

Teacher's Guide

Meet Monkey King: A Legend from China



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Welcome

Thank you for choosing to use the Museum Bento box *Meet Monkey King: A Legend from China*. This box explores the character of Monkey King, the popular hero of the Chinese novel Journey to the West, and his various representations in Chinese culture. The objects, activities and resources in this box can be used in a number of different ways to support your study of literature, art, history, culture, math and geography as well as provide a starting point for more in-depth explorations of China and its people.

I have created Museum Bento based on the belief that teaching with objects is an effective way to connect students with other cultures, foster empathy and build emotional receptivity. Hands-on exploration of objects provides a direct sensory connection that results in new opportunities for learning and understanding. Most importantly, teaching with objects spurs curiosity and allows students to develop their own questions and find their own answers. The suggested activities in this guide have been developed with this in mind and can be shaped to suit grades K-7. It's my hope that the objects in this box inspire a sense of play and discovery within the classroom and lead to further exploration of the vibrant cultures and arts of Asia.

What's in the Box?

Objects



Monkey King Glove Puppet



Monkey King Opera Mask



Copper Gong



Dough Figurines



Drum

What's in the Box?

Objects



Weifang Kites



Peking Opera Photo



Shadow Puppet

What's in the Box?

Media, Books & Resources



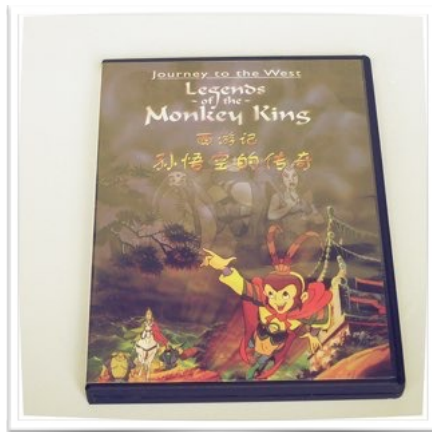
Tang Monk Disciples Monkey King, Retold by Debby Chen, Illustrated by Wenhua Ma (Pan Asian Publications: Union City, CA 2005).



The Monkey King: A Superhero Tale of China, Retold from Journey to the West, Aaron Shepard (Skyhook Press: Olympia WA, 2008).



Audio CD: Chinese Zodiac Signs



DVD: Legends of the Monkey King



Map of Asia

Teaching with Objects

Teaching with objects is a powerful way to connect students to their own cultural background as well as with other cultures. Holding an object in their hands provides for students a powerful sensorial experience that engages their learning and incites their curiosity. Through such tangible experiences, students can be inspired to develop their own questions about the objects they are exploring and develop strategies for answering those questions. Teachers can encourage students to carefully examine an object, touch it gently and ask themselves what they see and what the object tells them. The following diagram can help teachers when exploring the objects in the box with their students.



How to Handle Objects

- Please have students handle the objects under adult supervision.
- Always hold objects with two hands.
- Paint, feathers, fur, paper and textiles are very fragile and should be touched as little as possible.
- Do not shake the objects or their containers.
- Extreme temperatures, direct sunlight and water can be very harmful to the objects. Please keep objects away from any heat sources, fans and open windows.
- Please secure the objects in the Museum Bento box when you are not using them.

Who is Monkey King?

Monkey King, or Sun Wukong, is the hero of the Chinese epic novel Journey to the West, written by Wu Cheng'en during the Ming dynasty (AD 1368–1644). Monkey has endured himself to Chinese young and old for generations and appears in operas, shadow puppet plays, movies, cartoons, toys, video games, paintings, TV shows, books and more.

Journey to the West is based on the true story of the Chinese monk Xuanzang (AD 602–644) who traveled on foot to India to find the Buddhist scriptures and bring them back to China. Xuanzang is known for contributing to the development of Buddhism in China. Woven throughout Journey to the West are many folk legends and myths, including the story of Monkey.

According to legend, Monkey is born from a heavenly stone and has many supernatural powers. Because he is the only monkey who dares to jump through a waterfall and set up a kingdom on Earth, the other monkeys crown him “Monkey King.” The smart and wily Monkey is capable of magic, including transforming himself into seventy-two different animals and objects, surfing the clouds and traveling many miles in a single jump. He carries a long golden bar, stolen from the Dragon King, that shrinks and expands at his demand.

The mischievous Monkey causes trouble wherever he goes. After creating havoc in heaven and eating all of the Jade Emperor's Peaches of Immortality, he is punished and imprisoned under a mountain for five-hundred years. To atone for his crimes, he is given the chance to redeem himself by accompanying the monk Xuanzang on his trip to India, acting as an assistant and bodyguard. To keep Monkey under control, Xuanzang makes him wear a headband that squeezes his head painfully whenever he starts to cause trouble.

On their journey to India, Xuanzang and Monkey are joined by the two monsters Sandy and Pigsy, who are also trying to atone for their crimes. They overcome many perils on their journey but eventually reach India and accomplish their mission. One of the most important themes throughout Journey to the West is the importance of teamwork, friendship, self-discipline and courage.

Background About Objects in the Box



Monkey King Glove Puppet Glove puppetry originally comes from Fujian province in southern China and later spread to other parts of mainland China and Taiwan. Performances are based on Chinese operas and are loud and energetic, with lively, colourful puppets entertaining audiences young and old with their wild acrobatics and martial arts stunts. Puppeteers were expected to sing and manipulate the puppets while accompanied by one or more members of the puppet troupe who played drums, gongs and other musical instruments. It took many years of training to become a professional puppeteer and most started learning when they were very young. Monkey King is a well-loved character in Chinese glove puppetry.



Monkey King Opera Mask This Monkey King mask is inspired by the makeup worn by the performers in Peking Opera. Monkey is a familiar character in Chinese theatre and the wily creature for centuries has entertained his audiences with jumps, somersaults and acrobatics. To play Monkey, an actor must embody all of the characteristics of a monkey and also give him human attributes of bravery, loyalty and wit. The colour patterns painted on the faces of opera actors can indicate the personality of the characters they play. For example, a red face can mean loyalty, purple can mean wisdom and black can indicate fierceness.

Background About Objects in the Box



Shadow Puppet Shadow puppetry is an ancient art form in China and has a history of over 2,000 years. Shadow figures are traditionally carved from donkey or cow hide and painstakingly decorated. It's a difficult process that may take many weeks or even months to complete. To perform, the puppets are manipulated with bamboo rods and held between a light source and a translucent screen, making them magically appear to float, dance or fly in front of their audience. Shadow plays are usually based on well-known folk stories, myths and ancient legends and are accompanied by music and singing. Journey to the West is a shadow play favourite and is often performed during Spring Festival. Like glove puppetry, shadow puppetry is endangered and there are efforts to protect it and keep it from disappearing.



Dough Figurines Sculpting figures out of dough is a 4,000 year-old folk art in China. In ancient times, tiny dough figures were placed in tombs as sacrificial offerings or dedicated to gods during banquets and temple fairs. Later, dough figurines became toys and household decorations, depicting favourite characters from folk legends and myths. The characters represented here are from the novel Journey to the West and are made from a mix of uncooked glutinous rice, fermented flour, water and salt.

Background About Objects in the Box



Drum This type of drum is called a “waist-drum” and is worn around the neck by dancers during festivals, performances and folk dances. The dancer moves in rhythm to the beats of the drum. In some versions of *Journey to the West*, the guards in the Dragon King’s underwater palace wear similar drums and beat them in a frenzy when Monkey King outwits and infuriates the Dragon King.



Copper Gong China has over twelve categories for gongs, each playing a very unique sound, depending on its shape and size. Gongs are used in festivals to depict happiness and bring a sense of festivity to the occasion.



Weifang Kites These silk and bamboo kites come from Weifang City, Shandong province, on the east coast of China. Weifang is famous for its kite making and is thought to be one of the birthplaces of Chinese kites, where artisans have been making them for over 2,000 years. In ancient China, kites were flown during festival times and especially during Spring Festival. Weifang kites come in many shapes and sizes and are delicately painted with landscape scenes, animals or characters from Chinese folklore or novels.

Background About Objects in the Box



Peking Opera Photo This is a 1988 press photo of the actor Zeng Fanqiang transforming himself into Monkey King. Zeng is a member of the Chongqing Municipal Peking Opera Company and is famous for his acrobatics. Audiences love the way he can dance, fight, juggle and act at the same time! The opera company, which was established in 1956, still travels internationally across Europe and North America.

Activity 1: What Can Objects Tell Us?

This activity is all about helping students learn about the objects in the box through close observation and the use of all their senses.

Note: Before beginning this activity with your students, review the [How to Handle Objects](#) page included in this guide.

Materials

- “What Can Objects Tell Us?” worksheet (p. 15) in this guide.

Process

Literacy Extension: Objects have a lot of stories to tell! Have students write a short story from the perspective of the object they selected. (Ex. if they choose the glove puppet, how does it feel about being in the classroom?)

1. Place the objects at stations around the room. There should be one object at each station.
2. Let the students examine the objects at each station. Set a timer so students progress through each station for 3–4 minutes.
3. After each student has seen all the objects, briefly discuss each in turn. Choose one object and ask the class to talk about their observations.
4. Have students choose one object and fill out the “What Can Objects Tell Us?” worksheet. If students don’t know an answer, explore ideas on how to find the information: Internet, books, etc.
5. Have students exchange their written descriptions of the objects to see if another student can match their description to the object.

What Can Objects Tell Us?

What is this object?

What does it look like? Smell like? Feel Like? Does it make any noise?

Where is the object from?

Why is it important? Who is it important to?

What is it made of? How was it made?

What else do you notice about it?

Drawing (on back)

Activity 2: Chinese Dough Figurines

In this activity, students will sculpt their own figurines made from glutinous rice flour based on their examination of the Journey to the West figurines found in the box.

Dough sculpture is a popular Chinese folk art that has existed for over 4,000 years. According to legend, the craft was started by the military strategist Zhuge Liang during the Three Kingdoms Era (AD 220–280). While trying to cross the Han River, he was blocked by gusting winds and high waters. To appease the angry river gods, Zhuge Liang ordered forty-nine dough heads stuffed with meat to be thrown into the river. At once, the winds calmed and the waters retreated so the armies could pass. Since then, the Chinese have made little figures sculpted of dough to display at temples, weddings and other festivals.



Monkey King Dough Figurine

Questions to Explore:

1. How are the figurines made? What tools does the artist need? How are the figurines decorated?
2. How is Monkey King's personality reflected in the dough figurine? How do the figurines in the box connect to the stories you have read about Monkey King?
3. What sort of figures or shapes can you make out of rice dough? How did you choose to sculpt your figures? Who or what do they represent?

Activity 2: Chinese Dough Figurines

Materials

- 1/2 cup salt
- 3 3/4 cups white flour
- 1 tsp. alum
- 1 3/4 cups water
- 1/2 cups glutinous rice flour (available in any Asian market)
- toothpicks
- icing colour (for baking)

Process

1. Dissolve salt and alum in water.
2. Mix white flour and rice flour in separate bowl. Pour in alum-salt mixture and mix well. Dough will be stiff.
3. Knead dough on unfloured surface until it becomes pliable.
4. Roll dough into golf ball sized pieces and flatten with palm of hand.
5. Place flattened dough balls into boiling water until they begin to float. Remove them to cool. They should be glossy and slightly sticky.

Note: For younger students, teachers can make and colour dough ahead of time.

This activity is adapted from the dough figurine recipe at the Chinese Language School: <http://goo.gl/S00eKo>. Scan the QR code below with your mobile device to get more information.



Dough Figurine Recipe

Activity 2: Chinese Dough Figurines

Process

6. When pieces are cool, work in colouring until even.
7. Dough can be refrigerated until ready to use. Before use, let warm to room temperature.
8. Sculpt dough into different shapes and figures. Use toothpicks to hold object together.
9. Let dough dry. This can take several days to a week. If desired, coat object with clear nail polish to preserve it.

Language Arts Extension: Have students write a story about their object. Does their object represent a specific character? If so, what is his or her personality like? What does their character do in the story?

Culture Extension: Watch the video of master sculptor Zhang Bao-lin: <http://goo.gl/tRvnoi>. After watching, have the students discuss what the video tells them about dough sculptures and the artists who make them.



Zhang Bao-lin Video

Activity 3: Make a Monkey King Opera Mask

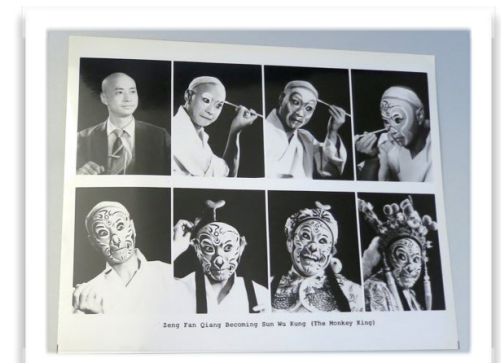
In this activity, students will make their own opera mask based on the character of Monkey King. Older children may want to write a script and put on a performance drawn from one of the stories related to Monkey King.

Traditional Chinese opera began in the Song dynasty (AD 960–1279) and combines singing, martial arts, acrobatics, colourful costumes, makeup and masks.

The story of Monkey King, Journey to the West, was adapted into an opera and remains popular today. The character of Monkey King is an audience favourite because of his mischievous but entertaining antics.



Monkey King Opera Mask



Peking Opera Photo

Questions to Explore:

1. Does the mask in the box reflect the personality of Monkey King? What traits can you see in the mask?
2. In the photograph, is it possible to see Monkey King's personality coming to life? How so?
3. How did you choose to decorate your mask? Are there colours or shapes on your mask that have special meaning?
4. Why do actors wear masks? Why are masks important in some performances?

Activity 3: Make a Monkey King Opera Mask

Materials

- Paper plates
- Tempera paints or felt-tip pins
- Scissors
- Yarn or string (optional)

Process

1. Cut paper plate into an oval head shape.
2. Cut out ears (from another plate) and attach to plate with glue or scissors.
3. Draw the Monkey King face design on the plate with pencil, using the Monkey King Opera Mask and Peking Opera Photo as a guide.
4. Cut out eyes and make two slits in nose.
5. Paint mask or colour it with markers.

Note: Put on a show wearing your masks! Have younger students use the script in **Appendix A**. Older students may want to write their own script and make their own props and costumes. Use the drum, gong and music cd in the box for sound effects.



Activity 4: Showtime! How Monkey Became Monkey King

The story of the origin of Monkey King has many variations but most versions begin with Monkey being born from a gigantic rock located on mysterious Fruit and Flower Mountain. After his birth, he meets the other monkeys who live on the mountain and becomes their king after he bravely jumps through a waterfall into a magical cave.

Note: Feel free to adapt this script according to the ages and abilities of your students.

Reader's Theatre: For more advanced students, Aaron Shephard has a reader's theatre script adapted from [The Monkey King: A Superhero Tale of China](#), included in this guide. Please see <http://goo.gl/ZfSosL>.

Materials

- Script: How Monkey Became Monkey King (in **Appendix A** of this guide)
- Drum and copper gong (included in box)
- Music CD (included in box)
- Costumes, props (optional)
- Masks (use the instructions in **Activity 3: Monkey King Opera Mask**)
- Beaded curtain or shower curtain for waterfall
- Tables, chairs, bowls of fruit for feast



Aaron Shephard Script

Activity 5: On the Map: Xuanzang's Journey

In this activity, students will create a three-dimensional map of China to help them visualize Xuanzang's journey and learn about some of China's major mountains, deserts and rivers.

The Buddhist monk Tang Sanzeng, or Tripitaka, is one the central characters in the novel Journey to the West. His character is based on the real-life Tang dynasty monk and scholar Xuanzang, who became famous for his seventeen-year pilgrimage to India to bring back Buddhist scriptures to China.

Xuanzang journeyed along what we now call the Silk Road, through the scorching sands of the Taklamakan desert and along the high passes of the Tianshan (literally "under heaven") mountains. He made his way onwards through what is now Turkestan to India, Nepal and Nalanda, a centre of Buddhist learning. He spent many years studying Buddhist scriptures in Nalanda before eventually returning to China.

When Xuanzang made it home, he was appointed court advisor by the emperor and spent the remainder of his days teaching and translating the Buddhist texts he brought back from India. Because of his journey, Buddhism became better understood in China and began to spread throughout other parts of Asia.



Map of Asia



Xuanzang (AD 602–644)

Activity 5: On the Map: Xuanzang's Journey

Materials

- Laminated map (included in box)
- Internet or print atlas
- 2-by-2 piece of plywood
- Sculpey – green for land, blue for water, yellow for desert
- Coloured straws cut into 1/2” pieces or coloured toothpicks

Process

1. Look at the laminated map of Asia and point out the coloured dots that mark the journey of Xuanzang across China and into India.
2. With students, identify the Tianshan Mountains, Yangtze and Yellow Rivers and the Taklamakan desert. Find the Great Wall. Where is the Gobi Desert?
3. Use a corresponding atlas that shows the elevation of these landmarks.
4. With a pencil, draw an outline of China on the plywood. Be sure to mark rivers, mountains and deserts.
5. Take the green clay and fill in land on the outlined space. Don't fill in the rivers. Add more clay to the areas with higher elevation.
6. Use blue clay to fill in the rivers, yellow for deserts.

Activity 5: On the Map: Xuanzang's Journey

Process

- Using the laminated map in the box as a guide, place coloured straws or toothpicks on the clay map to mark Xuanzang's journey. This won't be exact but will still give students an idea of where he went on his travels.
- If time permits, students can also use clay to sculpt the Great Wall, which stretches almost 4,000 miles

Geography Extension: Have students use the unmarked side of the laminated map and see if they can identify China's major mountains, deserts and rivers.

Culture Extension: Have students watch this beautiful video of the Tianshan Mountains set to music: <https://youtu.be/UCJ0fEkPF-c>.



Tianshan Video

Activity 6: Part 1 – Make a Shadow Puppet

In this activity, students will create colourful shadow puppets!

Chinese shadow puppetry originated over 2,000 years ago. Legend has it that shadow puppetry came about when Emperor Wu of the Han dynasty (BC 206–AD 220), devastated by the death of his mistress, ordered his court officials to bring her back to life. The officials made a model of his mistress out of donkey leather with jointed arms and legs. They adorned her with clothes by painting them on leather and, using an oil lamp, made her shadow move as if she still breathed.

Chinese shadow puppetry developed alongside opera and shares many of the same characteristics, including songs, stories and aesthetics. It became very popular with roving entertainers who moved from village to village putting on shows and telling the stories of days past, myths and heroic warriors. Monkey King is a favourite character in shadow puppetry for adults and children.

Nowadays, shadow puppetry in China is an endangered art form. Many puppeteers are too old to continue performing and younger generations are more interested in TV, movies and video games. Now, there are efforts to revive the ancient art form and make it more appealing to modern audiences.



Shadow Puppet

Questions to Explore:

1. What makes shadow puppetry so unique compared to other kinds of puppetry?
2. Look at the glove puppet in the box and the shadow puppet. How are they alike? Different?
3. How is a shadow made? Explore different ways of making shadows using your hands, body and other objects.
4. After making your puppet, what happens when you move it closer to a light? Further away?

Activity 6: Part 1 – Make a Shadow Puppet

Materials

- Monkey King shadow puppet template (in **Appendix B** of this guide)
- Clear plastic sheeting (Dura-lar or acetate; one 8x11 sheet for 12” puppet)
- Black permanent marker
- Coloured permanent markers
- Scissors
- tape
- 1/8” dowels or chopsticks
- Scalpel
- Brads (brass fastener)

Culture Extension: For fun shadow puppet ideas and templates, be sure to check out the British Library site at <http://goo.gl/BM4jwi>.

UNESCO has an interesting, introductory video to Chinese shadow puppets at <https://goo.gl/bNoohC>.



British Library Link



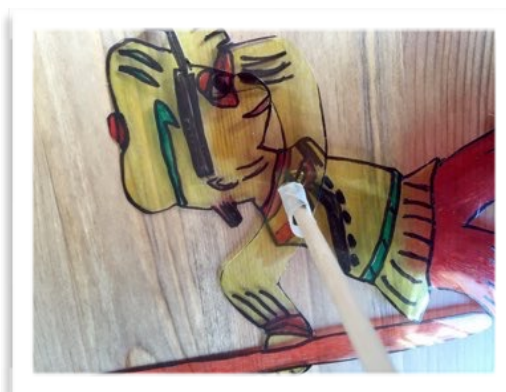
UNESCO Link

Activity 6: Part 1 – Make a Shadow Puppet

Process



1. Photocopy the Monkey King shadow puppet templates in **Appendix B** of this guide.
2. Lay the templates under the sheet of plastic and secure with tape.
3. Trace the outline of the templates with black marker.
4. Colour in the puppet with colours of your choosing.
5. Cut out coloured puppet with scissors.
6. With scalpel, cut a small X on spot marked on templates.
7. Push brad through marked spot on body and arms of puppet.
8. Fix dowel between prongs of brad. Tape prongs securely around dowel.
9. Your puppet is ready for showtime!



Activity 6: Part 2 – Make a Shadow Puppet Stage

Make a simple tabletop stage for your shadow puppets.

Materials

- Cardboard box/shoebox (roughly 48" x 36")
- Large sheet of thin white paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Marker or paints
- Small desktop lamp



Process

1. Cut out a hole in the middle of the cardboard box, leaving 1/2" on the sides, 3" on the bottom and 2" on top.
2. Decorate the stage with paint or markers. Let dry.
3. Glue the piece of paper to the back side of the frame hole. The hole should be completely covered.
4. Place a small desk lamp behind the stage to illuminate the puppets.

Vocabulary Words

Monkey King	Hero of the popular Chinese novel <u>Journey to the West</u> . Clever but mischievous, Monkey assists the monk Xuanzang to bring Buddhist scriptures from India to China.
Xuanzang	The Tang dynasty Buddhist monk, traveller and scholar who is credited with introducing Buddhism to China.
Folklore	Stories, rituals, legends, music, popular customs and beliefs that form an integral part of every culture.
<u>Journey to the West</u>	A novel written during the Ming dynasty by Wu Cheng'en. It tells the story of Monkey King, the monk Xuanzang and the monsters Pigsy and Sandy who travel together to India from China to collect the Buddhist scriptures.
Dough figurines	Small figurines carved out of dough and shaped into characters from popular legends, toys and decorative objects.
Chinese opera	A performing art form dating back to ancient times that mixes singing, dance, music, acrobatics and martial arts. Beijing opera is the most famous of Chinese opera.

Vocabulary Words

Shadow puppet

A type of puppetry that uses flat, cut-out figures held between a light source and a screen to tell a story. Shadow puppetry is especially popular in Asia.

Glove puppet

Chinese glove puppets are popular throughout southern China and Taiwan. The heads are most often carved from wood and the bodies are made entirely out of cloth, with the exception of the hands and feet.

Silk Road

A trade route that connected China, India and Persia and ended near present-day Turkey. The Silk Road was important for spreading ideas, goods, inventions, and culture across the world.

Bibliography & Web Resources

Books

- ★ Monkey, by Wu Cheng-en, translated by Arthur Waley, John Day, New York, 1943; reprinted by Grove, New York, 1958. An abridged version of Journey to the West and a good introduction to the novel.
- ★ The Journey to the West, translated and edited by Anthony C. Yu, University of Chicago, Chicago and London, 1977. Well-regarded translation of the complete Journey to the West.
- ★ Adventures from China: Monkey King, by Wei Dong Chen, JR Comics, Seoul, 2012. Entertaining twenty-volume comic series based on Journey to the West.

Websites

- ★ British Library: <http://goo.gl/R1efhz>. Image of woodblock print from an 18th century edition of Journey to the West.
- ★ Asia Society: <http://goo.gl/TdPxEx>. Video of the Shanghai Kunqu Opera Troupe performing Journey to the West.
- ★ Cultural China: <http://goo.gl/aa6ait>. Information on Chinese culture and folk arts.
- ★ Fordie (China Travel Adventures): <http://goo.gl/cFVTGi>. The travel website of a UK tour operator who traces the route of Xuanzang's journey.
- ★ National Consortium for Teaching About Asia: <http://goo.gl/2VdlO1>. The East Asian Study Centre at Ohio State University has a wealth of links to lesson plans on Chinese culture.

Appendix A: Showtime!

How Monkey Became Monkey King Script

How Monkey Became Monkey King

Characters:

- * Narrator #1
- * Narrator #2
- * Sun Wukong (Monkey King)
- * Sage of the Clouds
- * Attendant #1
- * Attendant #2
- * Old Wise Monkey
- * Monkey #1
- * Monkey #2
- * Monkey #3

Ensemble includes other monkeys.

Time: A long, long time ago

Place: Fruit and Flower Mountain

SCENE 1: A MONKEY IS BORN

Clouds. Darkness. Mysterious music. The clouds open to reveal a large rock.

Two persons dressed in Chinese robes appear onstage. They are NARRATOR#1 and NARRATOR#2.

NARRATOR #1:

A very long time ago in China stood mysterious Fruit and Flower Mountain with towering cliffs, misty caverns and all sorts of strange and wonderful creatures. On the loftiest peak of this mountain, so high it brushed the sky, sat an enormous rock.

NARRATOR #2:

One night a terrible storm came to the mountain. Furious winds pulled the trees from their roots and the animals fled in terror. Thunder and lightening tore through the clouds and the whole mountain shook with its force. Suddenly, with a large CRACK! a bolt of lightening exploded through the heavens and hit the rock so hard it burst open.

Outburst of loud drumming. Gong clashes. Black clouds overwhelm the stage. Then all is suddenly quiet.

NARRATOR #1:

The rock disappeared and in its place was an ordinary looking little monkey.

MONKEY appears onstage, crouching, very still. NARRATORS exit stage.

Slowly the monkey begins to wiggle and stretch. He moves his arms and legs and turns his head from side to side. Suddenly, he gives a gigantic leap.

MONKEY:

Wheee!

Monkey looks right and left, upwards and downwards in amazement at the world around him. He begins to laugh and jump.

MONKEY:

Ha, ha, ha! What a strange world I'm in! It's all so curious.

The SAGE OF THE CLOUDS and ATTENDANT #1 and #2 appear onstage and stand in the background. They watch MONKEY silently as he explores.

Monkey runs around stage exploring his new home. He stops suddenly and cups his ear, as if hearing something very far away.

MONKEY:

I hear voices! So I'm not so alone here after all. I wonder who lives here? Hmmm. I'd better go investigate!

MONKEY skips off stage. SAGE OF THE CLOUDS AND ATTENDANT #1 AND ATTENDANT #2 step forward.

ATTENDANT #1:

Great Sage, who is that strange monkey below that was born from a rock?

SAGE OF THE CLOUDS:

That little monkey is destined to do many wonderful things. First, he will be crowned Monkey King and later he will go on a great journey and do much good in the world.

ATTENDANT #2:
Monkey King? He seems so small and ordinary looking!

SAGE OF THE CLOUDS:
Don't be fooled! He is very brave and curious. Let's watch and see what he does next.

SAGE OF THE CLOUDS and ATTENDANT #1 AND ATTENDANT #2 exit stage.

SCENE 2: MONKEY JUMPS THROUGH A WATERFALL

A group of monkeys, including OLD WISE MONKEY, MONKEYS #1, #2, #3 stand at the base of a waterfall that hangs like a long beaded curtain over a river.

MONKEYS #1 & #2:
What a beautiful waterfall!

OLD WISE MONKEY:
It's so high, I can't see the top! And so wide I can't see around it!

MONKEY #3:
It's lovely! I wonder what lies beyond?

MONKEY #1:
Why don't you go take a look?

MONKEY #2:
Who, me? Why don't you go take a look! I'd get too wet!

MONKEY #3:
I'd go look but I'm too hungry. I need a snack.
(He rubs his belly.)

OLD WISE MONKEY:

There's a legend that states that whoever dares to pass through this waterfall and comes back alive to report what they have found will become ruler of all the monkeys.

MONKEY #3:

Who would dare to do that? We don't know what's on the other side!

MONKEY #1:

He's right. I'm not sure that's a very good idea.

Suddenly there is a loud laugh from offstage. MONKEY comes leaping in and frightens the monkeys.

MONKEY #2:

Who are you? I don't recognize you. You're not from around here, are you?

MONKEY:

My name is Monkey! And who are you?

OLD WISE MONKEY:

We're the monkeys of Fruit and Flower Mountain. We've lived on this mountain since the beginning of time.

MONKEY:

Aha! I overheard you talking just a minute ago. If I jump through that waterfall, will you make me your king?

MONKEY #2:

But you don't know what's behind the waterfall!

MONKEY leaps and somersaults to the foot of the waterfall.

MONKEY:
I'm not afraid of anything! I'm the bravest monkey in the world!

OLD WISE MONKEY:
You are also the most boastful!

MONKEY #1:
Why not let him try? Then we'll see if he's as brave as he claims!

MONKEY:
But if I do, you must promise to make me king.

MONKEYS:(In unison.)
Yes, we promise.

MONKEY leaps and jumps around stage.

MONKEY:
One...two...three... WHEEEEEEE!

MONKEY jumps into waterfall and disappears. All the monkeys gasp in astonishment.

MONKEY #1:
He really did it!

OLD WISE MONKEY:
Good luck to him!

MONKEY jumps through the waterfall and lands on the other side in a large cave. Inside the cave he finds tables set with bowls overflowing with peaches and goblets of wine, chairs, some beds, bamboo groves and peach trees. He explores the cave and notices a large glowing stone tablet in the back covered with vines.

Monkey pulls the vines apart to reveal a glowing inscription on a stone tablet.

MONKEY:

What is this? (Reading slowly) "The Water Curtain Cave of Heaven." "Welcome to Paradise."

MONKEY gives a yell of delight and runs back to the entrance of the cave.

MONKEY KING:

I must tell the others what I've found!

MONKEY KING jumps through the waterfall to the other side.

SCENE 3: MONKEY BECOMES MONKEY KING

Suddenly there is a loud commotion and the monkeys jump in surprise as MONKEY KING comes crashing through the waterfall again. He tumbles to the ground in front of the astonished group of monkeys.

MONKEY:

I told you I'd be back! Behind this waterfall lies the "Water Curtain Cave of Heaven." It's a heavenly paradise, with bamboo groves, soft beds and enough peaches to feed a thousand monkeys! Follow me through the waterfall to your new home!

OLD WISE MONKEY:

Welcome back, young monkey! You are indeed very brave and very lucky. Legend speaks of this magical cave and we must honour the decree of the gods in bringing you to us. We will follow you through the waterfall. There, you will be our Monkey King!

The other monkeys whoop and holler.

MONKEYS: (In unison)
Monkey King! Monkey King!

MONKEY:
Follow me, monkeys!

Pushing and jostling, the monkeys line up behind Monkey to jump through the waterfall. MONKEY gives a yell and jumps through to the other side. The other monkeys follow, one by one.

When they arrive on the other side, the monkeys excitedly rush around the cave looking at everything with delight.

MONKEY #1:
This is paradise! Look at all those peaches!

OLD WISE MONKEY: (raising goblet)
Let's make a toast to our new leader, Monkey King!

MONKEY KING takes his place at the chair at the head of the table and the other monkeys gather around him, cheering. Chinese fanfare music plays with drums and gongs.

SAGE OF THE CLOUDS appears onstage and addresses audience.

SAGE OF THE CLOUDS:
This is only the first step in Monkey King's great journey. There are many adventures that await him. He will soon come to me in search of wisdom so that I may help set him on his way.

Appendix B: Shadow Puppet Templates

