

Mandarin Chinese Quarter 2 Study Guide

Four Treasures of the Study 文房四宝



Overview

Four Treasures of the Study (文房四宝 wén fāng sì bǎo) is an expression used to refer to the ink brush, inkstick, paper and ink stone used in Chinese calligraphy and painting. The name stems from the time of the Southern and Northern Dynasties (420-589 AD). Brushes (笔) and ink (墨) are two of the legendary “Four Treasures of the Study” tools of Chinese calligraphers, painters and poets over thousands of years. The other vital elements of culture are the rice paper (纸), and the inkstone (砚) for grinding the solidified ink sticks.

Guiding Question

What are the similarities and differences between four treasures of the study and modern school supplies?

Lessons

- School Supplies 文具
- Can we share the book? 我们可以一起看书吗?
- May I borrow ...? 我可以借...吗?
- Four Treasures of the Study 文房四宝
- Calligraphy 书法
- Chinese poems 古诗

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 using 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 poems and calligraph assignments (due 11/7 or 11/8)

_____ Recite Chinese poems (due 11/14 or 11/15)

Group Project and Presentation: Four Treasures of the Study

The following information needs to be included:

- What are the four treasures of the study? Please introduce in detail.
- How can we say and write the four items in Chinese?
- What is the origin/tradition?
- What is calligraphy? Please explain in detail and show some examples.

Due: 11/21 or 11/22

Assessment

Quiz, test, classwork/homework, presentation and project