

Lesson Plan: Student's Super Chinese Animal Adventure!

Materials Needed:

- 3-5 animal flashcards (pictures on one side, Chinese character and Pinyin on the other). We will use Cat (猫 māo), Dog (狗 gǒu), and Bird (鸟 niǎo).
- A speaker or tablet for playing a short song.
- Blank white paper.
- Crayons, colored pencils, or markers.
- A "mystery bag" (a simple cloth bag or pillowcase).
- Small toy versions of a cat, dog, and bird.

Lesson Details

Subject: Mandarin Chinese

Grade Level: Age 7 (Homeschool)

Topic: Introduction to Animals in Chinese

Time Allotment: 45 minutes

1. Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, Student will be able to:

- Confidently pronounce the Mandarin words for cat (猫 māo), dog (狗 gǒu), and bird (鸟 niǎo).
- Match the picture of each animal to its corresponding Chinese character.
- Create a drawing of a favorite animal from the lesson and label it with the correct Pinyin and character.

2. Alignment with Standards

This lesson aligns with the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) standards for Novice-Low learners:

- **Interpersonal Communication:** Student can respond to simple, direct questions (e.g., "What is this?").
- **Interpretive Listening:** Student can recognize a few familiar words on very familiar topics (animals).
- **Presentational Communication:** Student can present information about familiar topics by creating a labeled drawing.

3. Lesson Sequence & Instructional Strategies

Part 1: The Mystery Bag Warm-Up (5 minutes)

Strategy: Kinesthetic & Inquiry-Based Learning

1. **Engage:** Say, "Student, I have a mystery bag! There are some secret animal friends inside who want to say hello in Chinese. Can you help me figure out who they are without peeking?"

2. **Activity:** Have Student reach into the bag, feel one of the toy animals, and guess what it is in English. After they guess correctly (e.g., "It's a dog!"), pull the toy out with excitement.
3. **Introduce:** As you reveal the toy dog, introduce its Chinese name with clear pronunciation: "You're right! In Chinese, we say **gǒu**. Can you say **gǒu**?" Repeat for the cat (**māo**) and bird (**niǎo**).

Part 2: Learning the Animal Sounds (15 minutes)

Strategy: Direct Instruction, Auditory Learning & Total Physical Response (TPR)

1. **Introduce Flashcards:** Show the flashcard for cat (猫 māo). Point to the picture, then the character, then the Pinyin. Say "**māo**" clearly. Use hand gestures to illustrate the tone (for māo, a high, flat tone, you can move your hand straight across).
2. **Repeat and Respond:** Use the "I say, you say" method. "I say māo, you say māo." Do this 3-4 times. Then, make a cat sound ("meow") and ask, "What is this in Chinese?" Prompt for the answer "māo."
3. **Add Movement:** Assign a simple action to each animal. For example:
 - 猫 (**māo**): Pretend to lick your paws.
 - 狗 (**gǒu**): Pretend to pant with your tongue out.
 - 鸟 (**niǎo**): Flap your arms like wings.
4. **Practice:** Call out the Chinese words randomly and have Student do the correct action. This gets them moving and helps cement the vocabulary without pressure.

Part 3: The Animal Matching Game (10 minutes)

Strategy: Game-Based Learning

1. **Setup:** Lay out the three picture flashcards face up. A few feet away, place the three character cards face up.
2. **Play:** Say, "Let's help the animals find their names! I'm going to say an animal in Chinese. I want you to run to the right character card, pick it up, and place it on the matching animal picture."
3. **Example:** Say, "Find **gǒu**!" Student finds the card for 狗 and matches it to the dog picture. Cheer for their success! Repeat until all are matched. Play a second round for reinforcement.

Part 4: My Animal Art Creation (10 minutes)

Strategy: Creative Application & Project-Based Learning

1. **Instruct:** "Now it's your turn to be the artist! I want you to choose your favorite animal we learned today and draw a big, beautiful picture of it."
2. **Create:** Give Student the paper and drawing materials. As they draw, talk with them about the animal in Chinese. "Oh, you are drawing the **māo**! What color is your **māo**?"
3. **Label:** Once the drawing is complete, help them label their art. Show them the character and Pinyin on the flashcard. Have them copy the character (猫) and the Pinyin (**māo**) next to their drawing. It's okay if it's not perfect—the effort is what counts!

4. Differentiation and Inclusivity

- **For Extra Support:** Focus on just two animals. Guide Student's hand when they are tracing the character. Spend more time on the song and physical movements.
- **For an Advanced Challenge:** Introduce a fourth animal (e.g., fish - 鱼 yú). Introduce the simple sentence "这是猫" (zhè shì māo - This is a cat) and have them practice saying it. Encourage them to write the character from memory instead of copying.

5. Assessment Methods

- **Formative (Informal Check):**
 - Observe Student's pronunciation during the "I say, you say" portion.
 - Monitor their accuracy during the matching game. Do they hesitate? Do they match correctly?
 - Ask them to point to the correct animal when you say its Chinese name.
- **Summative (Creative Output):**
 - The final labeled drawing serves as the primary assessment. The teacher can evaluate:
 1. Did Student choose one of the target animals?
 2. Did Student correctly label it with the Pinyin and character (with guidance as needed)?
 3. Can Student point to their drawing and say the animal's name in Chinese?

6. Closure and Wrap-Up (5 minutes)

- **Review:** Proudly display Student's artwork. Point to the drawing and ask one last time, "What is this in Chinese?" Celebrate their correct answer!
- **Sing a Song:** Play a simple and fun Chinese animal song like "Two Tigers" (两只老虎 - Liǎng zhī lǎohǔ) to end the lesson on a high note.
- **Praise:** Give specific praise: "You did an amazing job learning our three new animal friends today! Your pronunciation of **gǒu** was excellent!"