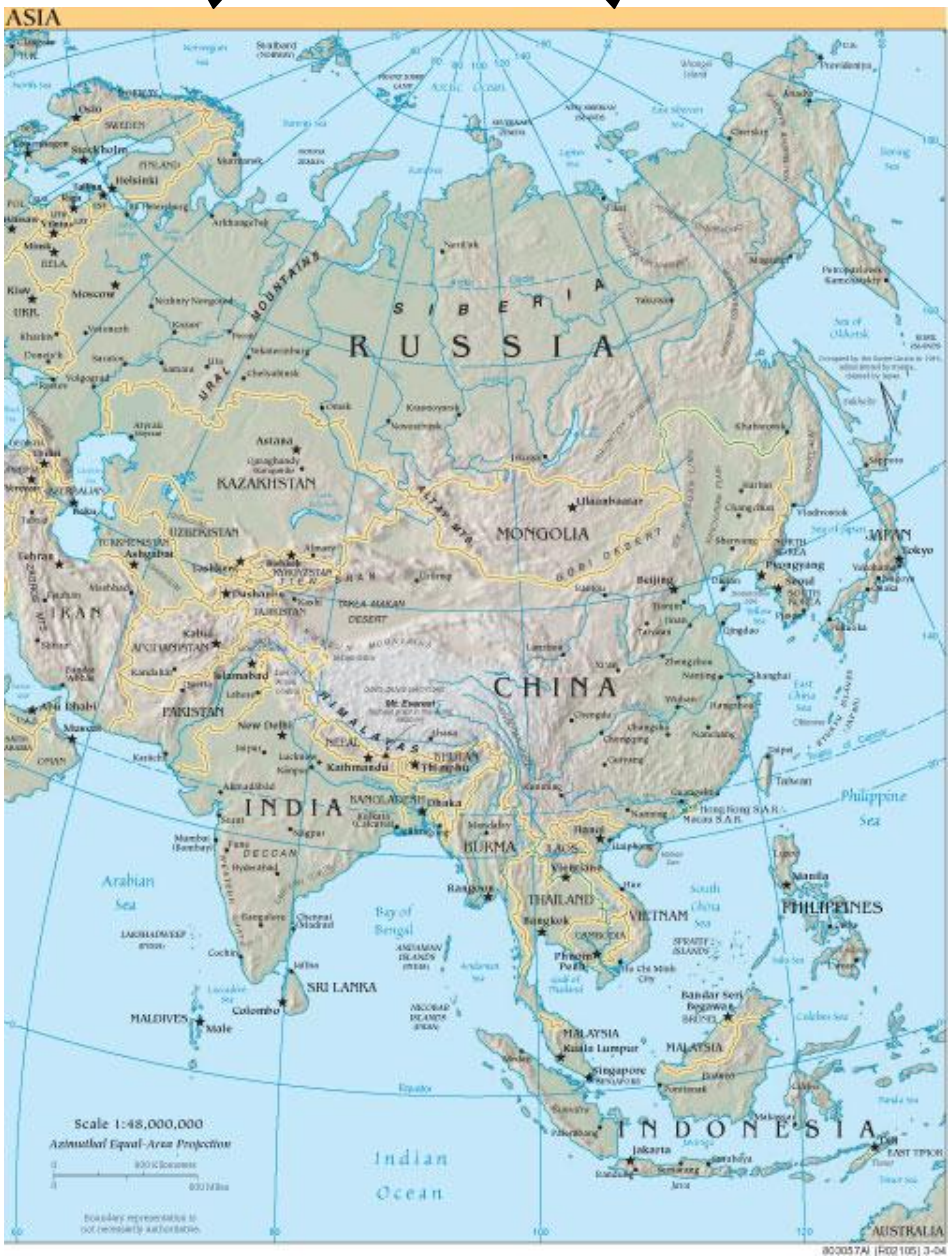
ASIA


ASIA
RUSSIA
SIBERIA
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GOBI DESERT
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UZBEKISTAN
KYRGYZSTAN
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MALDIVES
BRUNEI
EAST TIMOR
AUSTRALIA
DECCAN
Arabian Sea
Bay of Bengal
Indian Ocean
Philippine Sea
South China Sea
East China Sea
Sea of Okhotsk
Bering Sea
Arctic Ocean
Caspian Sea
Aral Sea
Moscow
Beijing
Tokyo
Seoul
Pyongyang
Ulaanbaatar
Astana
Tashkent
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Islamabad
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Phnom Penh
Manila
Kuala Lumpur
Singapore
Bandar Seri Begawan
Jakarta
Colombo
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Taipei
Hong Kong S.A.R.
Macau S.A.R.
Scale 1:48,000,000
Azimuthal Equal-Area Projection
Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative.

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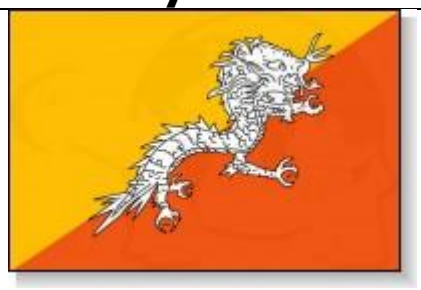
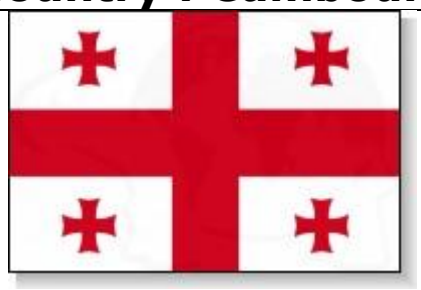
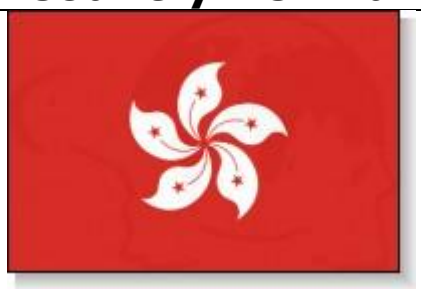
 **Country : Bangladesh**	 **Country : Bhutan**
 **Country : Brunei**	 **Country : Cambodia**
 **Country : China**	 **Country : Georgia**
 **Country : Hong Kong**	 **Country : India**

 **Country : Indonesia**	 **Country : Iraq**
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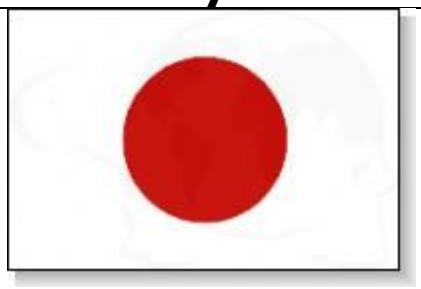 **Country : Japan**	 **Country : Jordan**
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Central Asian Holidays

Compiled by John Schoeberlein-Engel

Traditional Holiday

Mar. 20-22 Navruz/Noruz (the actual date of the Vernal Equinox varies, and the date Navruz is marked also varies among Central Asian countries)

International/Soviet Era Holidays (Not all are still observed everywhere in Central Asia)

Jan. 1 New Year's Day
Mar. 8 Women's Day
May 1 Labor Day (Qazaqstan, Azerbaijan, etc.)
May 9 Victory Day; =Galaba Bayrami (not marked in Azerbaijan)

New National Holidays

Jan. 12 Commemoration Day (Turkmenistan)
Jan. 28 Constitution Day (Qazaqstan)
Feb. 19 Flag Day - Birthday of Turkmenbashi (Turkmenistan)
Feb. 23 Army Day (Tajikistan)
May 5 Constitution Day (Qirghizstan)
May 18 Constitution Day (Turkmenistan)
June 13 Commemoration Day (Qirghizstan)
Aug. 30 Independence Day (Qazaqstan)
Aug. 31 Independence Day (Qirghizstan)
Oct. 27 Independence Day; =Garrasizlik Bayrami (Turkmenistan)
Sept. 9 Independence Day (Tajikistan)
Sept. 1 Independence Day; =Mustaqillik Bayrami (Ozbekistan)
Oct. 25 Republic Day (Qazaqstan; earlier this was marked on Dec. 16)
Nov. 18 Flag Day (Ozbekistan)
Dec. 8 Constitution Day; =Konstitutsiia Bayrami (Ozbekistan)

Islamic Holidays

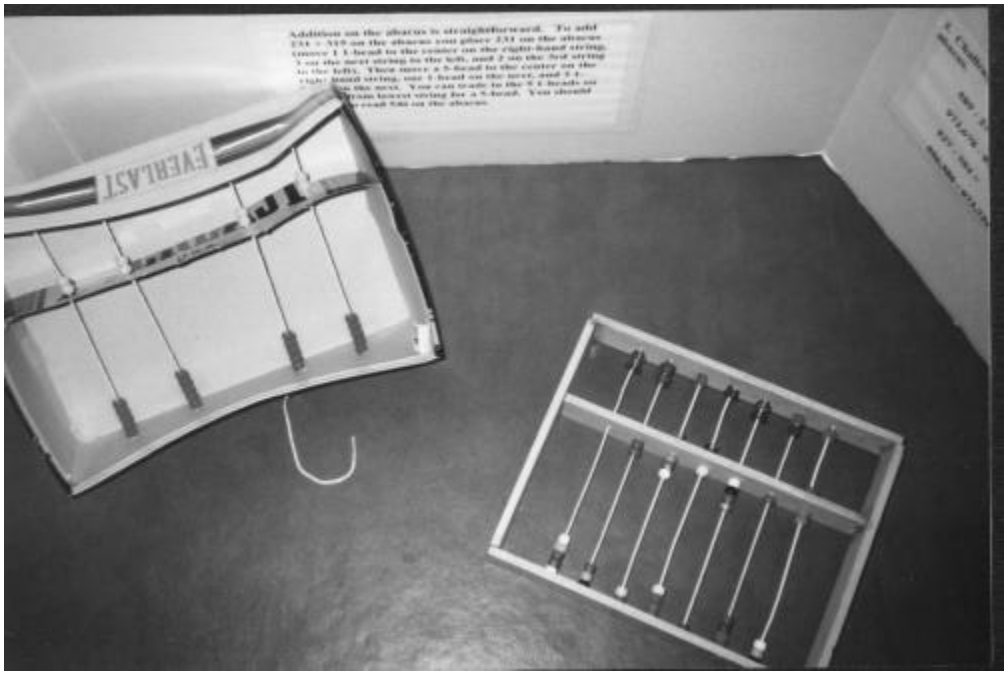
Jan. 11 1 Ramadan 1417 AH; =Uraz; =Ramazan; =Ruza (Tajik)
Jan. 27 Nuzulul Qur'an (17 Ramadan 1417 AH)
Feb. 06 Laylat al-Qadr (27 Ramadan 1417 AH)
Feb. 09-10 `Id al-Fitr (1 Shawwal 1417 AH); =Uraza Bayram; =Ramazan Bayram/Hayit (Ozbek); =Orozo Ayt (Qirghiz)
Apr. 18 `Id al-Adha (10 Dhul-Hijjah 1417 AH); =Idi Qurban (Tajik); =Qurban Bayram/Hayit (Ozbek); =Kurman Ayt (Qirghiz)
May 08 Islamic New Year (1 Muharram 1418 AH)

May 17 Ashura (10 Muharram 1418 AH)
July 17 Mawlid Nabi (12 Rabi' al-Awwal 1418 AH); =Mawlud
Nov. 28 Isra' and Mi`raj (27 Rajab 1418 AH)
Dec. 15 Laylat al-Bara'ah (14-15 Sha`ban 1418 AH)
Dec. 31 1 Ramadan 1418 AH; =Uraz; =Ramazan

Orthodox Holidays

Jan. 6 Christmas Eve (Orthodox Old Calendar)
Jan. 7 Christmas Day (Orthodox Old Calendar)
Jan. 19 Epiphany (Orthodox Old Calendar)
Feb. 15 Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Orthodox Old Cal.)
Mar. 10 Start of Lent
Apr. 7 Annunciation (Orthodox Old Calendar)
Apr. 20 Palm Sunday
Apr. 25 Good Friday
Apr. 27 Paskha (Orthodox Easter)
June 5 Ascension
June 15 Pentecost
June 22 All Saints Day
Aug. 19 Transfiguration (Orthodox Old Calendar)
Aug. 28 Assumption of the Virgin Mary (Orthodox Old Calendar)
Sept. 21 Nativity of the Virgin Mary (Orthodox Old Calendar)
Sept. 27 Elevation of the Life-Giving Cross (Orthodox Old Calendar)
Nov. 14 All Saints Day (Orthodox Old Calendar)
Nov. 15 All Souls Day (Orthodox Old Calendar)

Abacus Arithmetic activity



The module

The Abacus Arithmetic module can be a two-part math night activity. You can have an abacus handy so that children can experiment with arithmetic on the abacus, doing the problems posed on the posters (and possibly similar problems posed by whoever is helping out with the activity) and building a shoebox abacus. Either part could be done independently, also.

Why have an abacus activity?

The December 2001 issue (volume 8, number 4) of *Teaching Children Mathematics* features an abacus building activity in the "A Teacher's Journal" Column. Addition on the abacus reinforces number facility, place value, and regrouping. Children enjoy handling the abacus and using it to do computations. It is also still a practical calculating tool: it is used in shops and banks in parts of the world where calculators are not as readily available as in the US, particularly in parts of Asia.

Building abaci

The idea for building an abacus from a shoebox comes from *MathArt Projects and Activities* by Carolyn Ford Brunetto. I modified the instructions slightly in order to make the bar which goes across the middle sturdier. I also reduced the number of strings to 4 in the interests of time: with four strings a first

grade child should be able to build it in five to ten minutes. The modified instructions and equipment list are under Notes in the menu.

Before encountering the shoebox idea I had made an abacus for use at home from poplar craft wood strips, 1 1/2" x 1/4", a coat hanger, and craft beads. The construction isn't suitable for a math night project because it is fussy work even for adult hands. It's an alternative to finding one and buying it. Here are the instructions:

Cut two 9 1/2" long pieces from the craft wood for the top and bottom of the abacus. Cut a 9" long piece for the middle bar. Cut two 7 1/2" pieces for the sides. Drill seven evenly spaced holes all the way through the middle piece. Center the middle piece on the top and drill the seven holes partway into the top piece. Do the same for the bottom. Cut seven 7 3/4" lengths from a wire clothes hanger. Thread them through the holes in the middle piece. Put two beads on each wire above the middle and two beads on each wire below the middle. Add top, bottom, and sides. Glue top, bottom, and middle to sides with wood glue, clamp, and let dry.

Paper-making Project for Kids

Chinese paper money

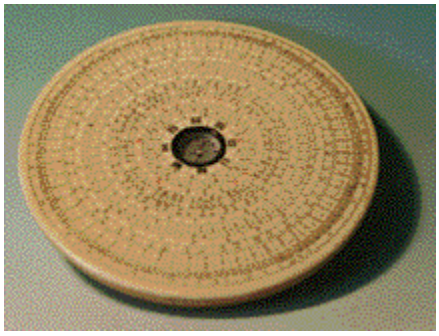
This is a good sit-down project for a sunny day.

Factories in China made paper out of cloth rags and mulberry bark (more on Chinese paper), but it will be easier for children to make paper out of other paper.

Begin by getting a sheet of newspaper for each kid, and let them cut or tear it into small pieces, about 1/2 inch square. Then soak the pieces in water, until they are very squishy. Stir them around so they totally disintegrate into sludge. You can make the paper different colors by adding a drop of food coloring to the water.

Now, take window-screens (or small pieces of window-screen) and dip them into the newspaper sludge until they are covered, and carefully lift them back out again. Set the screens in the sun until the paper is dry, and then you should be able to peel it off the screen.

Making a Chinese compass



Early Chinese compass

The first compasses were invented in China, around the 200's AD, even though Europeans and West Asians did not learn about them for another thousand years. These compasses were very simple arrangements of an iron needle and a bit of cork, and you can easily make one just like them.

On a sunny day, you can begin by making a sun compass. In the morning, find a stick and stick it in the ground pointing up. Place a stone at the end of the shadow it casts. Come back in the afternoon (after you're done making the needle compass) and place another stone at the end of the new shadow. Put your right foot on the first stone, and your left foot on the second stone. Now you are facing south (reverse this if you are in the southern hemisphere). Behind you is north. Your left hand is pointing east, and your right hand is pointing west.

But suppose you wanted to carry the compass around with you? That's what people in China figured out how to do.

What you'll need: a source of heat (a fire, or a cookstove, or a Bunsen burner), a needle, anything that floats, and a small container of water (like a yogurt container) big enough at the top for the float to spin around freely. And you need to know which way is north.
What to do: heat up the needle until it is red-hot (don't hold it or you will get burned! Stick it into a pencil eraser and THEN hold it in the fire!). Put it on a plate lined up north-south and let it cool. Then stick the needle to the float. Put the float in the water, and the needle will spin around to point north-south.

Or, if you don't want to bother with heat, you can use any magnet to magnetize the needle, like a refrigerator magnet. Just hold the needle by one end and rub the other end along the magnet about 60 times. Be sure to always go the same direction, not back and forth! That should also

magnetize the needle. One end will point north.

Some things to discuss: does your needle eye point north or south? (the ancient Chinese pointed theirs south, but Europeans generally pointed theirs north). What percentage of the class ended up with north? Is that the percentage you expected? You could graph the results.
If that's north, which way is east? West? South? Can you use the Internet to find out why iron works to make compasses but not copper? If you try it with copper wire, does it work?
Would the world seem different to you if you pointed your compass south instead of north? Try looking at a world map upside-down.

What are compasses good for? What can you do if you have a compass that you couldn't do before?

Can you use these compasses to make a treasure map where you have to go this far north, this far east (or whatever) to find the treasure? Can the other children use your map to find the treasure?

CHINESE RELITIVES BOOK

Arabic numerals and numbers Book

These numerals are those used when writing Arabic and are written from left to right. In Arabic they are known as "Indian numbers" (ا م ة أرق ة دي ه arqa-m hindiyyah). The term 'Arabic numerals' is also used to refer to 1, 2, 3, etc.

٠	١	٢	٣	٤	٥	٦	٧	٨	٩	١٠
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
صفر	واحد	إثنان	ثلاثة	أربعة	خمسة	ستة	سبعة	ثمانية	تسعة	عشرة
ṣifr	wāḥid	iṯnān	ṯalāṯah	ʻarbaʻah	ḫamsah	sittah	sabʻah	ṯamāniyyah	tisʻah	ʻašarah
صفر	واحد	جوج	تلاتة	ربعة	خمسة	ستة	سبعة	تمنية	تسعود	عشرة
ṣifr	wahed	žuž	tlata	rebʻa	ḫemsa	setta	sebʻa	tmenya	tesʻūd	ʻašara

The first set of numbers are Modern Standard Arabic. The others are Moroccan Arabic.

Chinese Character Cards

Here's a unique way to send a message to someone you care about.

You need:

- Pink, White and Red Card Stock
- Pattern for Love Card
- Pattern for Happiness Card
- Pattern for Joy Card
- Gold and Red Glitter
- Gold and Red Markers
- Small Brush
- White Glue
- Scissors

Instructions: Print patterns provided on card stock. Cut out. Color in the Chinese characters to match the color of the glitter you will be using. Paint the character with white glue and sprinkle on glitter. Let dry. Fold card in half. Write message on inside.

愛 LOVE	樂 HAPPINESS	恩 COURAGE
量 STRENGTH	英 GRACE	美 BEAUTY