Teaching Chinese Characters

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Please watching the following video and find out how many characters are there?

The art of writing 漢字的藝術
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4bwDfO2h28
The art of writing

- 米, 鳥, 犬, 馬, 草, 人, 車, 山, 石, 羽, 火, 目, 耳, 口, 水, 魚, 龍, 風, 月, 死, 輪
• Oracle-bone script 甲骨文
• Bronze script 金文
• Great Seal 大篆 and small seal 小篆 Qin dynasty
• Clerical script 隶书/隶书
• Standard script 楷书
• Running script 行书/行書
• Grass script/cursive 草书/草書
• Xu Shen 許慎《説文解字》(shuōwén jiězì) (On Graphs and Composite Graphs)
  – A dictionary which explains simple characters and analysis of compound characters
  – ‘six principles’ 六書
    • [http://www.codebit.cn/shuowen/?&p=1](http://www.codebit.cn/shuowen/?&p=1)
    • 日, 本, 嫁, 森
‘six principles’ 六书/六書 from <shuōwén jiězì>

1. Pictographic 象形
2. Ideographic 指示
3. Semantic-semantic compounds; 会义/會義
4. semantic-phonetic compounds 形声/形聲
5. Borrowing 假借
6. Explanatory 专注/轉注
Pictographic 象形

• 3.9%
• resemble the shapes of the objects
• E.g. 日, 月, 水, 鳥, 火, 馬
• 《漢字的動畫》the animation of Chinese characters
  – http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RxCAnaKjds&feature=related
  《漢字的藝術》The Art of writing
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emXw0pgrrlY&feature=related
• 1.3%
• Represent abstract ideas that cannot be symbolized in terms of size or shape.
• E.g. 上，下，一，二，三， 本，末，刃
semantic-semantic compounds

会义/會義

• 12.3%
• The combination of the semantics of two component graphs
• E.g. 信，武，休，旦，明，林，森
semantic-phonetic compounds 形声/形聲

• 81.2%
• Form and sound
• E.g. 媽, 罵, 嫁, 江, 河, 鴨, 菜
• 幅, 輻, 副, 富, 菓
Borrowing 假借

- 1.2%
- Because of phonetic similarity that unrelated characters were borrowed to represent totally different words.
- E.g. 西，公，自
Explanatory 专注/轉注

• 0.07%
• A category that is not very well understood by modern scholars.
• E.g. 老 and 考
Chinese characters

• How do you present HANZI to students on the first class?

想

• What are the challenges for you when teaching HANZI?
  – Time consuming? Ss impatient? Ss bored of practice writing?

• Any techniques/tricks to teach HANZI?
  – Flash card? Color code? Stories?
Useful websites

http://163.22.85.9/school/data/happychinese/02/Autoplay.html

快樂學六書

http://www.usc.edu/dept/ealc/chinese/character/alpha/index.htm

南加大中文系漢字練習網 recommended By KeuiHsin Engelhard

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtYbQtG8cgM

纪录片《汉字五千年》

《汉字王国》[瑞典]林西莉