

# Ancient Chinese Philosophers – Teacher Directions

Download files for Ancient Chinese Philosophers from the Critical Thinking with Alice Webpage. First, place a China gallery folder in the Alice application (Required folder) that you and your students will use for this project. By using a customized gallery, you can restrict the objects students will use in their project, helping them to stay more focused.

## Computer Requirements:

**Alice 2.2 for PC:** Windows XP or Vista; a VGA graphics card capable of high (16 bit) color and 1024x768 resolution (3D video card recommended); 512MB of RAM (1GB recommended); sound card.

**Alice 2.2 for MAC:** At least Mac OS X 10.4 or later; PowerPC or Intel processor; VGA graphics card capable of high (16 bit) color and 1024x768 resolution (3D video card recommended); 512 MB of RAM (1GB recommended); sound card.

**Sound Editing Program:** Recommend the free Audacity program, available at <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>

**Computer microphone**

**Headphones**

## How to Create a Customized Gallery Folder

**On a MAC,** hold down the control key while clicking on the icon of the Alice program. When the drop-down menu appears, double-click on Show Packet Contents, then open the Contents folder. Next, open the Required folder, then open the gallery folder. You will see a list of all the folders currently in your gallery. Create a new folder called China. Place all files that you want students to access for their project into this folder. Be sure to include a file titled `directoryThumbnail.png`, and make sure this file size is only 128x128 pixels. This file will serve as the gallery folder's icon. Suggested files can be downloaded from the Critical Thinking Alice Webpage for Ancient Chinese Philosophers, Grade 6 at <http://www.timetrek.org/index2.htm>. Create a folder called Sounds, and place the files in it that you download from the timetrek site for China, Grade 6 that students will be able to access from their computers. Create a Billboards file and place the files in it that you download from the timetrek site for China, Grade 6 that students will be able to access from their computers.

**On a PC,** locate the Required folder inside the Alice folder. Follow the same directions as above.

## Lesson Plan

1. If necessary, provide students with background information regarding primary sources and critical thinking.
2. Provide students with direct instruction regarding background information on the three Chinese philosophers discussed in this project. A PowerPoint, "ChinaDynasties", and student handout, keyed to this PowerPoint, is available from the Critical Thinking with Alice Webpage. Also provide students with direct instruction regarding Yin and Yang,

as outlined on the AncientChinesePhilosophersBackground.doc. Discuss how the ideas of Yin and Yang differ from western thought.

3. Introduce the idea of 3D Alice, where you can create scenes that can be seen from different points of view. Download and show students the Alice\_Points\_of\_View.pdf file. Discuss how, in order to think critically, all points of view should be considered. It is easy to come to wrong conclusions when only viewing issues from one point of view, as illustrated through the Alice\_Points\_of\_View graphics.
4. Hand out the ChinesePhilosophers PrimarySources.doc. to students. Discuss the three philosophers' quotes, and how they are either similar or different. Be sure students have a basic understanding of the meaning of the quotes. Emphasize that students will not be able to create their own Alice worlds unless they have a good understanding of what these philosophers are saying. Explain the goal of the project is to create a story where at least two of the philosophers are speaking to one another, and either agreeing or disagreeing with each other. Then, as an extension, students can also insert an object to represent themselves, and provide their own comments on whether they agree or disagree with the philosophers.
5. Show the China Today handout to students. Discuss how the ideas in the article might relate to the ideas presented by the ancient Chinese philosophers.
6. Show students the sample AncientChina.a2w world as an example of what they might create on their own.
7. Provide students with copies of the AncientChinesePhilosophersDirections.doc. Walk through the tutorial with the students.
8. Provide students with time to complete their own unique China Alice world. Stress the importance of complying with the Rubrics.
9. Have students view each other's worlds and critique, according to the rubric requirements.