

Chinese Dragon Activities!

In Chinese mythology, dragons play a very important role. Dragon themes are especially used during the Chinese New Year celebrations. It is said that Shen Lung, the "Good Luck Dragon", is the mightiest of all dragons. He controls the sea, sky, moon, sun and soil. But Shen Lung is also very lazy. Legend says that he avoids work by shrinking himself to the size of a small mouse. As a mouse, he hides in people's houses for most of the year.

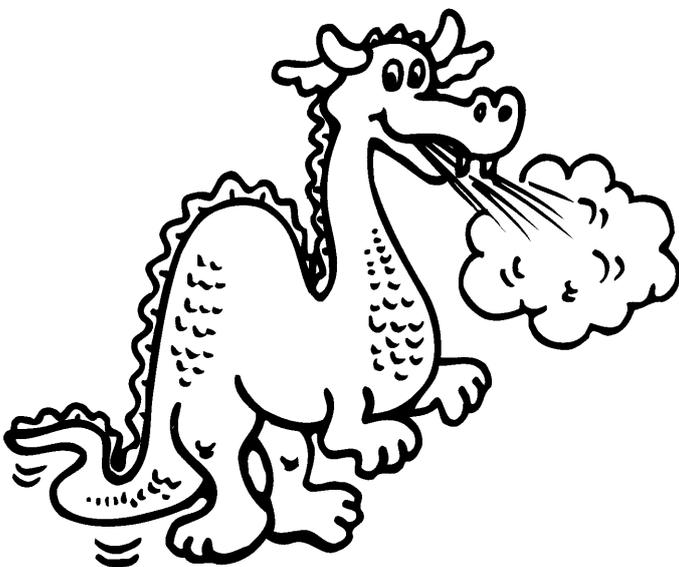
Try one of these "Dragon" activities with your students.

CATCH THE DRAGON'S TAIL

This energetic, outside game will give your kids a vigorous workout and a lot of laughs, too!

Ask your students to form one long line. Have them each put his or her hands on the shoulders of the child in front. The first student in line is called the "Dragon's Head," and the last student is called the "Dragon's Tail."

Tell the "Dragon's Head" that he or she must catch the "Dragon's Tail." This isn't as easy as you might think, because the line must twist and turn to follow the "Head," but at the same time each student must not lose hold of the student before him or her. When the "Head" catches the "Tail," the two students switch positions. Let the children have turns being the "Dragon's Head."



DRAGON TALES

There are few better ways to tap into the creativity of a youngster's imagination than with the theme of "dragons!" Here are a few suggestions for "dragon" story starters!

- List 10 ways to catch a dragon.
- Tell about the day a dragon went shopping.
- Write an advertisement for a babysitter for your pet dragon.
- Write directions for giving a dragon a bath.
- Tell about the dragon who tried to stop smoking.

DESCRIPTIVE DRAGONS

Ask your students to describe what a dragon would be like, if there were such a thing! You may want to write the descriptive statements on the class board. Some ideas might include:

- Bigger than a house.
- Has horns and wings.
- Breathes fire and smoke.
- Is purple with spots.
- Can fly away.
- Lives in a cave.
- Can disappear.
- Has a long, pointed tail.

When the class has discussed every possible description of a dragon, ask students to draw a picture of the dragon using all of the descriptions. Instruct the students to each write a story about their imaginary dragon.