

One of Wang Zhaojun's favourite instruments is the Chinese pipa.
Let's find out more about this beloved instrument.

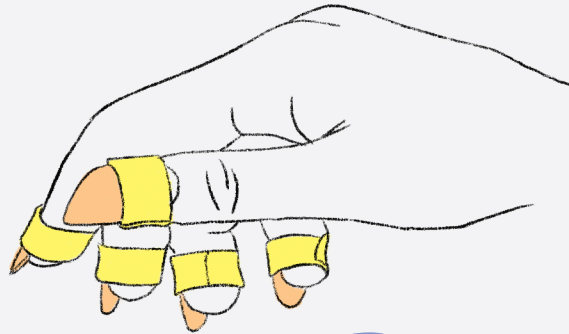
The pipa

1

It is a traditional Chinese musical instrument with a pear-shaped wooden body. It is played by plucking the strings with your fingernails.

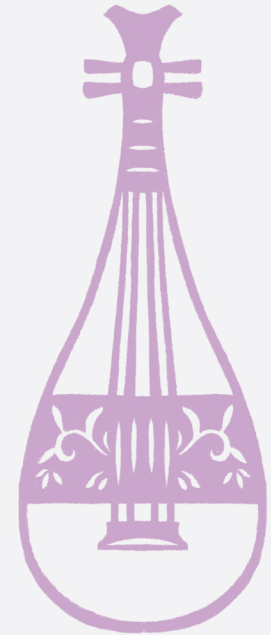


Scan here to find out more about
plucked-chinese string instruments
like the *pipa*, in this video series,
I Kid You Not.



2

It has been around for over two thousand years.



3

It is known for its wide range of musical textures, as it is able to produce delicate melodies and also powerful percussion sounds. For example, it can mimic the sound of horses galloping or create *the feeling of a cool breeze*, transporting listeners to another place.



As one of the world's oldest civilisations, China also has many other traditional crafts passed down, one of which includes Chinese traditional paper cutting, called *jianzi*.

Chinese paper cutting

1

The designs are to be cut out from one single piece of paper.

2

Usually, the designs are cut out from red paper, as red symbolises good fortune in Chinese culture.

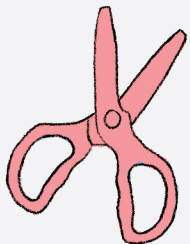
3

Chinese paper cutting first appeared during the Jin dynasty in 4th century AD, after an official, Cai Lun, first invented paper.

4

In Chinese culture, paper cut art is not only for decorative purposes, but also to wish people good health and prosperity.

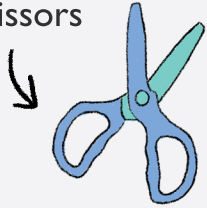
Example of a Chinese paper cut art



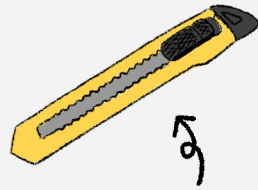
Now that you know more about the *pipa* and Chinese traditional paper cutting, let us merge these two together in an activity!

Materials needed:

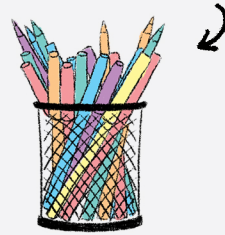
Scissors



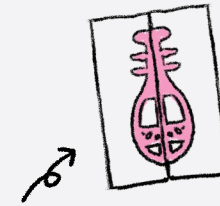
Penknife



Markers/colour pencils



Pipa cut-out template



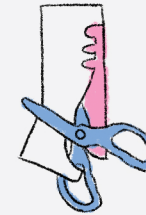
Instructions:



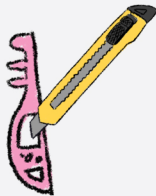
1. Use the **pipa** cut-out template provided. Fold it in half along the dotted lines.



2. You will now see half a **pipa**.



3. Use your scissors and cut along the outline of the half **pipa**.



4. Use a penknife to cut out the white parts, leaving only the coloured parts of the **pipa**.



5. Unfold the paper cut-out.



6. You will now see the full **pipa**.



7. Decorate your paper cut-out.

Pipa Cut-Out Template

Create your own pipa cut-out.

