





Mandarin Chinese Quarter 1 Study Guide

The Evolution of Chinese Characters 汉字的演化

	Oracle bone	Greater seal	Lesser seal	Traditional characters	Simplified characters
Ear				耳	耳
Horse				馬	马
Fish				魚	鱼
Mountain				山	山
Cloud				雲	云

Overview

Learning the Chinese language is easy as long as you understand its rules and how it has evolved over the years. Chinese characters came from pictures of objects in daily life that gradually evolved into text. Chinese characters have witnessed an incredibly long process of growth and development. It started more than 3000 years ago with Jiaguwen inscriptions carved on bones or tortoise shells during the Shang Dynasty. Since that time, Chinese Characters have evolved through the following stages: Jinwen (inscriptions on ancient bronze ware), Xiaozhuan (the lesser seal style Chinese characters of the Qin Dynasty), Lishu (the official script of the Han Dynasty, and Kaishu (the regular script of today). During the development process, drawings evolved into strokes, pictographic characters became symbols, and complex characters changed into more simple forms. Simplification has always been at the heart of the development of the Chinese Characters.

Guiding Question

How has Chinese characters evolved from pictographs into simple characters?

Lessons

- From Pictures to Characters
- Common Traditional Radicals
- Chinese Names and Self-introduction
- Pinyin Initial and Finals
- Classroom Expressions
- How to Type Chinese Characters

Individual Work

_____ Character writing (due in class)

Following the stroke order, trace and write the characters on the provided worksheets.

_____ Vocabulary cards (due in class)

Make vocabulary cards with index cards. Write the character on one side; sound and meaning on the other side. These cards will be used in the vocabulary test.

_____ Sentence pattern worksheets (due in class)

_____ Chinese character typing practice (due in class)

_____ Chinese name and self-introduction practice (due in class)

Group Work

Due: September 12th or 13th

Chinese Character Evolution Project & Presentation (process and examples need to be included)

We will discuss the details in class.

Assessment

Quiz, test, classwork/homework, presentation and project