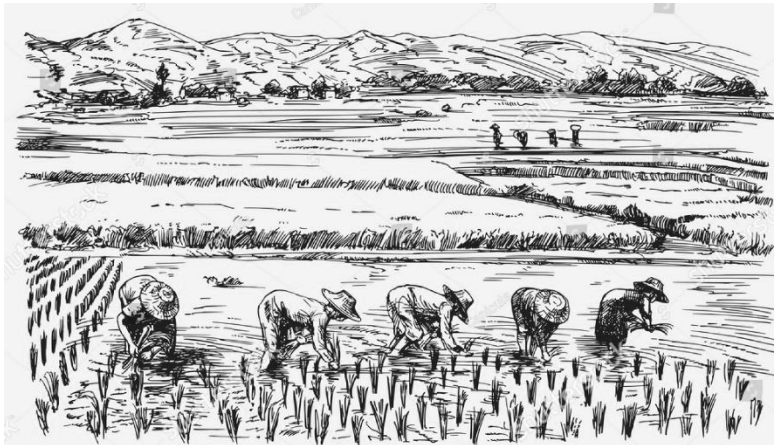


Farming in China

Rice and millet were the two main crops grown in Ancient China, and is still grown today. Rice needs a lot of water, so the Chinese worked out how to flood the fields from rivers to make rice paddies (fields for growing rice). Each field has a bank built around it, and then the field is flooded with water, to a depth of about 50 cm. The farmers plant the rice in the mud under the water.

Most rice production is in the Yangtze River Valley where there is plenty of water available from the river.

Millet was another main crop grown by the ancient Chinese. Millet is a grain that was boiled to make a porridge.



1. What is a paddy field?
2. How is the rice planted?
3. Where is most of the rice grown in China?
4. Why is it grown here?
5. Planting rice is hard work. Why?
6. Rice planters do not wear shoes. Why?
7. Draw a picture of farmers working in a paddy field.
8. When the rice crop is ready, with full grains of rice on the stalks it is harvested. What has to happen next, to give us the rice we buy in bags?

