

2a

What do you know about folk or traditional art, like paper cutting? Tell your partner about it.

2b

Read the passage and complete the chart below.

MOVING FROM GENERAL TO SPECIFIC

A general introduction of the topic is usually followed by specific details and examples.

Beauty in Common Things

Each different part of China has its own special forms of traditional art.

These usually try to show the things that are important in life, such as love, beauty and family. The most common things, from paper to clay to bamboo, are turned into objects of beauty.



According to Chinese history, sky lanterns were first used by Zhuge Kongming. He sent them out to ask for help when in trouble. Today, sky lanterns are used at festivals and other celebrations. They are made of bamboo and covered with paper. When the lanterns are lit, they slowly rise into the air like small hot-air balloons for all to see. They are seen as bright symbols of happiness and good wishes.

Paper cutting has been around for over 1,500 years. Paper cutting sounds very easy but it can be difficult to do. The paper, usually red, is folded before it is cut with scissors. The most common pictures are flowers, animals, and things about Chinese history. During the Spring Festival, they are put on windows, doors and walls as symbols of wishes for good luck and a happy new year.



Chinese clay art is famous because the clay pieces are so small but they look very real. The pieces are usually cute children or lively characters from a Chinese fairy tale or historical story. The pieces are carefully shaped by hand from a very special kind of clay and then allowed to air-dry. After drying, they are fired at a very high heat. They are then polished and painted. It takes several weeks to complete everything. These small pieces of clay art show the love that all Chinese people have for life and beauty.

Traditional art form	Materials used
1.	
2.	
3.	

2c

Read the passage again and answer the questions.

1. What do traditional Chinese art forms try to show?
2. What were sky lanterns used for before and what are they used for now?
3. What kinds of pictures are usually found on paper cuttings?
4. How do people use paper cuttings during the Spring Festival?
5. What are the steps for making clay art pieces?
6. Which art form do you think is the most interesting? Why?

2d

Complete the sentences using the correct forms of the phrases in the box.

such as turn ... into send out cover with rise into put ... on

1. People used to _____ sky lanterns when they were in trouble. But today, people light the lanterns and watch them _____ the sky with their wishes.
2. The art of paper cutting _____ a simple thing like a piece of paper _____ a beautiful piece of art. People often _____ these art pieces _____ the doors, windows and walls of their homes to celebrate the Spring Festival.
3. To make Chinese clay art, the clay is shaped by hand into things _____ cute children or characters from Chinese fairy tales and stories. They are then _____ paint.

2e

Discuss the questions in your group.

1. Which art form do you think is the easiest? Which is the most difficult? Why?
2. Which art form would you like to learn? Why?

3a

What are some special things that your town/city is famous for? These can be food, artwork or any other products. Discuss them with a partner and take notes.

What the product is	
What it is made of/from	
Who it is made by	
Where it is made	
What it can do	
Why it is special	