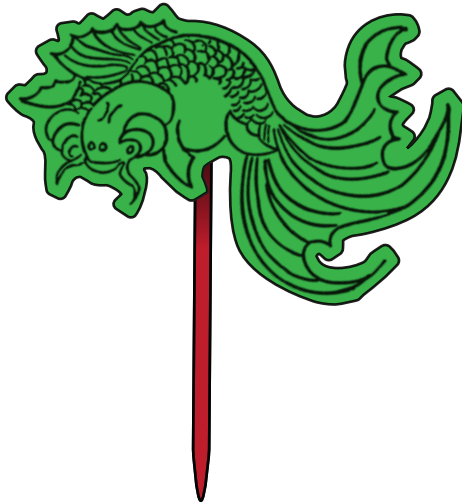


Make a Chinese Shadow Puppet



The Mid-Autumn Moon Festival is a festival dedicated to the harvest moon. It is celebrated in China and in Chinese communities around the world. The festival often falls in mid September, depending on the Lunar Calendar. It is said that the moon appears at its brightest on this night. Shadow puppet theater is a popular way of telling the moon goddess legend in China. Make your own shadow puppets and tell a moon story of your own.

Materials

- cardstock
- scissors
- pencil
- tape
- skewers or chopsticks
- lamp
- light-colored bedsheet

Instructions

1. Think of what story you are going to tell. What characters do you need? Create an outline for each of your characters on a piece of cardstock. Think about how you want to arrange the arms or legs of your character to make a lively shadow.
2. Cut out your character(s) carefully.
3. Tape a skewer or chopstick to one side of your character. Make sure the tape is secure. Set up your theater. Lay your sheet between two chairs or over the side of a table. Place the lamp behind the curtain with enough room for you and your puppet to move around.
4. To put on a show, hold your puppets close against the curtain, with the light behind you. Remember that you can flip your character to face different sides during the show. Have your audience sit on the other side of the curtain and let the show begin.

Further Reading

To read the moon goddess legend and about other Moon Festival traditions check this book out of your local library:

Simonds, Nina, Leslie Swartz and Boston Children's Museum. **Moonbeams, Dumplings & Dragon Boats: A Treasury of Chinese Holiday Tales, Activities & Recipes.** Gulliver Books: 2002.