

Ming Mei's Adventures

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Story Building Activity

Take Ming Mei on an adventure to Thinking day, the movies, dance class or an activity with your group.

This book/kit represents the laser cut patch of Ming Mei. Whenever someone sees Ming Mei on your vest, totebag, or banner they will know that you have contributed to Ming Mei's adventure. She is from Switzerland. Included in this kit is an introduction about her life, culture, and clothing she wears. In addition, there are crafts, games, and recipes that will enhance your knowledge of her country and lifestyle.

Read Ming Mei's story and take the laser cut patch of Ming Mei on an adventure of your own. There are several pages of decorated stationery to write your adventures with Ming Mei on. Don't forget to draw a picture of you and Ming Mei. Pass your book around to your other friends so they can have fun with their own Ming Mei patch as well. If you run out of pages to write your stories on, you

can always add more pages to the book or write on the back of the pages.

After you have completed your adventures with Ming Mei you can **mail** or **email** copies of your stories to Patchwork Designs, Inc. and we will place these stories on Ming Mei's web page it will be fun to see where Ming Mei goes.

Email: orders@patchworkdesigns.net

We will not include full names on the website due to security issues. You will want to keep a laser cut Ming Mei for yourself so you can remember the adventure you went on with her.

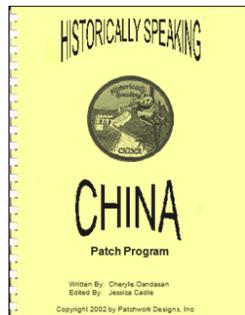
These kits books can be shared to write stories in but can only be copied for the activity sheets, stationery pages, or puzzles.

Great for studying the country for Thinking Day events, winter holiday vacation, summer vacation, or other group projects.

The recipes and activities presented in this kit are different than the activities in the China manual listed below.

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OTHER PATCHES AND BOOKS ABOUT CHINA

- *Historically Speaking China patch and manual.*



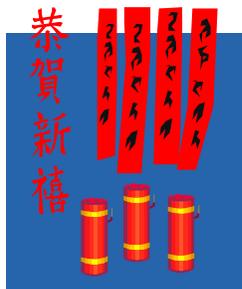
Ming Mei



Ming Mei's Adventures

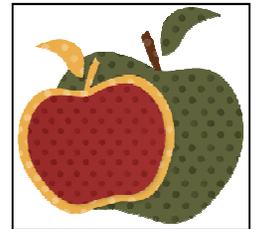
Hello, my name is Ming Mei. I live near Beijing in China. In China, we speak Chinese. My favorite holiday is Chinese New Year.

Gung Hay Fat Choy! That means best wishes and congratulations for the New Year. We watch for the large colorful dragon parading through the streets. Fireworks and firecrackers are displayed to ward off the bad luck for the new year. I add a year to my age on New Year's Day, no matter what day I was born.



Our festival is the start of the new lunar year. The Lunar year calendar is followed by the cycles of the moon. One year the new year could be in January and next year in February, depending on the moon phases. Each new year is given the name of an animal. It is named after one of the twelve animal symbols on the zodiac calendar. I was born in the year of the horse.

We spend many days preparing for the new year. Mama helps me decorate the house in the colors of orange and red to bring joy to our family. We also create pyramids of oranges and apples. In school, we decorate red and orange scrolls with Chinese characters on it such as long life, love, honesty, and happiness to hang in our windows at home.



On New Year's Eve, our family gathers together and all the children are given red *hongbao* envelopes filled with money. They are given to us by our parents, aunts, uncles and elder relatives. We place the money in the bank to use for our future. In return, I give my relatives apples and oranges for good luck. Afterwards, we sit around the table and enjoy all kinds of festive foods. My favorite food to eat is *nian gao*, [nee-uhn go], new year sweet cakes.





On New Year's Day, we wear new clothes and start the celebration by attending the carnival in our town. We get to watch traditional dances, karate, opera, and lion dancing. When dancers are performing the lion dance they wear a large colorful lion head and dance, among the streets. We give them some of our change as a donation to good fortune into the new year.

This year I am going to be carrying paper lanterns in the parade with my friends from school. We created them in all shapes, colors, and sizes. I decorated my lantern with birds. We carry the lanterns through the parade in hopes that it will light our way to a brighter and happier future.



Why don't you take me with you on an adventure and show me what your life is like? Use the following pages to write about our adventures together.

Bibliography

Orlando, Louise. 1993. *The Multicultural Game Book*, Scholastic, New York, NY.

Robins, Deri. 1994. *The Kids Around the World Cookbook*, Kingfisher, New York, NY.

Branson, Mary. 1992. *Fun Around the World*, New Hope, Birmingham, AL.

<http://chinesefood.about.com/od/chinesenewyear/ss/baked-nian-gao.htm>

http://beadpower.com/beads_and_jewelry.htm

Recipes

Nian Gao [New Years Sweet Cake]

- 4 1/2 cups glutinous rice flour (sticky rice flour)
- 3/4 cup of vegetable oil
- 3 large eggs
- 2 1/2 cups milk
- 1 cup granulated white sugar
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 Tablespoon of baking soda
- 1 1/2 - 1 3/4 cups mashed (Gura-an) red azuki beans [canned]



You will need to purchase the rice flour and beans at an Asian Market. Preheat oven to 350° F. Spray a 8 inch round pan with non stick spray. Place the rice flour, white sugar, brown sugar and baking soda in a large bowl. Mixing together thoroughly. Beat eggs in a separate bowl. Pour eggs, milk, and oil in the mixture and bet for 5 minutes on medium speed.

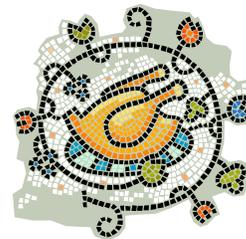
Spoon and spread in 1/2 of the batter on the bottom of the baking pan. Place in the oven for about 10 minutes.

Remove the pan from the oven. Spoon in the red azuki beans in the pan spreading them across the pan. Place the remaining batter on top of the beans.

Bake in oven at 350 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes. The cake is done when a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean.

Teriyaki Chicken Wings

- 2 tablespoons of soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon of Chinese five spice
- 1 tablespoon of lemon juice
- 2 green onions
- 1 tablespoon of honey
- 1 tablespoon of ketchup
- 12 chicken wings



Place the soy sauce, five spice, lemon juice, honey and ketchup in a small bowl and mix together. Chop the onions and place them in the bowl, stir together.

Place the chicken wings in a bowl, using a fork you prick the skins of the wings so the marinate will soak in.

Pour the mixture over the chicken wings coating the chicken. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and place in the refrigerator over night.

The next day, preheat the oven to 425 F. Line a cookie sheet with aluminum foil. Place the chicken on the cookie sheet careful not to overlap.

Cook for about 45 minutes turning over about 20 minutes into cooking. Serve with rice.

Games

Stir-Fry Turnover

A chair for everyone except one person

Index cards

Place all the chairs in a circle, with each player sitting in the chair. The extra player is "it" and they stand outside the circle.

MANGO

Each person that is playing is assigned a fruit or vegetable. Try to use some fruits or vegetables ate in China. Examples include: bamboo shoots, apricot, water chestnut, mango, pear, apple, and snow peas. Write the name of the fruit or vegetable on an index card and give one to each player. Write all the names of the fruits and vegetables on a piece of paper and give it to the person that is "it".

The person that is "it" calls the names of two fruits or vegetables. The participants that have those index cards exchange seats. While they are scrambling to exchange seats the person that is "it" tries to steal one of the seats. If they are successful then the person that is without a seat becomes "it".

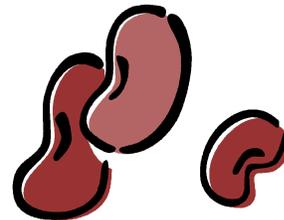
The person that is "it" may also call "stir -fry turnover" and all participants must change seats. The game continues until everyone is getting tired of playing.

Fan Tan

Paper and pencil

Handful of dried beans

Chopstick or pencil



Write the numbers 0 through 3 one on each corner of the piece of paper. You need four players to play this game. Each player then picks a number between 0 and 3 and writes their initials next to that number on the paper.

One player then takes a handful of beans and places it in the center of the paper. Using a chopstick or pencil count the beans out into 4 piles. Sliding them on each corner of the paper.

When all the beans are evenly distributed to each corner there will be some remaining beans in the middle. Count the number of beans in the center and the person whose number matches the number of beans in the middle is the winner.

Ming Mei's Word Search

R E D E N V E L O P E L S Y A
 V K I W I C Z U F V I E O F P
 U N C V S H R O H O G H N I P
 O L I U R F M K N N C U S R L
 E I U E L Y O D A T E J D E E
 B C F N R D A R A M O E Q W S
 I G N N A N O F T P R B J O F
 E U I A C R Y O A U B X O R T
 M Q W E D A Y R G W N K E K X
 G A N I H C A E H B T E R S M
 N H Z G S D Q L A V I T S E F
 I A N H E M I E F R P L S I N
 M U L T O H Y Y A S L M U P H
 G Q D D I T T F H O G E B M C
 L A N T E R N F R R V G Y W K

Find the following words in the puzzle above. Some may be two or three words, but they are found as one.

APPLES
 FESTIVAL
 GOOD LUCK
 LION DANCE
 ORANGES

CHINA
 FIREWORKS
 GUNG HAY FAT CHOY
 LUNAR YEAR
 PARADE

DANCE
 FORTUNE
 LANTERN
 MING MEI
 RED ENVELOPE

Crafts

Paper Fans A fan is used to cool themselves on hot days and for decoration on special holidays.

Colorful paper (8 1/2X 11)
 ribbon
 scissors
 hole punch
 stapler



If you are decorating your fan, draw your design before you fold it.

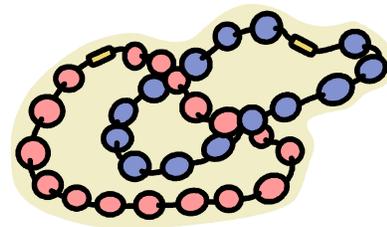
Fold the paper accordion style, starting at the shorter end of the paper.

Staple the fan about one inch from the bottom of the folded paper and punch a hole below the staple. Thread the ribbon through the hole and tie a bow. Spread the fan out one fold at a time carefully so that the paper doesn't rip.

Good Luck Bracelet Good luck bracelets are worn on New years to help with good luck in the new year. Continue to wear the bracelet throughout the year to bring you luck.

Stretch cord

Green beads-creativity and happiness
 Purple beads-intelligence
 Jade beads [light green]-brings harmony to your life
 Gray beads-self esteem
 Red beads-wealth and power
 White or pearl beads-imagination and sincerity
 Yellow beads-patience
 Black beads- freedom
 Pink beads-warmth and love
 Multi colored bead- global awareness

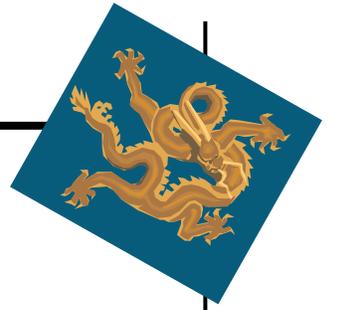


Choose to create a bracelet with one color beads or a variety of colors to represent different areas of good luck in the future.

Start by cutting a piece of elastic stretch cord to fit around your wrist plus two inches. Tie a knot at the end of the cord to keep the beads from falling off.

Begin stringing the beads on the string leaving string to tie a knot with the two ends of the cord.









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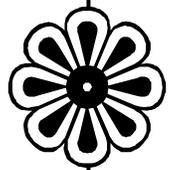
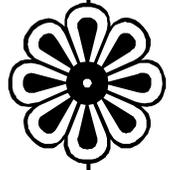
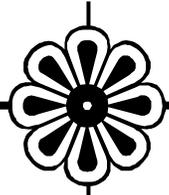
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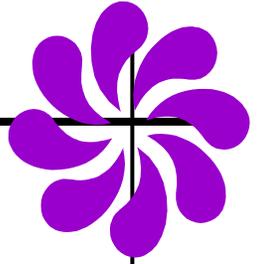
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SOLUTION TO WORD SEARCH

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 + K + + + + + + + + I E O F P
 + + C + + + + + + O G H + I P
 + L + U + F + + N N C + + R L
 E + U + L + O D A T + + + E E
 + C + N + D A R A + + + + W S
 I + N + A N O F T P + + + O +
 E + + A C R Y O A U + + + R +
 M + + E D A Y R G + N + + K +
 G A N I H C A E + + + E + S +
 N + + G + D + L A V I T S E F
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(Over, Down, Direction)

- APPLES (15, 1, S)
- CHINA (6, 10, W)
- DANCE (5, 9, NW)
- FESTIVAL (15, 11, W)
- FIREWORKS (14, 2, S)
- FORTUNE (6, 4, SE)
- GOODLUCK (9, 9, NW)
- GUNGHAYFATCHOY (1, 14, NE)
- LANTERN (1, 15, E)
- LIONDANCE (12, 1, SW)
- LUNARYEAR (2, 4, SE)
- MINGMEI (1, 13, N)
- ORANGES (7, 7, NE)
- PARADE (10, 7, SW)
- REDENVELOPE (1, 1, E)

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