



# Tyrus Wong

## ASIAN ILLUSTRATOR CULTURAL EXPLORATION

### WHAT WE LEARNED:

- **Tyrus Wong** was an Asian illustrator and artist who immigrated to the USA from China in 1920.
- We were introduced to Angel Island and the concept of Paper Sons.
- We identified places important to Tyrus.
- We discussed the various art applications in which Tyrus worked: painter, mural artist, concept artist for film, Christmas card illustrator, ceramic painter, and kite maker.

### ART ACTIVITY: WATERCOLOR LANDSCAPE PAINTING:

The students painted watercolor landscape art reflecting Tyrus Wong's style in Walt Disney's production, *Bambi*.

### CONNECTIONS AT HOME:

Explore these resources to increase your understanding:

- [Tyrus Wong making and flying his kites.](#)
- [Google Doodle about Tyrus Wong's life.](#)
- [An Animation of one of the most important Song Dynasty Paintings \(Tyrus' favorite type of painting\), \*Along the Qingming River\*, by Zhang Zeduan.](#)
- [View Tyrus Wong talking about his life.](#)



## FOR PARENTS

At M&G we understand that elementary children are at all different places in their social development. We briefly touched on Angel Island and Chinese immigration in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The first three books listed in the **FURTHER READING** section on the next page give more information on these ideas. The first book listed, *Paper Son*, by Julie Leung is a picture book about Tyrus Wong. It may be helpful to read these books and discuss their implications together with your child.

## FURTHER READING:

- *Paper Son: The Inspiring Story of Tyrus Wong, Immigrant and Artist* by Julie Leung
- *Paper Son: Lee's Journey to America* by Helen Foster James
- *Kai's Journey to Gold Mountain: An Angel Island Story* by Currier
- *Adventures of the Treasure Fleet: China Discovers the World* by Ann Bowler
- *In our Family's Chinese Garden: A Story Told in English and Chinese* by Li Jian
- *Mountain Chef* by Annette Bay Pimentel (View: [HERE](#))
- *Sixteen Years in Sixteen Seconds: The Sammy Lee Story* by Paula Yoo
- *W is for Welcome: A Celebration of America's Diversity* by Brad Herzog
- *The Seven Chinese Sisters* by Kathy Tucker

Due to the changing nature of web resources, M&G strongly urges you as the parent to preview these sites before your child accesses them. The fact that these sites are available on this handout does not imply that M&G endorses their content from the standpoint of morals, philosophy, theology, or scientific hypotheses.

## “GO FLY A KITE”:

In retirement, Tyrus' wife noticed he was agitated and thought he'd be happier doing an activity and being productive. She suggested that he should go fly a kite! To make a real, working kite can be a complicated but rewarding process. Can you plan a pattern for a kite you'd like to have?

### Materials:

- Heavy paper like posterboard
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Markers or Poster Paints

### Reference instructions at these helpful resources:

- [Babble, Dabble, Do](#)
- Super Simple Chinese Art by Alex Kuskowski pgs. 24-27
- Print It by Amy Appleyard pgs. 60-65



## MAKE A CHINESE FRIENDSHIP BRACELET:

Adapted from *Chinese New Year Crafts* by Karen E. Bledsoe, pgs 20-21.

### Materials:

- Red and Gold (or Yellow) Pony Beads
- Scissors
- Elastic Cord (1/8")

### Directions:

Measure a piece of the elastic cord that is 4" longer than the measurement around your wrist. Carefully cut the elastic cord. String the red and gold beads onto the cord in your own pattern. In Chinese culture, red and gold are colors of good luck and a wish for prosperity in the Chinese New Year. Make a bracelet for yourself and for a friend.



## M&G EDUCATIONAL MISSION

Through tours, events, and publications, the Museum & Gallery seeks to partner with educators in fulfilling all of the National Visual Arts Content Standards. By integrating art into the core curriculum, M&G's goals are to teach children to value the arts, to communicate through the arts, to become creative problem solvers through the inclusion of STEAM-related concepts and fully-developed STEAM units, to understand history and culture in light of the arts, to improve literary interest and understanding through visual storytelling, to critique the arts, and to develop an aesthetic awareness of the arts. Through fulfilling the mission, M&G is able to help develop citizens who have the ability to think, feel, and understand the world in which they live.



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