



DR. SUN YAT-SEN
CLASSICAL
CHINESE
GARDEN

Resources for Educators

Welcome to Dr Sun Yat Sen Classical Chinese Garden!

The following list of resources contain a variety of multimedia materials (websites, books, and films) meant to assist instructors in planning lessons and activities around their visit to the Garden. Some resources, such as novels, are suitable for students to read and study in class, while others provide background information for instructors. We hope you find it useful.

There are notes underneath each section to suggest programs we offer that tie in with the resources mentioned. Don't hesitate to contact the Education Coordinator for more information: education@vancouverchinesegarden.com

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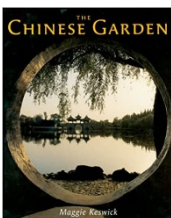
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General Introduction to The Garden

Try these programs: [Garden Tour](#) | [Ancient Arts](#) | [Creature Quest](#)

Classical Chinese Gardens

- Our Garden is based on Ming Dynasty Scholar's Gardens, many fine examples of which can be found in the city of Suzhou:
<https://www.chinahighlights.com/suzhou/top-five-gardens.htm>
- Scholars used their Gardens as a means to commune with nature and landscape, drawing inspiration from the natural world. This longing for nature was reflected in painting throughout Chinese history:
https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/clpg/hd_clpg.htm
- This site discusses the importance of rocks in Classical Garden design:
https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/cgrk/hd_cgrk.htm



***The Chinese Garden: History, Art and Architecture* by Maggie Keswick**

"Dense with winding paths, dominated by huge rock piles and buildings squeezed into small spaces, the characteristic Chinese garden is, for many foreigners, so unlike anything else as to be incomprehensible. Only on closer acquaintance does it offer up its mysteries; and such is the achievement of Maggie Keswick's celebrated classic that it affords us ... the intimate pleasures of the Chinese garden."

Further Reading: ***In a Chinese Garden: The Art, Architecture and Life of the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden.*** By Maggie Keswick et al.

(Available for purchase in our [Eight Treasures Shop](#).)

Scholars

- A Scholar is a man who would have pursued an arduous course of study in the Chinese classics, art and literature in preparation for the civil service examinations. Scholars built homes like ours as an urban retreat for them and their extended families:
https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/schg/hd_schg.htm

Art

Try these programs: [Garden Tour](#) | [Ancient Arts](#)

Artistic and Literary Achievement

- A Scholar would be proficient in The 4 Arts of a Gentleman:
<https://www.comuseum.com/culture/four-arts/>
- Scholars were literate, highly educated in the classics and Confucianism. Poetry was of central importance:
http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/special/china_600ce_scholar.htm
- Scholars were highly proficient at the art of calligraphy. This page discusses the history and cultural significance of calligraphy:
<https://asiasociety.org/education/chinese-calligraphy>

Brush painting

- Chinese brush painting has a long history:
https://www.asia-art.net/chinese_brush.html



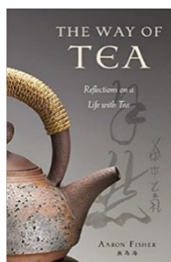
Chinese Brush Painting - A Hands-On Introduction by Caroline and Susan Self

After or before your visit to the Garden, you might feel inspired to plan a lesson on Chinese painting. This book is an easy to follow-guide showing how to create beautiful and creative brush paintings, while staying true to the traditional principles of the art. Suggested for Grade 4+

Tea

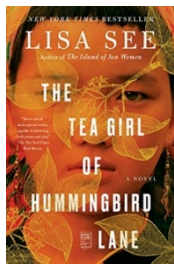
A knowledge of tea was seen as important as the other art forms a Scholar was expected to know:

- <https://www.ibiblio.org/chineseculture/contents/food/p-food-c03s03.html#Chinese%20Tea%20Culture>



The Way of Tea by Aaron Fisher

'The Way of Tea draws upon the wisdom of ancient writings to explain how modern tea lovers can bring peace and serenity to their time with a steaming mug of their favorite beverage-and how to carry that serenity with them throughout the day.'



The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See

“A moving novel about tradition, tea farming, and the bonds between mothers and daughters.” In telling the gripping story, Lisa See teaches the reader much about tea, its health benefits and its importance in Chinese culture”.

Recommended for high school grades.

Symbolism

Try these programs: [Garden Tour](#) | [Ancient Arts](#) | [Creature Quest](#)

- These webpages list common Chinese symbols found in nature:
https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/cnat/hd_cnat.htm
https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/Chinese_Customs/flowers_symbolism.htm
https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/Chinese_Customs/animals_symbolism.htm
- Our Garden is full of expressions of Yin and Yang, which has its roots in Daoism. These pages are from Britannica Kids and are a good place to begin studying these concepts:
<https://kids.britannica.com/students/article/yin-and-yang/277845>
<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/Daoism/353835>



The Legend of Lao Tzu and the Tao Te Ching by Demi

This illustrated children's book tells the legend of Lao Tzu, possible founder of Daoism. Suggested for Grade 4+

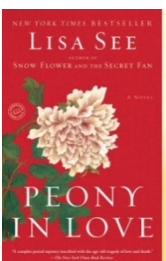
Ancient China, Ming Dynasty and the Family

Try these programs: [Garden Tour](#) | [Creature Quest](#)

The Ming Dynasty, 1368 to 1644, was a period of great cultural innovation and a rebirth of classical art. Society was founded on traditional beliefs and gender-based roles.

- General information:
https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/ming/hd_ming.htm
<https://www.history.com/news/7-things-you-may-not-know-about-the-ming-dynasty>
<http://themingdynasty.org/ming-dynasty-social-structure.html>
- Confucianism dictated the ways families related to each other:
<http://factsanddetails.com/china/cat4/sub21/item107.html#chapter-9>
- General information about women and children in ancient China:
<https://asiasociety.org/education/women-traditional-china>
<http://chnm.gmu.edu/cyh/teaching-modules/221>

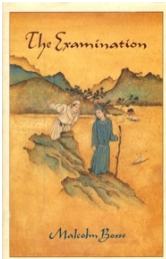
Ancient China, Ming Dynasty and the Family - Books



***Peony in Love* by Lisa See**

This 273-page novel tells the story of Peony, a girl living a sheltered life in 17th century China. This story is based on actual events and does a wonderful job of explaining the difficult times after the fall of the Ming dynasty.

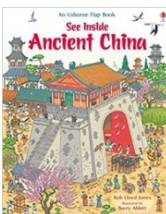
Suggested for Grade 10+



***The Examination* by Malcom Bosse**

This young adult novel tells the story of a 15-year-old boy and his older brother's journey to becoming members of the literati, an elite class of educated bureaucrats.

Suggested for Grade 6+



See Inside Ancient China

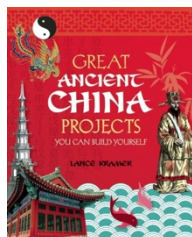
"A fascinating flap book packed with interesting information about Ancient China, from the earliest civilisation to the Ming Dynasty."

Suggested for younger grades.

Inventions

Try these programs: [Master Fong's Fireworks](#)

China is the source of many inventions and scientific discoveries including the Four Great Inventions: the compass, gunpowder, papermaking, and printing.



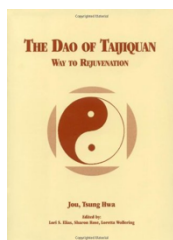
Great Ancient China Projects You Can Build Yourself

A resource that explores Chinese inventions and includes 25 hands-on projects for Grades 3+.

Tai Chi

Try these programs: [Tai Chi](#)

Many groups enjoy practising Tai Chi in the Garden with one of our Tai Chi masters. Here are some resources to extend your knowledge, recommended by our teachers:



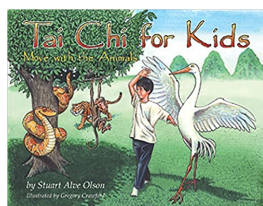
The Dao Of Taijiquan by Jou Tsung Hwa

"In *The Dao of Taijiquan*, the author, Jou, Tsung Hwa, himself bears witness to the ability of Tai-Chi to relieve the body of pent-up tension and rejuvenate the spirit in a thorough study of the techniques and classical texts of this ancient martial art."



The Classical Man by Richard Kim

"194 pages filled with historically significant stories of the real masters of the martial arts... Richard Kim, who wrote for years in *Karate Illustrated*, brings names back to life through his skillful story telling."



Tai Chi for Kids by Stuart Alve Olsen

"Inspired by his own son's excitement with tai chi at the age of only three, master teacher Stuart Olson appeals to the innate imagination and playfulness of children to teach them the eight basic forms of a tai chi practice." This book is a great resource to use before or after a trip to our Garden to study Tai Chi! Recommended for Grades K – 3.

Legends and Celebrations

Try these programs: Chinese New Year | Dragon Tales | Dragon Boat Paddle

A great way to step into the world of Chinese culture is through its legends and celebrations. Festivals such as Chinese New Year and the animals of the Chinese zodiac are engaging topics for students of all ages.

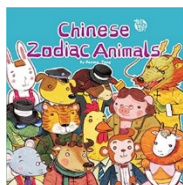
Chinese New Year

- <http://factsanddetails.com/china/cat4/sub17/entry-4324.html>
- This website, created for the US National Endowment for the Humanities, introduces readers to the “Animals of the Chinese New Year”, and also offers lesson plans based around the zodiac.
<https://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plans/animals-chinese-zodiac>



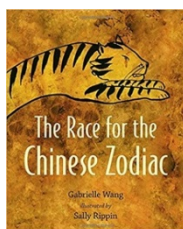
Chinese New Year by Jen Sookfong Lee

“Award-winning author and broadcaster Jen Sookfong Lee recalls her childhood in Vancouver and weaves family stories into the history, traditions and evolution of Chinese New Year. Lavishly illustrated with color photographs throughout.”



Chinese Zodiac Animals by Sanmu Tang and Zhu Jingwen

This colourful, small format book teaches readers about the characteristics of their Chinese zodiac signs, conveyed by fun cartoon illustrations.



The Race for the Chinese Zodiac by Gabrielle Wang

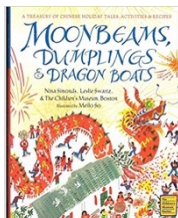
This 32-page illustrated book retells the classic legend of the animals’ race that led to the creation of the twelve signs on the Chinese Zodiac. Suggested for K to Grade 4

Dragon Boat Festival

- The website of Dragon Boat BC:
<https://dragonboatbc.ca/culture/>
- A comprehensive guide to the traditions, sights and sounds of the Dragon Boat Festival, otherwise known as the Double Fifth festival:
<https://www.travelchinaguide.com/essential/holidays/dragon-boat.htm>
- The Dragon Boat Festival is considered an Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO:
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/dragon-boat-festival-00225>

Other Festivals

- <https://www.travelchinaguide.com/essential/public-holiday.htm>



***Moonbeams, Dumplings and Dragon Boats* by Nina Simonds**

This book is a collection of recipes, activities and traditional tales allowing readers to recreate the magic of Chinese holidays at home or in the classroom. Can be used by older Elementary students or by teachers as a resource

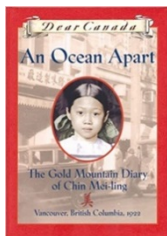
Chinese Canadian History

Try these programs: [Crossing Borders – An Immigrant’s Tale](#) | [Chinatown Walking Tour](#)

The Garden is situated in Chinatown and closely tied to the history of our community. Here are some resources for teaching about early Chinese immigration and the Chinese Canadian experience.

- Relations with First Peoples:
<http://www.cchsbc.ca/cedar--bamboo.html>
- UBC Database collection about Chinese experiences in Vancouver 1850 - 1950:
<http://www.library.ubc.ca/chineseinbc/index.html>
- Teaching resource about Chinese Immigration (particularly aimed at Grades 5 and 9):
<https://www.openschool.bc.ca/bambooshoots/>
- Royal BC Museum database collection:
<https://www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/about/explore/centre-arrivals/chinese-canadian-history-british-columbia>
- UBC Library database collection:
<https://open.library.ubc.ca/collections/chinesecanadianstories>
- SFU Chinese Canadian History Public Education Project – A brief chronology of Chinese Canadian history:
http://www.sfu.ca/chinese-canadian-history/chart_en.html#
- A guided tour of Vancouver’s Chinatown with a downloadable PDF:
http://www.sfu.ca/chinese-canadian-history/vancouver_chinatown_en.html

Chinese Canadian History - Books



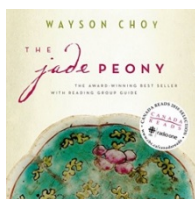
***Dear Canada: An Ocean Apart* by Gillian Chan**

Part of the “Dear Canada” novel series, this book tells the story of Chin Mei-ling who must face the consequences of the Head tax on her family. Separated from her mother and other siblings still in China, she and her father must come up with the money to pay for their entry. Suggested for Grade 4+



***The Concubine's Children* by Denise Chong**

This memoir is an account of the author's family told from the perspective of her Chinese Canadian mother. She vividly portrays the struggles of immigrant Chinese women in B.C. at a time when Chinese men greatly outnumbered women. Suggested for Grade 6+



***The Jade Peony* by Wayson Choy**

Set in Vancouver's Chinatown in the 1930s and 1940s, this novel depicts the life of an immigrant family during the Depression as the second-generation children experience the cultural divide. Suggested for Grades 10+

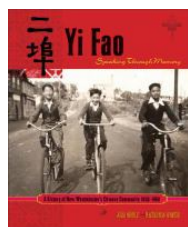
Other recommended novels by Wayson Choy: *All That Matters* (the sequel to Jade Peony); *Paper Shadows*.

Did you know? Project Bookmark Canada placed a plaque honouring the writing of Wayson Choy on the SE corner of Pender St and Gore Ave, not far from our Garden. The plaque is written in English and Chinese and includes a passage from the Jade Peony.



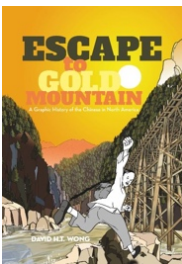
***White Jade Tiger* by Julie Lawson**

In this novel, Jasmine immigrates to Victoria to live with her aunt, and goes on a time traveling quest to save her family from a curse. Locations described in this book are all real places that can be visited today. Suggested for Grade 4+



***Yi Fao: Speaking through Memory* by Jim Wolf and Patricia Owen**

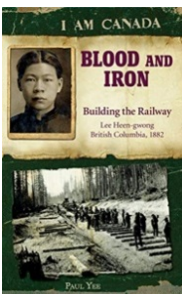
This history book provides an overview of the Chinese community in New Westminster or Yi Fao meaning “second port.” It is based on the reminiscences of four key families of settlers and contains compelling photographs.



***Escape to Gold Mountain* by David H.T. Wong**

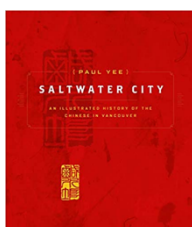
This graphic history tells the story of Chinese immigrants to North America and the struggles they faced. It is told from the point of view of the author's family and is based on historical documents and interviews with elders.

Suggested for Grade 6+



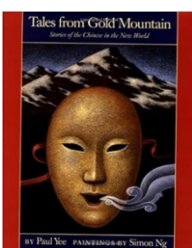
***I Am Canada: Blood and Iron* by Paul Yee**

This novel tells the story of a Chinese teen, Heen, who travels to Canada to work on the railway as a means of improving his family's fortunes. Young readers are exposed to the harsh working conditions and unfair treatment of Chinese railroad workers through the eyes of Heen. Suggested for Grade 4+



***Saltwater City* by Paul Yee**

"A text resonant with often painful first-person recollections combines with 200 photographs, most reproduced for the first time, to form a chronological portrait of the community from its earliest beginnings to the present." A wonderful resource of primary sources to be used in the classroom or as a research tool for older students.



***Tales from Gold Mountain* by Paul Yee**

This collection of tales groups together eight original folk stories giving readers a sense of the hardships faced by Chinese immigrants to North America. Each tale is relatively short, but each one deals with some very important themes such as prejudice, racism and dishonesty. Suggested for Grade 7+

Other Children/YA fiction by Paul Yee: *The Bone Collector's Son*, *Ghost Train*, *The Curses of Third Uncle*.

Chinese Canadian History - Film

Nitro

This short video sheds light on the dangers Chinese migrant workers faced building the CPR in their new country.

<https://www.historicacanada.ca/content/heritage-minutes/nitro>

The Chinese Violin

This 8 minute animated short tells the story of a father and a daughter moving to Canada from China, bringing with them their precious violin. Based on the illustrated children's book.

https://www.nfb.ca/film/chinese_violin/

Unwanted Soldiers

This 48 minute long documentary produced for the National Film Board of Canada, describes the involvement of the director's Chinese Canadian grandfather in World War II. She also uncovers a legacy of racism and discrimination against BC's Chinese Canadian community.

http://www.nfb.ca/film/unwanted_soldiers/

In the Shadow of Gold Mountain

This 43 minute National Film Board documentary records director Karen Cho's travels from Montreal to Vancouver to find and interview remaining survivors of the Chinese Head Tax and Exclusion Act.

https://www.nfb.ca/film/in_the_shadow_of_gold_mountain/

Canadian Steel, Chinese Grit

This documentary delves into the history of the Chinese workers without whom Canada's national railway could never have been realized. There is an accompanying PDF in English, French, and Chinese.

<https://www.sfu.ca/davidlamcentre/projects/CSCG.html>

Cedar and Bamboo

Cedar and Bamboo explores the relationships between people with Chinese and Aboriginal roots. Through the telling of the stories of 4 people, the difficult circumstances surrounding early Chinese immigrants and local Indigenous people are revealed.

<http://www.cchsbcc.ca/cedar--bamboo.html>

All Our Father's Relations

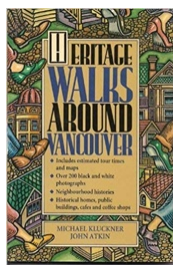
Locally produced, award-winning film about the journey of the Grant siblings, who were raised in the Musqueam traditions of their mother, to China to discover their father's roots. The DVD is available to buy.

<http://allourfathersrelations.com/>

Further Reading

The Chinese Canadian Historical Society of BC publish a range of local books on the subject of Chinese Canadian heritage and culture:

<https://chinese-canadian-historical-society-of-bc.square.site>



***Heritage Walks Around Vancouver* by Michael Kluckner and John Atkin**

This 28 page book takes readers on a 1.5 hour walking tour around historic Strathcona, the neighbourhood beside Chinatown where many Chinese people lived.

To book a walking tour with John Atkin please contact the Garden.

