

## DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL – IDEAS FOR PERFORMANCE

### 1. Dragon Boat props

With teacher assistance, students can construct dragon boats out of heavy cardboard. The front (head) and back (tail) can be separate, connected by fabric or another piece of cardboard for the middle. The class can decorate these props with paint or colored paper. An Internet image search can provide ideas to inspire students' creativity.



## 2. Dragon Boat racing

The centuries-old tradition of dragon boat racing still takes place today in cities around the world; these photos show the Chinese holiday in Boston. Teams of rowers propel decorated boats to the sound of beating drums, as enthusiastic viewers cheer them on.



### 3. 5-colored ornament



At the banks of the Mi Luo River, the poet Qu Yan was given a 5-colored ornament to prevent evil spirits. This photo shows a prop used by one of the author's classes during their performance of the Dragon Boat Festival play. Even today, this Chinese holiday is a day for wearing talismans to keep away evil spirits.

### 4. Dumplings



(photo by "panduh" at [www.flickr.com/photos/osakajon](http://www.flickr.com/photos/osakajon))

According to the story of Qu Yuan, villagers tossed wrapped dumplings into the Mu Lio River to lure the fish away from the poet's body. Today, eating "zongzi" – rice dumplings wrapped in bamboo leaves – remains a tradition for the Dragon Boat Festival. Depending on the audience size for your class performance, students can distribute these dumplings at the end of the play.