mind.

3. Seal Engraving Category



Artistry: Person Looks at this World Which by the Callous Look

Artist: Yi-Chin Lee

Prize: First Prize, the 13th Da Dun Fine Arts Exhibition of Taichung City, 2008

Description: I apply Chinese calligraphy techniques in making this seal engraving. In addition, I imitate the artistic spirit of Bai Shi Lao Ren to confront the subject directly, dividing the space and changing the lines, so as to create an alternative style.

4. Calligraphy Category

(Refer to “The Chinese Art of Calligraphy” lesson in the Asian Festival Educators’ Guide)



Artistry: “River of Haven” by Du Fu

Artist: Chi-Lin Wu

Prize: First Prize, the 13th Da Dun Fine Arts Exhibition of Taichung City, 2008

Description: Handwriting system from the Zhu State of the Zhangoung period. The structure is flat and square, full of tensions. I love it so much that I have imitated it to create this work, by using a visual effect of combining light and heavy, dry, and wet strokes.

5. Ink Wash Painting Category



Artistry: Commensal

Artist: Fu-Yuan Lin

Prize: First Prize, the 13th Da Dun Fine Arts Exhibition of Taichung City, 2008

Description: The ecology of wetlands in river mouths is under threat because of the unchecked human developments. Mangroves there are natural habits for various kinds of benthos, which in turn attract lots of seabirds. I hope that human beings become more environmental consciousness.

6. Crafts Category



Artistry: Solidness (Pottery)

Artist: Shao-Chi Lo

Prize: First Prize, the 13th Da Dun Fine Arts Exhibition of Taichung City, 2008

Description: I collected arecas ash and the earth under the trees to make porcelain glazes. The place of origin of these ingredients conveys a love to my homeland. The ash symbolizes destruction, and the earth symbolizes growth. The ash flows free downwards inside the inner curve, and then, the earth receives it through the outer strain. Life/inner spaces and death/outer spaces respond to, and consume each other. They circulate and accumulate freely and robustly in the universe.

7. Sculpture Category



Artistry: Crimson Roam – A Reality that Becomes a Fantasy

Artist: Chien-Ming Chio

Prize: Third Prize, the 13th Da Dun Fine Arts Exhibition of Taichung City, 2008

Description: In memory, we only recognize wherever we have visited before. However, in a time when visual cognitions are based on science, I wonder whether the idea “to see is to believe” has also become a “superstition.” Will acts like a reality that becomes a fantasy, or like “city roamer” in Walter Benjamin’s words. It searches both the value of self-existence, and the reality of conscious identities in urban jungles.

8. Photography Category



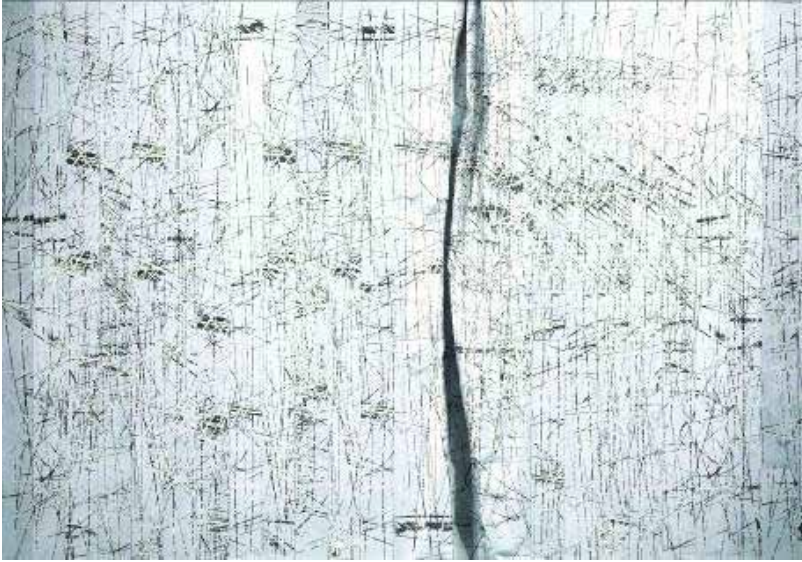
Artistry: Brood

Artist: Huang-Chuan Chen

Prize: First Prize, the 13th Da Dun Fine Arts Exhibition of Taichung City, 2008

Description: Living in a city of great variety, one sometimes needs to reflect on it, and to settle oneself down. Ready? Go!

9. Printmaking Category



Artistry: No Trace

Artist: Wen-Pi Tien

Prize: First Prize, the 13th Da Dun Fine Arts Exhibition of Taichung City, 2008

Description: By using real and false lines, this work explores the renewal and reconstruction of memories in the consciousness. The structure of juxtapositions and formations has helped to create a liner activism that can break away from the limitations of space, thus creating marks of an unlimited spirit, thanks to the constant expansion and liberation of a new consciousness.

10. Glue Color Painting Category



Artistry: Dream of Shell

Artist: Ying Tsao

Prize: First Prize, the 13th Da Dun Fine Arts Exhibition of Taichung City, 2008

Description: This work presents fantasy images of the mind in blue color tones. Seashells lie still on the seabed, bringing us astonishments, memories, yearning and sadness. They cause sensational thoughts, and they are tokens of lovers in a distant place. In sleepless nights, I listen to the sea, and recall past memories from the depth of the sea, letting them flow free in the colorful marine world.

Read and Reflect Lesson Plan

Grade Level: 4-8

Objectives:

- Students will be able to think deeply about the material they read and to relate this information to their prior knowledge and experiences.
- Students will be able to realize the importance of Taiwan as a member of a global society.

TEKS

Social Studies:

4.6A, 4.6B, 4.7C, 4.23A, 4.23C, 5.6A, 5.6B, 5.25C, 5.26A, 5.26C, 6.1B, 6.2A, 6.2B, 6.3A, 6.3C, 6.4D, 6.16A, 6.16B, 6.21B, 6.22A, 7.22A, 7.22B, 7.22D, 8.1B, 8.27B, 8.30C, 8.31A, 8.31B, 8.32A

English Language Arts and Reading: (4-8)

4.1 C, 4.2A, 4.3B, 4.4A, 4.7A, 4.7B, 4.7C, 4.7D, 4.7E, 4.8A, 4.8C, 4.9B, 4.10A, 4.10B, 4.10D, 4.10F, 4.10G, 4.10H, 4.10K, 4.10L, 4.11A, 4.11B, 4.11C, 4.12D, 4.13A, 4.14B, 4.14C, 4.15F, 4.17D

Materials: Student Read and Reflect Handout

Procedure:

1. Explain the functions of the response notes to students. Stress that they are allowed to express ideas, feelings, questions, and opinions. Point out that there are no “right answers” in response notes. Successful response captures high-quality student-text interaction.
2. Distribute the Student Read and Reflect Handout.
3. Evaluate.

Evaluation:

The response journal may be viewed as a piece of ongoing assessment. Student entries can be evaluated when teacher reads students’ notes, when students share as a whole class, when students have literature circles, or when students have individual conferences with the teacher.

Background on the Technique:

Read and Reflect

Writing is a powerful learning tool. Students can clarify their ideas, integrate background knowledge with new information, and deepen their understanding through writing. Whether called reader’s responses, dialectic notebooks, or response notebooks, this activity engages the learner with the text providing a valuable learning experience. This is a “sophisticated note-taking device” and according to College Board, “By the time they have finished, this column (the response column) represents an intellectual history of their reading experience.”

Read and Reflect Benefits the Learner in the Following Ways:

- Slows down the reading process, forcing the reader to pay attention and reflect.
- Students organize their thoughts.
- Students learn to monitor their own understanding.
- Forces students to make the connection between prior knowledge and the current information.
- Helps the reader track their reading.
- Teachers can redirect lessons based on it.
- Helps prepare readers with strong comprehension skills for testing.
- Engages readers in higher-level thinking.
- Expands class discussion.
- Allows for individualized learning.

Source: College Board Connect to College Success: Pre-AP: Interdisciplinary Strategies for English and Social Studies, Sample Activity: Dialectical Notebooks Guide, 2004.

Student Read and Reflect Handout

Directions: Read the passage provided and respond in the right-hand column as directed by your teacher.

Text

Response

About the “Da Dun Fine Arts Exhibition of Taichung City”

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Text**Response**

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The ITC Squares Lesson Plan

Grade Level: 2-6

Objectives:

- Identify Taiwan on the world map
- Recognize examples of Taiwanese culture
- Realize the importance of Taiwan as a member of a global society
- Appreciate the necessity for customs and celebrations
- Check the knowledge of Taiwanese history by playing the ITC squares game

TEKS

Social Studies:

2.1A, 2.1B, 2.5A, 2.6A, 2.6B, 2.6C, 2.8D, 2.9A, 2.9B, 2.17E, 2.18A, 2.19B, 3.1A, 3.2B, 3.4A, 3.4B, 3.4D, 3.12B, 3.17A, 4.6A, 4.6B, 4.7C, 4.23A, 4.23C, 5.6A, 5.6B, 5.25C, 5.26A, 5.26C, 6.1B, 6.2A, 6.2B, 6.3A, 6.3C, 6.4D, 6.16A, 6.16B, 6.21B, 6.22A

Materials: World map, Fun Facts About Taiwan handout (Appendix A), computer, access to the Internet, [The ITC squares game](#)

Procedure:

1. Locate Taiwan on the world map.
2. Read the Fun Facts About Taiwan handout.
3. Divide class into two teams.
4. Play the ITC squares game.

Evaluation

Class participation and teacher observation

Suggested Taiwanese History Reading List

1. *Taiwan: A New History* by Murray Rubenstein (Editor)
2. *The Island of Formosa: Past and Present* by James Davidson
3. *Japanese Rule in Formosa* by Yosaburo Takekoshi
4. *Statecraft and Political Economy on the Taiwan Frontier, 1600-1800* by John Robert Shepherd
5. *Between Assimilation and Independence: the Taiwanese Encounter Nationalist [China](#), 1945-1950* by Steven E. Phillips
6. *The Japanese Colonial Empire, 1895-1945* by Ramon H. Myers (Editor), Mark R. Peattie (Editor)
7. *Through Formosa* by Owen Rutter
8. *Formosa Betrayed* by George Kerr
9. *Taiwan: A Political History* by Denny Roy
10. *China's Island Frontier: Studies in the Historical Geography of Taiwan* by Ronald G. Knapp (Editor)
11. *Economic Development of Taiwan, 1860-1970* by Samuel P. S. Ho

Appendix A

Fun Facts About Taiwan

- The island of Taiwan is located in the Western Pacific between Japan and the Philippines off the south-east coast of China.
- Taiwan is about the same size as Switzerland or Belgium.
- The other official name for Taiwan is Republic of China.
- Taiwan is often called the "*Ilha Formosa*" which in Portuguese means Beautiful Island. It is also called the "The Kingdom of the Corals."
- Taipei is the capital of Taiwan and it is also one of the most populated cities.
- Taiwan's total population is 23 million people.
- The geography of Taiwan isn't plain. Mountains cover 70% of Taiwan. The highest point in Taiwan is the Jade Mountain; it is 12,962 feet tall.
- Taiwan flag is also known as the "white sun in blue sky."
- Mandarin Chinese is the official language on the island and is spoken by most Taiwanese people. Also, due to 50 years of Japanese rule. Many people born before 1940 are still fluent in Japanese.
- There are two seasons in Taiwan: The hot season, which lasts from May to October, and the cool season, which lasts from November until March.
- Fish is the most popular meat; chicken is also used, with beef, pork and lamb less popular due to cost.
- Popular fruits and vegetables include sweet potatoes, pineapple, taro roots, bitter melon, black beans, pickled radishes, peanuts, chili peppers, parsley, and basil.
- The national flower of Taiwan is plum blossoms.

References

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