

# Draw On Culture, Volume 1

## Little Friends Around the World (Xiǎo Péngyǒumen)

is designed to spark an interest in culture, writing, language, and art by introducing children to Chinese history, cultural ideas and images. We have designed this activity book to be a fun instructional aid, both in the classroom and at home, with ready-to-color artwork paired with text explaining the cultural symbolism behind each character. From the importance of bats to a secret form of writing shared only by women, the world is a colorful place brought to life by your child's imagination.



### Bat / Fú

The word for "bat" is fú, and it sounds just like the word for good fortune, fú. So go bats over bats! Two bats together signifies the five blessings (wǔ fú) of long life, wealth, health, virtue and an easy natural death. Combine images of bats with images of white peaches and you are saying "have good fortune and a long life." Have five bats flying around the character for longevity (shòu), and you have a very powerful rebus—or word picture—for good fortune and long life: wǔ fú péng shòu. So the next time you see bats, welcome them for bringing you good fortune!

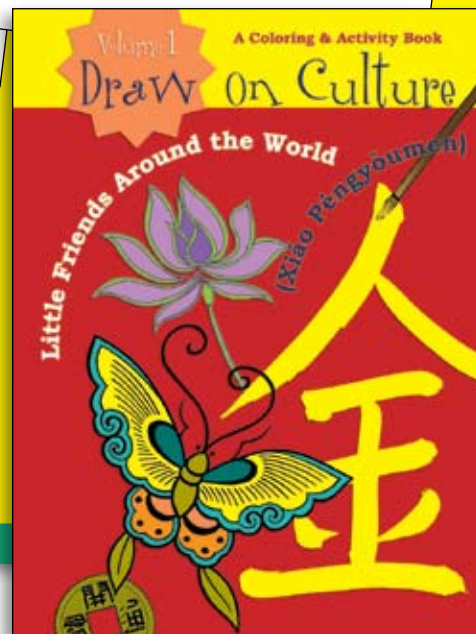
How do I say wǔ fú péng shòu? fú = 福; wǔ = 五; shòu = 寿; péng = 朋

Read about,  
learn about, say...

color and write!

***"A wonderful resource for both classroom teachers and families of young learners! This is more than a simple coloring book. It combines stories, hands-on activities, and the power of art. I want to read your second volume."***

—Lin Lin, PhD, Department of Childhood/Early Childhood Education, State University of New York at Cortland



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

An author and educator who has conducted ethnographic research in China for over fifteen years, Virginia holds a doctorate in cultural anthropology from Rutgers University where she is a Research Associate. Along with her editorial and creative work at Thimbleberry Press, she consults on China, global women's issues and social change.

Publisher: Thimbleberry Press, LLC

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ISBN: 978-0-9794531-37

Order online at [www.thimbleberrypress.com](http://www.thimbleberrypress.com).

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