

Teachers!

Please join us for class tours of two exhibitions exploring the history, traditions, and artistry of kites.

On view October 9, 2005 - January 8, 2006
at the Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University.

About Kites

Developed by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Services, this exhibition provides a colorful introduction to the science, and technological uses, of kites throughout the ages. (Did you know that a kite was used to lay the cable for the first suspension bridge across the Niagara River?)



Mini Kites: World on a Thread

This exhibition of miniature flying machines explores the far-flung history and ongoing ingenuity of kite makers from around the world. Ranging in length from seven inches to less than one quarter inch, the kites take a variety of whimsical shapes including a life-sized butterfly and a tiny box kite fashioned from a tea bag.

Hands-on Activities

All class tours will include two hands-on projects to make and take home: paper bag windsocks and miniature origami kites. Students will also enjoy a special ceiling installation of large kites by local makers Richard Dutton and Dan Flintjer.

Please contact Kate Koperski to register for school tours: (716) 286-8293 or kjk@niagara.edu.

Use these educational resources to create lesson plans to compliment your tour of *About Kites* and *Mini-Kites: World on a Thread*.

Books with Lesson Plans

Building Kites, Flying High with Math

Nancy Ann Belsky, 1995

For grades 5-8, this book is available at the Drachen Foundation website:

www.drachen.org.

Kite Folds

Beth Matthews, 1987

Includes the addendum, “The Kite as an Education Tool,” which shows how kites can be connected to curriculum for a variety of subject areas and grade levels.

Kites Thematic Unit for Primary Grades (1-3)

Carole Davis, Andrea Dick, and Brenda Sampson, M.A., 2000

Published by Teacher Created Material and available at their website:

www.teachercreated.com.

Kites and Other Flying Objects

Kimberly McReynolds, Lincoln, NE: iUniverse.com

This book contains lesson plans for classroom use and an extensive bibliography of additional resources on kites. Chapters include: a history of kites, the science of kite flying, geometric kites, and writing about kites.

Books about the History and Cultural Traditions of Kites

(All available at the Drachen Foundation website)

From Kites to Wings, Drachen Foundation

An overview of the role of kites in aviation history

Khmer Kites, Sim Sarak and Cheang Yarin

A Kite Journey through India, Tal Streeter

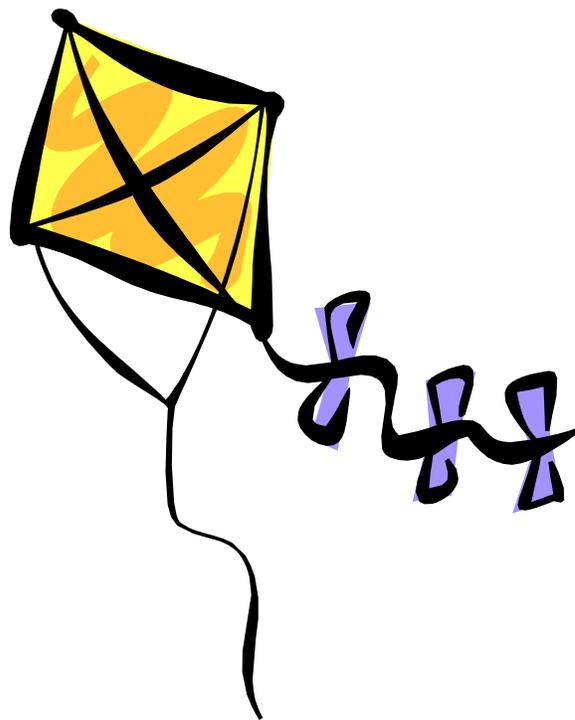
Kites: A Historical Survey, Clive Hart

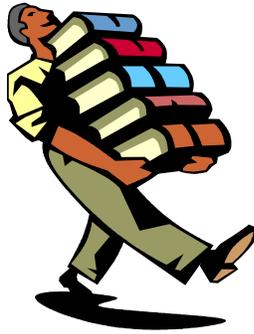
Kites for Everyone, Margaret Greger

Kites: Paper Wings over Japan, Ali Fujino and Scott Skinner

Origami-Tako Kites, Mikio Toki

Te Manu Tukutuku: The Maori Kite, Bob Maysmor





Picture Books

Blanco, A. Angel's Kite. San Francisco: Children's Book Press, 1988. In this beautifully illustrated tale from Mexico, a young kite maker mysteriously brings a long-missing church bell back to his beloved town. For activities with this story, visit: pbskids.org/clifford/parentsteachers/activities/share/02_share.html

Compestine, Ying Chang. The Story of Kites. New York: Holiday House, 2003. Three brothers become tired of chasing birds from their family's rice fields and experiment with ways to make the job easier.

Demi Hitz, Kites. Holiday House, 2003. Long ago in China, kites were used to send messages. This is a story of a mother who orders such a kite from a painter of holy pictures to help her son be strong and wise.

Hall, Bruce Edward. Henry and the Kite Dragon. NY: Philomel Books, c2004. In this touching story based on true 1920s events, two rival groups of children representing two different cultures come face-to-face, and when they do, they find they share more than just the same sky.

Ichikawa, Satomi. My Pig Amarillo. New York: Philomel Books, c2002. Pablito, a Guatemalan boy whose pet pig Amarillo has disappeared, uses a kite to send him a message that he still loves him.

Kroll, Virginia, A Carp for Kimiko, Charlesbridge Publishing Co. Although the Japanese tradition is to present carp kites only to boys on Children's Day, Kimiko's parents find a way to make the day special for her.

Lin, Grace. Kite Flying. Dragonfly Books, 2004. This story celebrates the Chinese tradition of kite making and kite flying and lovingly depicts a family bonded by this ancient and modern pleasure.

Luenn, Nancy. The Dragon Kite. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, c1982. A crafty thief constructs a magnificent kite which he hopes will enable him to reach the golden dolphins that adorn the roof of a nearby castle.

Mayer, Mercer. Shibumi and the Kitemaker. NY: Marshall Carenidish, c1999. After seeing the disparity between the conditions of her father's palace and the city beyond its walls, the Emperor's daughter has the royal kitemaker build a huge kite to take her away from it all.

Picture Books (cont'd.)

Murphy, Stuart J. Let's Fly a Kite. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, c2000.

Two squabbling siblings learn about symmetry when their babysitter helps them build and fly a kite.

Reddix, Valerie. Dragon Kite of the Autumn Moon. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1992.

When his grandfather is sick, Tad-Tin goes out to fly his special dragon kite so that it can take all their troubles away with it.

Rohr, Joann. Su Ling's Kite. iPicturebooks, 2004. Based on facts, Su Ling, a little Chinese princess, saves her honorable kingdom from falling into the hands of enemy soldiers with the help of an astrologer, some kites and the people in her kingdom.

Torres, Leyla. The Kite Festival. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2004. While on a Sunday outing, Fernando and his family encounter a kite festival and decide to create a kite from scrap materials so that they can join in.

Yolen, Jane. The Emperor and the Kite. New York: Philomel Books, 1988, c1967.

This story about a Chinese emperor who is rescued by his youngest and most insignificant daughter and her kite, won a Caldecott Honor Book in 1968 for illustrator Ed Young. For a lesson plan on this book, visit: <http://atozteacherstuff.com/pages/310.shtml>

For additional bibliographies of children's literature about kites, visit the following websites:

wpl.lib.ri.us/bibkite.htm

nancykeane.com/rl/464.htm

For additional lesson plans, visit these websites:

www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson056.shtml

www.readinga-z.com/newfiles/levels/lesson_plans

www.gombergkites.com/nkm/

www.first-school.ws/activities/onlinestory/animals/spotwindyday.htm

www.everythingsl.net/lessons

www.teach-nology.com/teachers/lessonplans/arts/

Many thanks to kite education specialist Meg Albers for her assistance in preparing these teacher resources. Meg is available for classroom workshops on kite history, kite making, and the kites of Japan through Young Audiences of Western New York: (716) 881-0917 or info@yawny.org.

***About Kites and Mini Kites: World on a Thread* are loaned courtesy of The Drachen Foundation, Seattle, Washington. Presentation of these exhibitions at the Castellani Art Museum is made possible, in part, through generous support from the New York State Council on the Arts.**