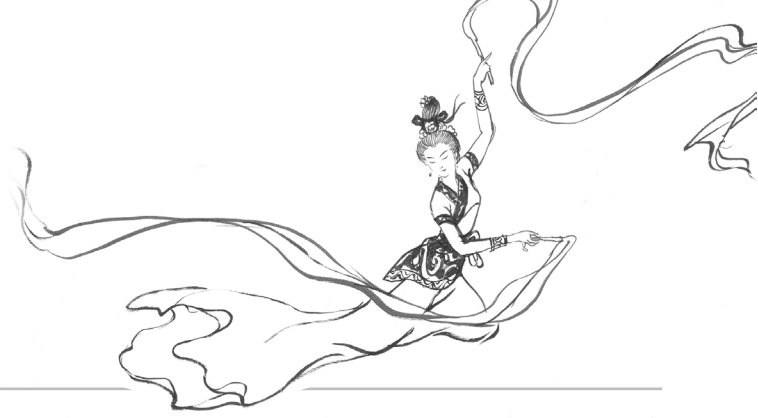


飛

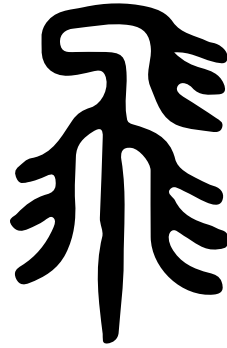
TO FLY

fēi



MANY CHINESE CHARACTERS ARE PICTOGRAPHIC.

This means that they are written to look like something. The word for flying (飛) used to be written more like this:



It starts looking like a bird, right? In the beginning, it was written to look like a crane.



SPEAK IT

Fēi is easy to say. It's just like saying "say" or "pay" but with an F. It's also just like the name Fey.

"Fey" = 飛

WORD MATCH

Here are some words that have 飛 in them. Draw lines to match them with their image.

KEY	
 飛鏢 fēibiāo	 飛蛾 fēi'é
 飛盤 fēipán	 飛船 fēichuán
 飛機 fēijī	 飛天 Fēitiān



飛盤

飛天

飛鏢

飛蛾

飛機

飛船

飛 TO FLY

fēi

Writing 飛 is complicated, but also fun. Just take it one step at a time:

一 乙 飞 飞 飞 飞 飞 飞 飞

飛	飛	飛	飛				
飛	飛	飛	飛				
飛	飛	飛	飛				
飛	飛	飛	飛				

WORD SEARCH

Can you find all 9 words? Circle as many as you can.

D	E	Z	T	R	M	O	T	H	A
U	C	A	V	E	S	G	E	U	F
N	X	G	L	Q	P	N	T	D	W
H	I	B	K	H	A	I	F	E	S
U	N	V	S	L	C	G	E	G	J
A	R	E	P	Z	E	B	I	K	F
N	D	R	Y	R	S	D	T	P	A
G	I	A	C	I	H	N	I	M	I
A	J	T	R	C	I	E	A	Y	R
B	L	F	O	T	P	F	N	S	Y

Answers: dart, frisbee, airplane, moth, spaceship, feitian, fairy, Dunhuang, caves.



敦煌石窟的飛天

The Fairies in the Caves

DEEP IN WESTERN CHINA, along the Silk Road, are the famous caves of Dunhuang. The caves are filled with beautiful paintings and statues. There are Buddhas, goddesses, and flying fairies.

In Chinese, these fairies are called fēi tiān (飛天), which means “flying heaven.” But who painted all these fairies in the caves?

Well, many years ago, a Buddhist monk was walking in the desert. He was very tired, and when he got to Dunhuang, he decided to stop and rest.

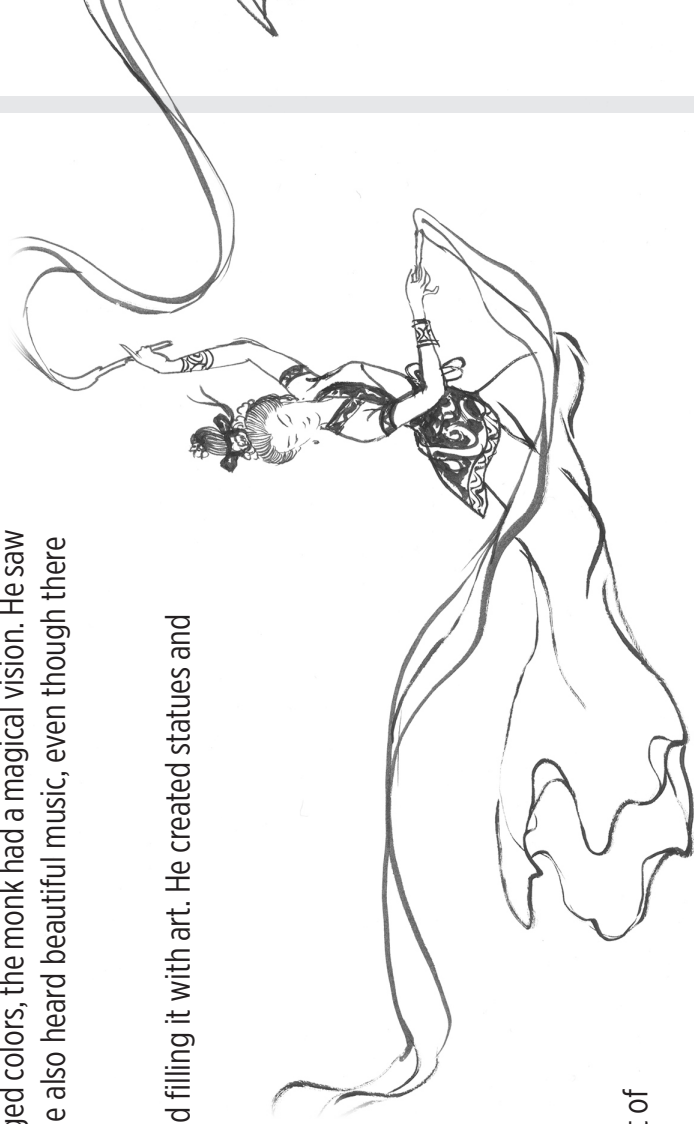
Soon dusk began to fall. As the sun came down and the sky changed colors, the monk had a magical vision. He saw a giant, glowing Buddha and heavenly fairies flying in the sky. He also heard beautiful music, even though there was no one else around. The monk was very inspired.

Nearby, he found a cave. The monk went into the cave and started filling it with art. He created statues and paintings of what he saw in his vision.

Today, if you visit these caves, you can see many painted murals of fairies, or fēi tiān, flying through the sky. Some have long silk ribbons. Others have musical instruments.

It is believed that these fēi tiān fairies are a sign of good luck. They appear only to those who have a pure heart.

They also dance very beautifully, which is why they are often part of Shen Yun shows.



飞天

