

Take-Home Activity Packet:

Middle School Edition



**Week of
May 11th – May 15th**

MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITY PACKET: CHINA



1. History of China
2. Crossword
3. China Map
4. Coloring Page
5. Chinese Recipe
6. Fortune Cookie Activity
7. Chinese Dragon

A HISTORY OF CHINA

BY BEVERLY HERNANDEZ



inigoarza / Getty Images

China, the third largest country in the world, is located in the eastern portion of Asia. Officially known as The People's Republic of China, the country has the world's largest population, a whopping 1.3 billion people!

China's civilization dates back thousands of years. Traditionally, the nation has been ruled by powerful families known as dynasties. A series of dynasties were in power from 221 B.C. to 1912.

The Chinese government was taken over by the Communist Party in 1949. This party remains in control of the country today.

One of China's most well-known landmarks is the Great Wall of China. Construction of the wall began in 220 B.C. under China's first dynasty. The wall was built to keep invaders out of the country. At over 5,500 miles long, the Great Wall is the longest structure built by humans.

Mandarin, China's official language, is spoken by more people than any other language. Mandarin is a symbol-based language so it doesn't have an alphabet. It can be difficult to learn because it has four different tones and a neutral tone, which means a single word can have multiple meanings.

The Chinese New Year is one of China's most popular holidays. It doesn't fall on January 1, as we think of New Year's. Instead, it begins on the first day of the lunar calendar. That means that the date of the holiday varies from year to year. It falls sometime between late January and early February.

The celebration lasts for 15 days and features dragon and lion parades and fireworks. Fireworks were invented in China. Each year is named for an animal in the Chinese zodiac.

Source: <https://www.thoughtco.com/china-printables-1833908>

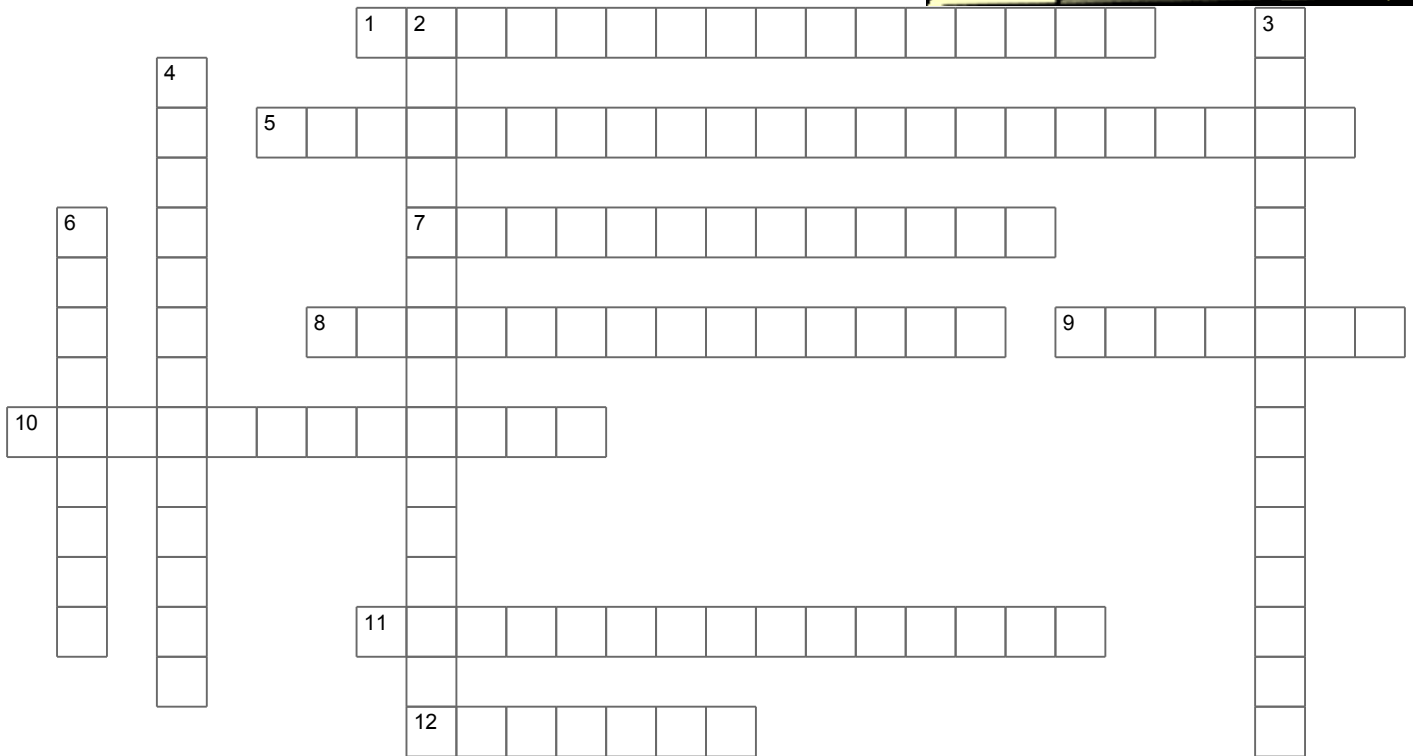
Name: _____

Date: _____

China Crossword Puzzle

What do you call a boomerang that doesn't work? A stick.

Using the Across and Down clues, write the correct words in the numbered grid below.



ACROSS

1. A fortification 5,500 miles long built across northern China in the 3rd century BC; it averages 6 meters in width
5. A communist nation that covers a vast territory in eastern Asia; the most populous country in the world
7. Popular means of transportation in China
8. Marks the end of winter and beginning of spring and believed to bring good luck for the future
9. Capital of China
10. Gifts that contain good luck money, given for births, weddings and the new year
11. Largest public square in the world
12. Main religion of China

DOWN

2. A government on the island of Taiwan established in 1949 by Chiang Kai-shek after the conquest of mainland China by the Communists led by Mao Zedong
3. Official language of China
4. Gate of Heavenly Peace
6. Founder of the Communist People's Republic

Student Name _____

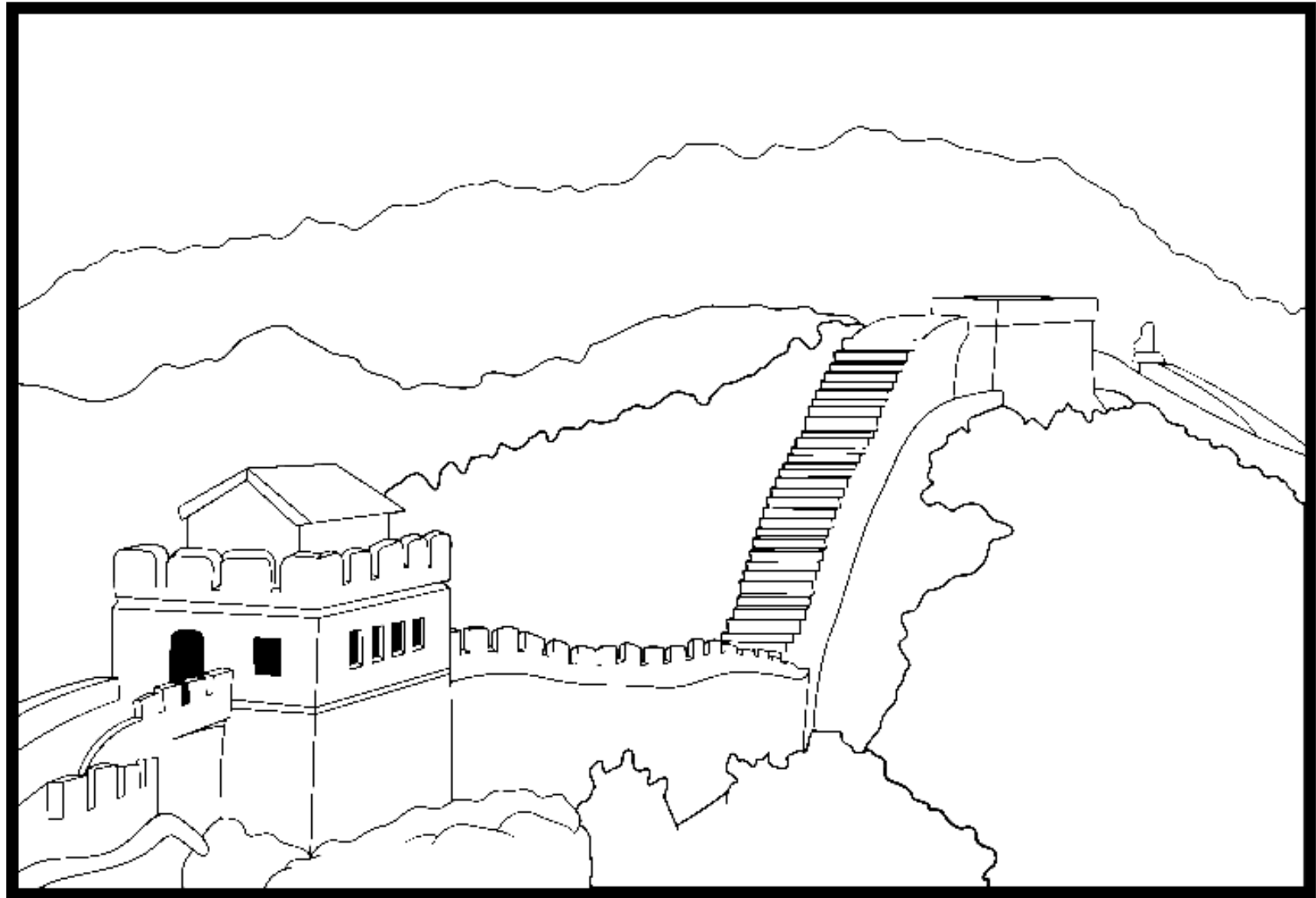


China Map



Label the capital city and other major cities. Draw the Great Wall of China.

Image courtesy of WorldAtlas.com



The Great Wall of China

A fortification 5,500 miles long built across northern China in the 3rd century BC; it averages 6 meters in width.

RECIPE: CHICKEN FRIED RICE



INGREDIENTS

- 4 CUPS RICE (COOKED, COLD)
- 8 OUNCES CHICKEN (COOKED, CHOPPED)
- 2 EGGS (MORE IF DESIRED)
- 1/2 CUP PEAS
- 1 MEDIUM ONION (DICED)
- 1 GREEN ONION (DICED)
- SOY SAUCE TO TASTE
- OYSTER SAUCE TO TASTE
- SALT TO TASTE
- BLACK PEPPER TO TASTE
- 1 TABLESPOON OIL (MORE OR LESS AS NEEDED FOR STIR-FRYING)

DIRECTIONS:

1. BEAT THE EGGS LIGHTLY WITH CHOPSTICKS. ADD A DASH OF SALT (ADD A BIT OF OYSTER SAUCE IF DESIRED).
2. CHOP THE CHICKEN MEAT AND DICE THE ONION AND GREEN ONION.
3. HEAT WOK AND ADD OIL.
4. WHEN THE OIL IS READY, POUR 1/2 OF THE EGG MIXTURE INTO THE WOK AND COOK OVER MEDIUM HEAT, TURNING OVER ONCE. COOK THE OTHER HALF THE SAME WAY.
5. CUT THE EGG INTO THIN STRIPS, AND SAVE FOR LATER.
6. STIR-FRY THE ONION ON HIGH HEAT FOR A FEW MOMENTS, REMOVE AND SET ASIDE. DO THE SAME FOR THE GREEN PEAS.
7. ADD OIL, TURN DOWN THE HEAT TO MEDIUM AND STIR-FRY THE RICE.
8. ADD THE SOY SAUCE, SALT, PEPPER AND OYSTER SAUCE.
9. ADD THE CHICKEN, ONION AND GREEN PEAS AND COMBINE THOROUGHLY
10. SERVE CHICKEN FRIED RICE WITH THE STRIPS OF EGG ON TOP AND THE GREEN ONION AS A GARNISH. ALTERNATELY, YOU CAN MIX THE GREEN ONION AND EGG IN WITH THE OTHER INGREDIENTS.

HOW TO MAKE RAINBOW PAPER FORTUNE COOKIES!



Fortune Cookies: A Brief History of this Famous Treat!

Fortune cookies are often served as a dessert in Chinese restaurants in Western countries, but they are not traditional Chinese food! This history is unclear, but fortune cookies may have [originated from Japanese immigrants](#) and then popularized by Californian Chinese immigrants.

Currently, fortune cookies are popular at Chinese take-out restaurants and fine-dining establishments. They are known for their crisp, sweet flavor with a surprise message and "lucky" numbers

Rainbow paper fortune cookies: What you need to make them

- 8.5" x11" colored printer paper
- White printer paper
- Circle template or a compass
- Permanent double-sided tape or hot glue (regular tape and glue does not hold well)
- Pen

How to make Rainbow Paper Fortune Cookies:

Instructions on preparing message for paper fortune cookie:

1. Cut white paper into 0.5" x 2" strips.
2. Write special messages.
3. Set aside



Instructions on how to make paper fortune cookies:

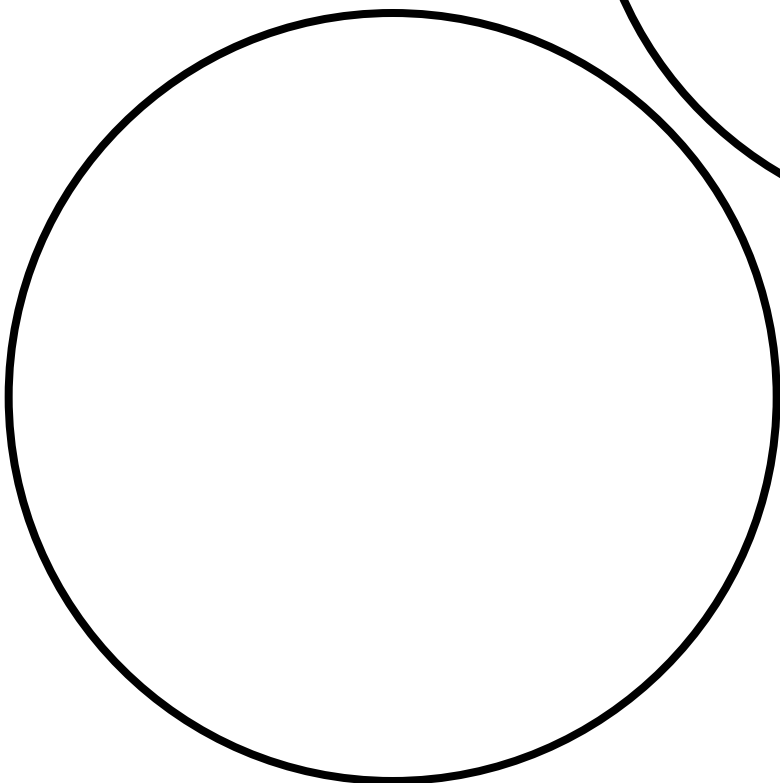
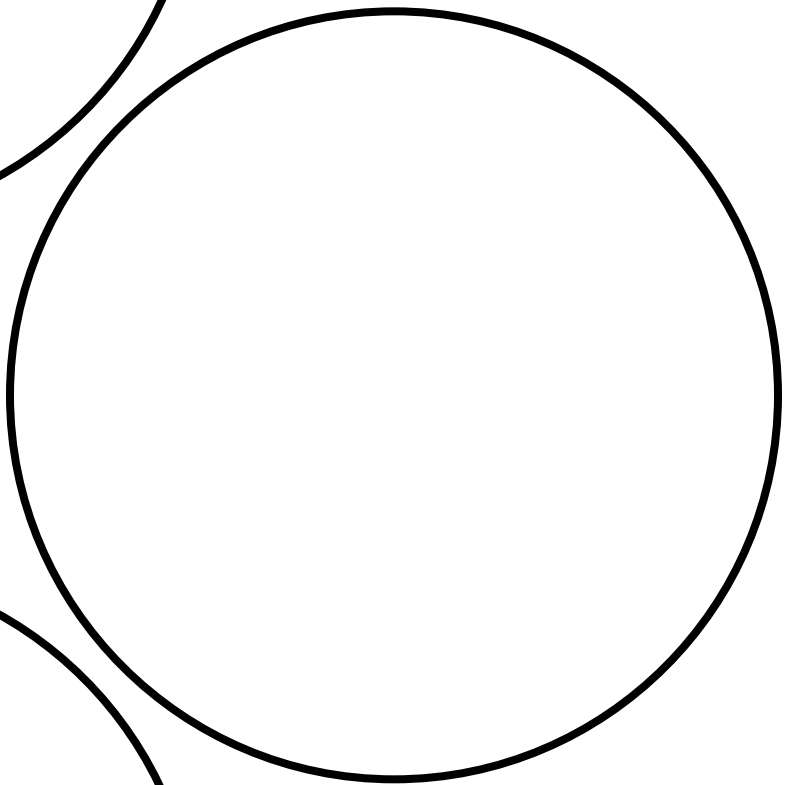
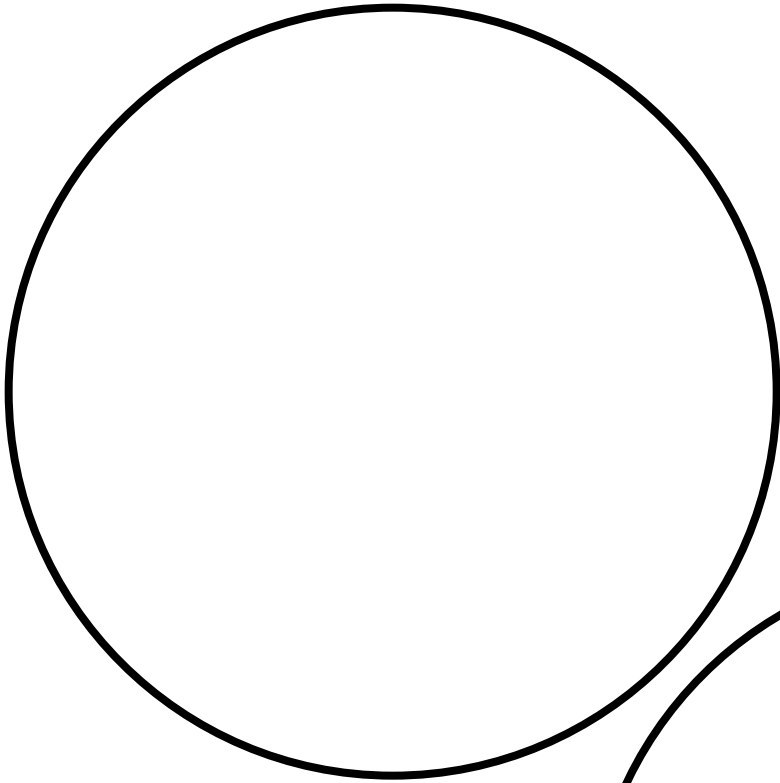
1. Fold printer paper in quarters (i.e., fold it in half vertically, then fold it in half horizontally). *This step will save you time & paper.*
2. Trace circle on the folded paper using a compass (radius 1.75") or a circle stencil ~4" in diameter.
3. Keep paper folded while cutting. You should now have 4 circles.
4. With 1 circle, make a 0.5" crease at its center with fingernail.
5. Unfold the circle
6. Flip the paper around and gently bring the edges of the circle together 90 degrees to the crease.



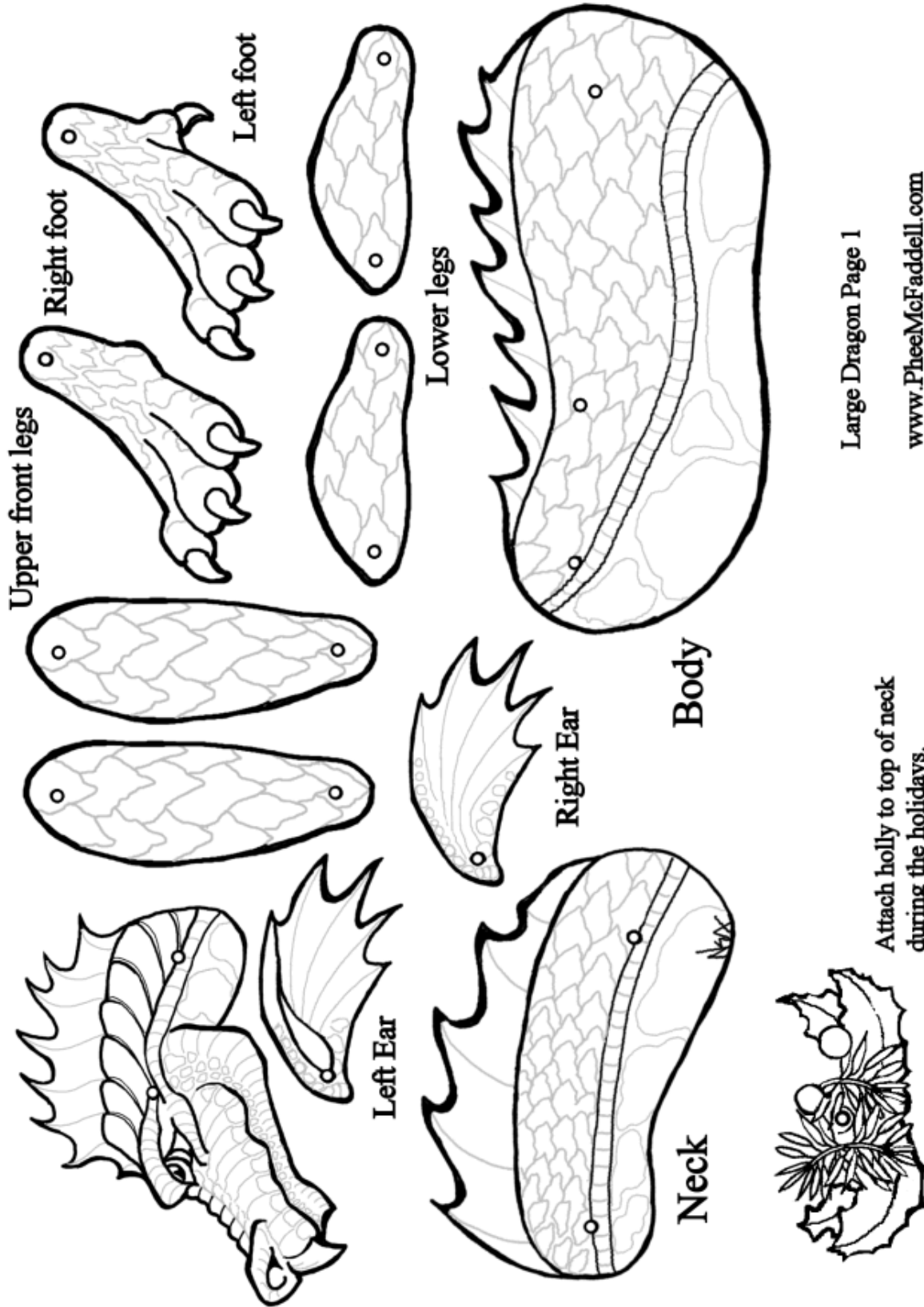
7. Press crease in with thumb
8. Use opposite thumb and index finger to press cookie edges together. You now have the fortune cookie shape.
9. Place 1 message inside circle; length of paper should be 90 degrees to the crease.
10. Repeat steps 4-8.
11. Place double-sided tape (or glue) in the middle of the cookie to maintain shape.
12. Gift the fortune cookie to a special friend!



4 inch Circle Template



CHINESE DRAGON ACTIVITY



Send us photos of your projects!
VP@BGCCLIFTON.ORG

**For more fun activities, visit our
Virtual Clubhouse: www.BGCCLifton.org**