

Chinese Fans

Fans were first used in China to keep off the dust raised by wheels of a cart or to fan away annoying pests. Gradually, fans acquired other uses. They became important for court performances, traditional Chinese operas, and other ceremonies. Artists and poets painted or wrote on them, and the rich and educated used them to show their social standing.

Fans were made out of many different materials including paper, silk, ivory, bamboo, wood, feathers, and various types of leaves.



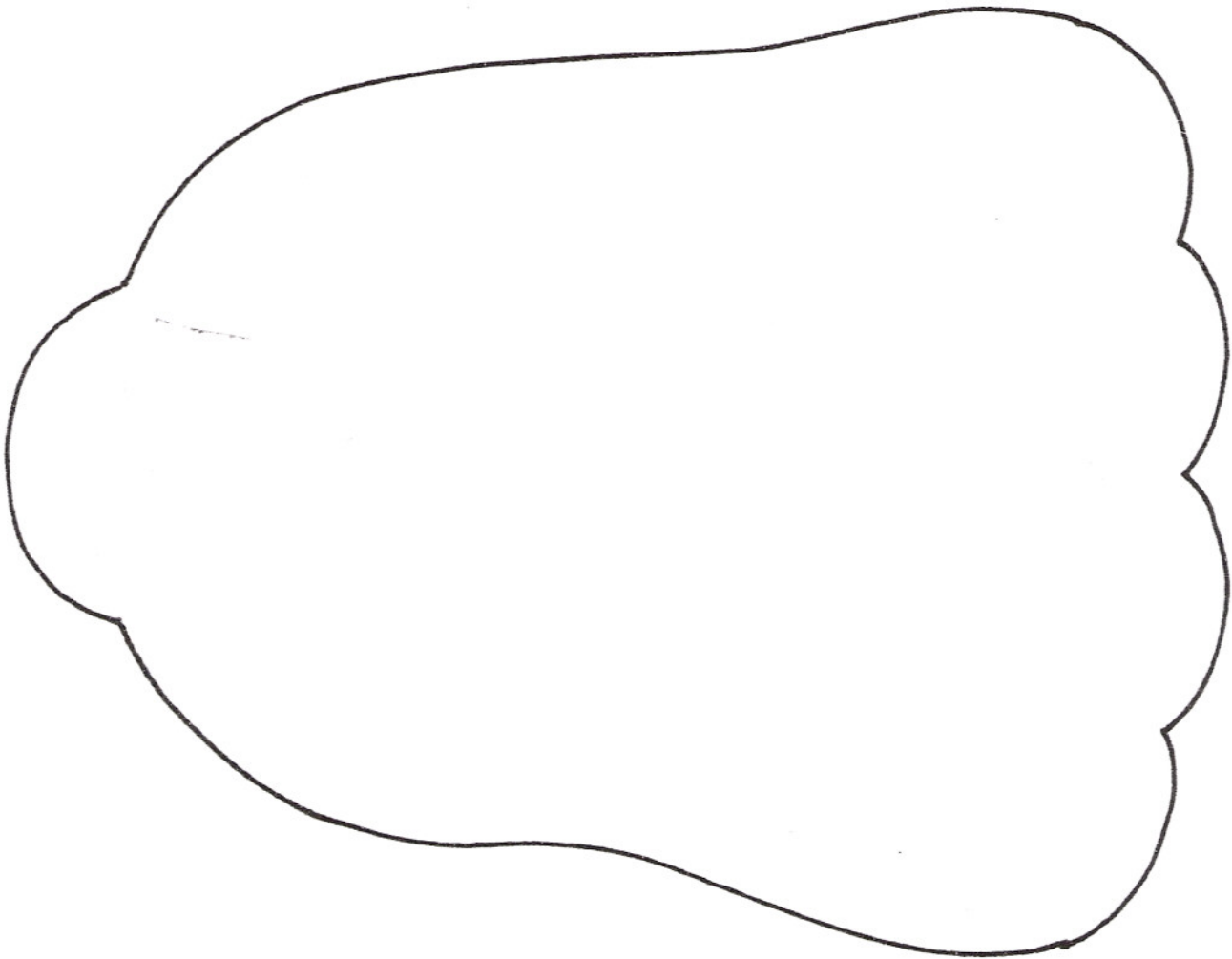
Chinese Fans *(continued)*

Project Description

As you survey the Chinese fans in Beijing's premier ancient history museum, you realize immediately that one of them is particularly outstanding. It is a ceremonial fan made by an ancient artist known for painting traditional Chinese motifs. Make a copy of the fan to put in your own museum.

Materials

card stock or poster board
paints, marking pens, or watercolors
scissors
sticks such as a tongue depressor or craft sticks
decorative paper



Chinese Fans (continued)

Directions

1. Draw the shape of a ceremonial fan on a piece of cardboard or poster board, or use the pattern on page 30.
2. Cut out the fan.
3. Use paints, marking pens, or watercolors to paint your design on the fan.
4. Paint a border around the edge of the fan to simulate wood or ivory, or glue on a border of decorative paper.
5. Decorate a stick and glue it to the back of the fan.

