

# Countries of the world: Teacher's topic guide

## Geography and culture of China

### God is Love/ God is Saviour Year 4

#### **Spiritual Awareness: God loves everyone equally**

- God's love embraces all cultures. Jesus tells us to love our neighbour. This extends beyond the person living next door. As in the story of the Good Samaritan, kindness to our neighbour may mean showing compassion to someone culturally different.
- The true meaning of 'loving our neighbour' is to show personal interest and appreciation, and to extend God's love to them.

#### **Values: Our response to 'God is our Saviour'**

- **cultural understanding** (John 3:16)
- **kindness, patience and gentleness** towards others
- **compassion** towards those who are hurting or in need
- **friendliness, forgiveness and faithfulness**

#### **Outcomes:** Students will:

- identify some of the countries within the continent of Asia
- use the world map to locate countries
- research history, geography and culture of a China
- experience aspects of Chinese culture
- collect and organize items for display
- appreciate feelings and problems of minority groups
- realize that we can learn from other cultures
- realize that God loves everyone equally and wants everyone to come to know Him through His Son

#### **Bible stories and passages**

- Luke 10:25-38 The Good Samaritan
- Mark 10:13-16 Jesus loves all the children of the world
- Luke 10:27; Matthew 22:39 Love the Lord with all your heart...and your neighbour as yourself.
- Romans 3:19-26 People could not be made right with God by following the law, so God made another way, so that all nations would have opportunity to come to Him.
- James 2:1-9 Warning against prejudice.
- Acts 10:34-36 The gospel for all nations
- Acts 16:6-10 Taking the gospel to the nations

#### **Bible Verses**

- John 3:16 For God so loved the world ...
- 1 Corinthians 13:14 Love is patient and kind.
- Acts 10:34 God treats everyone on the same basis.
- John 13:34 A new commandment...love one another.
- John 15:13 The greatest love
- 1 John 4:16 God is love.

## Activities

- Identify Asia and some of the countries within it.
- Ask the students what they already know about countries within Asia.
- Devise a list of questions that the students would like to find out about countries within Asia.
- Draw maps and mark in major landmarks, like capital city, rivers, mountains and seas.
- Discuss the early history of China. How is China different today?
- Make a shopping list for a Chinese meal.
- Find out the main agricultural and industrial products of China.
- Make a poster on how rice is grown.
- Compare life in the cities to life in the country.
- Design a travel brochure for an Asian country.
- Research celebrations that are unique to China.
- What technology is used in China? Is there a difference between cities and rural localities? Do they have TV, mobile phones, computers? Compare their technology with that of your country.
- Study the biographies of Hudson Taylor and Gladys Aylward who brought the Gospel to China.
- What impact has Communism had on China?
- Research Christianity in China today, including the underground church.

## Teacher's notes: People's Republic of China

### Geography

Area: 9,573,000 sq km

The third-largest state in the world, also containing the highest mountains and plateaus in the world. The climate and geography are extremely diverse, ranging from tropical in the south to sub-arctic in the north, from a highly industrialized and modern eastern seaboard to sparsely populated western deserts and mountain ranges. Hong Kong and Macau are integral parts of China, though their statistics are not included here.

**Population:** 1,330,584,783    Annual Growth: 0.63%

**Capital:** Beijing

**People living in cities:** 44.9%

**Official language:** Putonghua (Mandarin Chinese); Languages: 296 and many dialects

### Religion

Largest Religion: Non-religious

Christians: 8%

Buddhists: 10%

### Challenges for Prayer

China remains officially atheist. The Communist government are against true Christianity so true believers meet secretly in "underground" churches. There have been many Christians imprisoned and treated very badly by the Communist government.

## Assessment

1. Present information on one Asian country and its culture.
2. What have I learned from the study of different cultures...
  - a. about God? about doing what God wants me to do? about the Bible?

**Thinking skills:** China

**Biographies:** Hudson Taylor, Gladys Aylward (China)

# Values education Year 4

## God is our Saviour

### Cultural understanding and tolerance

God created people differently. He loves all people, regardless of race, religion or ethnicity.

#### Our response to God is our Saviour

- understand that Jesus died for the whole world, every person of every nation
- recognize that God loves all people equally
- show kindness and consideration to all
- accept and love others

#### Activities and discussion

1. Compare cultural traditions of two different ethnic groups in the areas of: food, music, art.
2. The word “tolerance” means accepting other people’s differences. Most differences in culture, like foods, art and music are good differences, and we can all learn from each other about new foods and art forms. But some differences are not so good and should not be taken on if they hurt other people or go against what the Bible says.
3. In China many years ago, there was the cultural practice of binding the feet of baby girls. This meant keeping the feet very tightly wrapped in bandages so that the feet could not grow properly. To have small feet was thought to make girls look beautiful. But how painful it was for the little girls, and how difficult it was for them to walk with tiny steps when they were older. The missionary Gladys Aylward helped to stamp out this practice. Would foot binding be a good aspect of culture to accept, appreciate and take on? Why not?

#### What does the Bible say about accepting people of different cultures?

- Luke 10:25-38 The Good Samaritan
- John 3:16 God so loved the WHOLE world that He gave His son
- Revelation 7:9 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from **every nation**, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.
- Matthew 22:37-39 Love the Lord your God. Love your neighbour as yourself. (Neighbour refers to people of other nationalities)
- John 4:1-26 Jesus and the Samaritan woman.

# Art Year 4

## God is our Saviour

### Topic: China

**Biblical connection:** God loves the people of every nation of the world. He sent Jesus to give every person an opportunity to accept and follow Him. We thank God for sending missionaries to our country to tell us about Jesus.

**Bible art as a wall display:** Jesus said, "Go to every part of the world and tell people about Me."

Mark 16:15

Make a display of a map of the world and highlight China.

### Drawing

#### Chinese Willow Pattern



**This is a famous drawing that even today appears on plates, in the colours of blue and white. This traditional art tells a story. Students can make their own pattern drawing, and tell their own story in pictures. It could be a Bible story. Supply students with a circle of paper that represents a plate.**

In china in a distant part of the country its name long forgotten, lay a small town with a king who ruled selfishly for years on end. He raised taxes at high prices and if a family was too poor, he would charge double. He had a fair sweet daughter Mai with black hair like silk and beautiful eyes. She was deeply in love with the gardener, Chang. Now the king kept Mai in a small tower with an entrance to a magnificent garden and every night two doves would carry small messages between them.

The king loved money and a rich old lord named Sou-Yang offered him gold and a lot of money to take Mai's hand in marriage. So the king agrees.

On the day of the wedding, the gardener Chang got into the tower and into Mai's room. They escaped by boat to a far land down south. They were married and after four years of happy marriage the king found them and commanded his guards to throw both Mai and Chang into a wilderness where they could not find their way out. Eventually they starved and died in each other's arms, but the gods saw their sad story and raised them in the form of immortal doves. Now they will live together for all eternity.

Discuss with the students the beliefs that surround this story and where it would differ to Christian beliefs.

**Painting:  
Cherry blossom art**



**Construction:**  
Paper lanterns



**Pattern:**  
Chinese writing characters  
Students can select some characters and make them into a pattern

王 沪 宁      马 铃 薯  
王 滬 寧      海


Note the significance of Noah's Flood in the following: (8 people in a boat)

船	身	八	口
LARGE BOAT	Boat	Eight	Mouth or Person

**Thinking Skills Yr 4 Saviour**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>China 1</b></p> <p>Draw a wok used in cooking. Now redesign it by using the following steps:</p> <p><b>B</b> – igger <b>I</b> – nstead of <b>N</b> – onsense <b>G</b> – et rid of <b>O</b> – ther uses</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>China 2</b></p> <p>List 10 different things you will NEVER see in China.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>China 3</b></p> <p>Draw a traditional Chinese hat. Now make 5 improvements to it.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>China 4</b></p> <p>Make a list of reasons why missionaries should go to China.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>China 5</b></p> <p>How many ways could you eat rice?</p> <p>Give at least completely different ways.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>China 6</b></p> <p>What if all panda bears in China disappeared.</p> <p>Write down 5 possible consequences.</p>

**Thinking Skills Yr 4 Saviour**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>China 7</b></p> <p>Flooding from the Yangtze River is a serious problems for many Chinese families.</p> <p>Brainstorm 3 solutions.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>China 8</b></p> <p>Design an automatic machine for harvesting rice in the paddy fields.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>China 9</b></p> <p>The “Great Wall of China” needs to be moved to Antarctica.</p> <p>Design a way in which this could be achieved.</p> <p>Draw your plan if necessary.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>China 10</b></p> <p>Place the letters A-Z down the side of a page.</p> <p>Now, name some things you would see in China, one for each letter.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>China 11</b></p> <p>Use your imagination.</p> <p>In regard to China, work out 10 different things that this picture could represent.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>China 12</b></p> <p>Name 5 things that</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>rice</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">And</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>books</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">have in common.</p>



# Gladys Aylward

Gladys Aylward was born at Edmonton in London in the year 1901. Her father was a postman and Gladys played in the street with her sister Violet, like the other children of the neighbourhood. At school and at Sunday School she learnt to know and to love her Bible and to trust in God. She loved hymn-singing best of all. When the war planes flew over London to drop bombs in the First World War, Gladys collected her young friends at her house. They sang hymns to drown the noise and to forget their fear.

When Gladys left school she became a parlour-maid. (That meant that she did house work for rich people.) One day she read in a magazine about the China Inland Mission which had been set up by Hudson Taylor. 200 missionaries were needed in China.

“That is what God wants me to do,” Gladys decided: At once she offered herself to the Mission and she went to train at its College. But after three months the Principal sent for her. “Learning is too hard for you,” he said kindly “Besides, by the time you finished the course here you would be thirty years old. You would find it very hard to learn a new language at that age. There are many other ways to serve God.” Gladys Aylward went back sadly to her old work but she could not give up her great ambition.

Had not Abraham obeyed God and gone out into a strange land? Did not Moses take up God’s call and lead his people out into the wilderness? “They trusted in God. I will too” she vowed.

Since the Mission would not accept Gladys, she knew she would have to find the money herself to get to China. She went to a new post in the household of a famous explorer in London. When she got there Gladys had two and a half pennies and her Bible. “O God,” she prayed, “here’s my Bible and my money and here’s me. Please use us!” It cost 90 pound to go to China by sea. But Gladys found that going by railway right across Europe would cost 47 pounds. “But Russia and China are at war and you might never get to China,” she was told. Nothing could put her off and she began to save hard, working even in her free time to earn extra money. One day she heard of Mrs. Lawson, a missionary in China, who was very old and wanted a helper. Gladys wrote to her at once and soon came an exciting letter from China. “If you can get to Tientsin I will send a guide to meet you,” Mrs. Lawson wrote. Gladys saved harder than ever.

In October 1930, Gladys Aylward left London by train for China. She had 9 pennies in her pocket, a traveler’s cheque for 2 pounds, her passport and her train tickets, her Bible, one suitcase for her clothes and another full of food. A saucepan and a kettle were tied to a suitcase with string. For ten days the train rattled and jolted across Europe and Siberia. Then, near the borders of Manchuria, there came the sound of guns and the train could go no further. Gladys Aylward had to walk back many miles along the railway track to the last station, camping at night on the line in the bitter wind and blinding snow of Siberia. She got another train to Vladivostok and from there went by boat to Japan where the missionaries helped her to find a ship

sailing to China. At last, after traveling for a month, Gladys Aylward reached Tientsin in China. Then by train and bus and mule she went far inland to Yangcheng where she found Mrs. Lawson living in a tumble-down house.

Gladys Aylward soon found how difficult her work would be. Chinese peasants threw mud at her.

“You must not mind,” Mrs. Lawson said. “We are ‘Lao-yang-kwei’ (‘foreign devils’) to them. We must get to know them. Let’s turn this house into an inn for the Muleteers. (An inn is a place for travelers to stay.) Yang, my old cook, will give them good food. We will tell them Bible stories. Then they will carry the Good News of Jesus wherever they go.”

Soon the inn was repaired and opened. It was named ‘The Inn of Eight Happinesses’. People in this area traveled on mules. At first none of the travelers would come. Then one day Gladys met the train and dragged the first mule of a train into the inn. The other mules followed and the men who looked after the mules had to come too.

Before long good food and fine stories filled the inn every night. Yang taught Gladys the Chinese language and so she too could tell stories of Jesus. When Mrs. Lawson died, Gladys Aylward was left alone.

In those days there was a custom in China to bind the feet of young girls so that their feet could not grow. The toes were bent downwards and tight bandages applied. It was thought that tiny feet were very beautiful, but of course it was very painful for the girls and they could not walk properly. One day the Mandarin (governor) of Yangcheng came to the inn with all his servants. “The Government has made a new law” he said. “Women must not bind their feet any more. We need a woman to see that this law is carried out. You can have wages, a mule and two soldiers. Will you do it?” “Yes,” said Gladys, “so long as you realize that I shall teach my Christian religion wherever I go.” “That is your own affair,” replied the Mandarin. Gladys went round the villages, seeing the new law was obeyed and making friends with the women and children. Eagerly they listened to stories of Jesus, who came from God and died to win their love.

Gladys Aylward lived a busy life. One day she was summoned urgently to the prison where thieves and murderers were rioting. Boldly she went in, while frightened soldiers stayed safely outside, and she stopped the killing. They called her ‘Zhi-weh-deh,’ ‘The Virtuous One’, and she became well-known for her bravery. Another day she met a dirty child-dealer (someone who sold the children of poor families to wealthy people who wanted slaves). She bought the poor little girl that was being sold, out of pity. Before long Gladys Aylward had adopted four other orphan children.

In 1938 a war had broken out between China and Japan. It took some time for the fighting to reach the inland, but finally the bomber planes encircled the city where Gladys lived. They came again, and this time dropped bombs on the city. Gladys was beaten unconscious by soldiers with rifle butts and kicks. Later, the Japanese offered \$100 reward for her capture so she knew that she must flee from the city with the children to a village far away. There she knew of some Christians who could help her

look after the children. By this time Gladys was looking after nearly one hundred children.

It was soon obvious that even the village would not be safe. She knew of a centre for homeless children far away beyond the mountains in Siam. She must take them there. They would have to go on foot. The Mandarin, who had now become a Christian, gave Gladys some sacks of rice and two men to carry them.

It normally took four days to cross the mountains, but because of the Japanese soldiers, they had to avoid the main road. They would have to pass through difficult terrain.

"It will take you at least twelve days," said the Mandarin.

The children walked and walked, without complaining for the first few days, but then they became tired. The sacks of rice started to get low. Every day Gladys read to the children from the Bible, and they asked God to help them. As the last of their food was used, Gladys knew that God would provide.

"We're hungry!" said the little ones.

"Look, some soldiers!" said Gladys. No, not Japanese soldiers. They were Chinese soldiers who gave the children some food. Soon this food was gone, and they were hungry again. God provided again as they came upon a mountain village.

"Please give us some food," begged Gladys. "The children are hungry."

The villagers gladly supplied them with food.

At last they reached the Great Yellow River. This was the final obstacle before reaching safety. When they reached the river bank they realized that there was no ferry to take them across. The Japanese soldiers had stopped all boats. If they waited here too long they would be discovered. They waited and prayed. Then a Chinese soldier came along.

"What are you doing here with all these children?" he asked. Gladys explained.

The soldier knew about a secret boat, hidden amongst the reeds on the other bank. The soldier gave a whistle. Quickly and quietly the boat made its way across the river. It collected the children and ferried them to the other side. Once again the Lord had provided for them, and protected them.

By the time they reached the town where the children would be cared for, Gladys was very ill. In this town there was a Christian mission hospital where Gladys stayed until she had recovered.

She then went home to England after 20 years in China. In 1957, with her health completely restored, she went back to the East, to the island of Formosa, (now called Taiwan), and continued her great work for God, spreading the Gospel of Jesus among the Chinese people until her death in 1970.

*Adapted from 700 Great Lives*

**Revision Questions**

1. In which country was Gladys Aylward born? (Ans: England).
2. On a map, trace Gladys's Journey from London, across the Channel to France, then through Europe to Siberia, to Manchuria, then to Vladivostok, then to Japan, to Tientsin, and then to Yangcheng.
3. Find the Yellow River and Sian (renamed Mynamar), where Gladys took 100 children on foot over the mountains.
4. How did God provide for Gladys and the children?
5. Find the island of Formosa where Gladys Aylward died.

# Hudson Taylor

## Biography

Hudson Taylor was born in England in 1832. His parents knew and loved God, and at the age of 12 Hudson decided that he would one day become a missionary in China. However in his teenage years he turned away from the Christian life. One day he picked up a Christian story. He decided to read it, and was suddenly overcome by the need to ask Jesus for forgiveness, and once again became His follower.

When he was 17 years old, Hudson heard a clear voice from God, saying, "Go to China." He went to see a minister about it. The minister told him that going to China would be a very foolish thing to do.

"There are so few missionary societies working there, and the climate is unbearable!" he said.

However Hudson did not give up. He read all the books he could find about China, and even tried to teach himself the Chinese language. After writing to several missionary societies, he finally received an answer from one. It was the Chinese Evangelization Society. They arranged to pay for his training as a doctor at a London hospital.

At the age of 21, he boarded a sailing ship bound for China. It was a dangerous journey, around the Cape and through the East Indies. At one point they were almost shipwrecked. After 23 weeks the ship finally arrived in Shanghai. In those days Hudson was the only missionary in Shanghai and he was often homesick. He missed his family and friends in England. He also missed the food that he was so used to. The Lord sent to him a Chinese Christian to help him in his medical work. His helper had a long pigtail, almost reaching the ground.

Hudson travelled as much as he could, not only to give medical help, but also to preach the Gospel. Hudson had no trouble in attracting a crowd. People were very curious. In fact the listeners did not take their eyes off him. Then one day he was asked, "What can be the meaning of those buttons in the middle of the honourable back?"

Hudson realized how amusing his 19th century English costume was to the Chinese. In fact they probably paid more attention to his clothes than the words he preached! Hudson realized that before the Chinese could really understand the Good News, he must become like them. He must show them that he was not someone so unusual, but an ordinary person, just like themselves. Hudson threw away his English clothes and chose Chinese dress. He even grew a pigtail.

In 1858, Hudson married Maria. Together they worked to bring the Good News to the Chinese people. Life was difficult as they battled against hardship and disease. The summers were extremely hot and their health suffered. Two of their children died from disease, and then one day, Maria died also. Hudson did not stop trusting in God. He continued to serve God through difficult circumstances knowing one thing... that God had called him to preach the Good News to those who had never heard. Through his work, Hudson opened the way for other missionaries to come to China. Hudson Taylor started one of the most successful missions to China. It was known as the China Inland Mission.

## Hudson Taylor Activities

1. Put these in the right order:
  - a) Hudson turned away from God
  - b) Hudson came back to God after reading a book
  - c) At the age of 12 Hudson decided to become a missionary.
2. Why did the minister think that going to China was foolish?
3. How did Hudson train and prepare for being a missionary?
4. Use an atlas and trace with your finger, the route that Hudson took to China.
5. What were some of the things Hudson missed about home?
6. Who did the Lord send to help Hudson?
7. Why did Hudson change his way of dressing?
8. What sad events did Hudson experience?
9. How do you think Hudson kept on going, even when sad things happened?
10. Hudson's work was only the beginning of a much larger work. What was it?
11. Find out about a missionary who has gone to another part of the world to preach the Gospel.

# Map of China

Student activities



1. Draw a map and mark on it: Beijing (the capital), Shanghai and Hong Kong.
2. Make a list of countries that surround China.

# The Great Wall of China

The wall was built to protect the northern border in times of war. It was a wall, but also had watchtowers, beacon towers to send signals, and blockhouses to house soldiers. There were soldiers guarding the walls and towers. There were also towns built along the wall where the soldiers lived, so they could quickly get to the wall in case of a large attack. It is estimated that over 1 million soldiers guarded the great wall between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## Facts about the Great Wall of China

- There are over 7,000 lookout towers that are part of the Great Wall.
- Today the walls continue to erode, however historians are trying to protect what sections they can.
- The wall averages around 10 metres high and 4.5 metres wide.
- It is the longest man-made structure in the world.
- Wide moats were often dug outside the wall in flat areas to make an enemy's approach more difficult.
- Smoke signals were used to indicate an attack. The more enemies that were attacking, the more smoke signals they would make.
- The wheelbarrow, which the Chinese invented, no doubt was a great help in building much of the wall.
- The wall is built through mountains and valleys. Its highest point is over 5,000 feet above sea level.

## A great tourist attraction

**Design a tourist brochure to encourage people to visit the Great Wall. Use the following information. Draw pictures.**

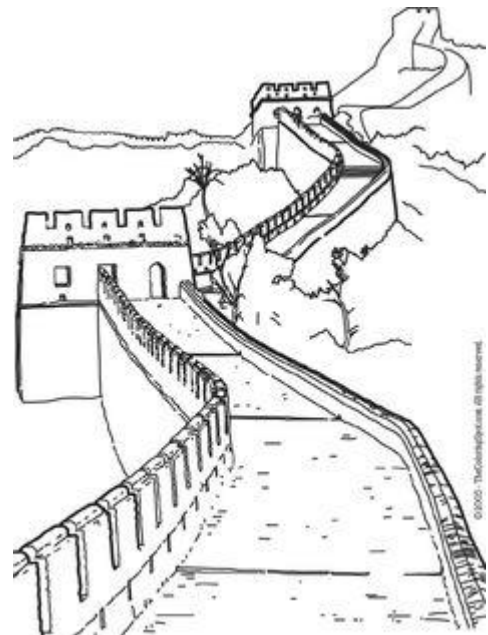
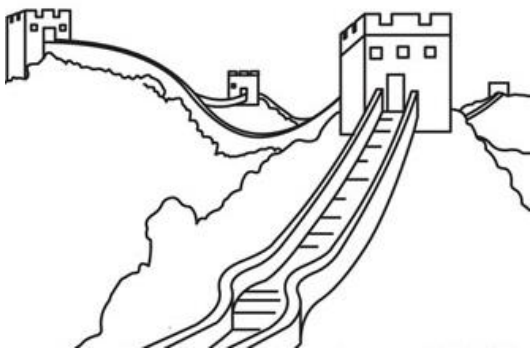
If you visit China you must visit the great Wall of China. It is one of the most important tourist attractions in China, and in 1987. it was listed as a UNESCO world heritage site.

It is also a wonderful experience to walk along the wall and feel the history and wonderful atmosphere of the wall.



The wall is over 8500 km long, and goes from the east to the west of China. The first parts were built over two thousand years ago by the Ming Emperors, in order to protect the central regions of the country from being attacked. All along the wall special buildings called 'beacon towers' were built. When some parts of China were attacked by enemies, fires were lit in the beacon towers so that people on other towers could see them and send warnings to the army.

Nowadays some of the sections are in ruins, but other sections have been repaired. The most famous section is called Badaling. It is near Beijing, and there is a cable car to transport tourists. If you are visiting you should take strong shoes and walk carefully. The best time to visit is in spring or autumn, so that you can enjoy mild weather and fantastic views

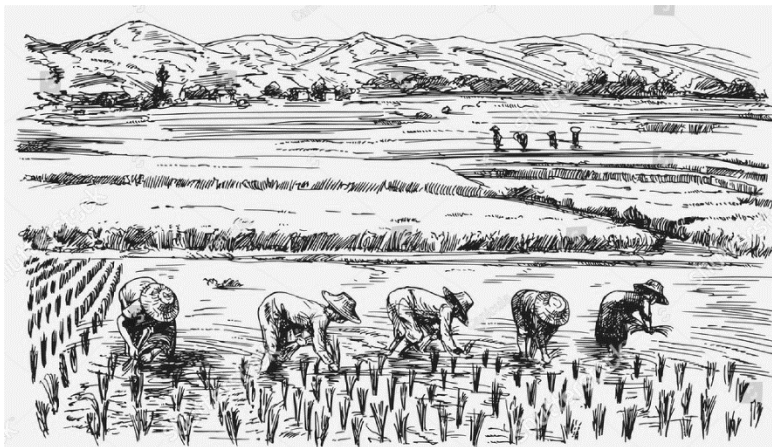


## Farming in China

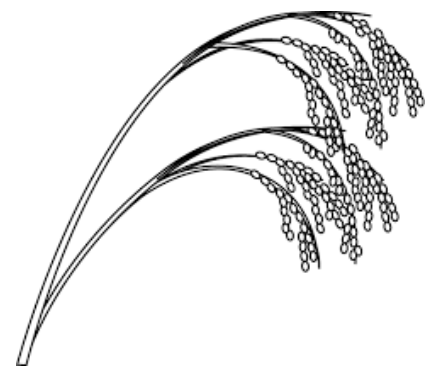
Rice and millet were the two main crops grown in Ancient China, and is still grown today. Rice needs a lot of water, so the Chinese worked out how to flood the fields from rivers to make rice paddies (fields for growing rice). Each field has a bank built around it, and then the field is flooded with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



# Chinese food

## Traditional Chinese food:

- rice, wheat and millet
- a variety of meat such as pork, chicken, duck, goose, pheasant and dog
- many vegetables yams, soya beans, turnip, spring onions and garlic
- fish
- soup which consisted of shark fins, birds' nests, bear paws and sea slugs

## Chinese food that has become international food of today:

- Dim sims (vegetables in pastry)
- Chinese take-away
- Rice noodles



1. Which Chinese foods have you eaten?
2. Look at the picture of the bowl of rice. What do the Chinese use to eat it?  
Draw and label the bowl of rice.
3. Look at the picture of the cooking pot. This is called a wok. Find out and explain how the Chinese cook their food in a wok.
4. Some foods are steamed in bamboo baskets. Find the drawing that shows this.  
Draw it and label it.
5. Find the drawing that shows eggs and rice noodles. Draw it and label this dish.
6. How is the spoon different to the spoon you use?
7. Tea is a special part of the meal. Draw the tea pot and cup with no handle.

# Chinese inventions

The Ancient Chinese were famous for their inventions and technology.

Gunpowder, paper, printing, and the compass are sometimes called the Four Great Inventions of Ancient China. Kites were first used as a way for the army to signal warnings. Umbrellas were invented for protection from the sun as well as the rain. Other inventions include the wheelbarrow, iron casting, hot air balloons, seismographs to measure earthquakes, matches and stirrups for riding horses.

Here are some details of some inventions and discoveries made by the engineers and scientists of Ancient China:

## Gunpowder

Gunpowder was invented in the 9th century by chemists trying to find the Elixir of Immortality. Not long after, engineers figured out how to use gunpowder for military uses such as bombs, guns, mines, and even rockets. They also invented fireworks and made great beautiful displays of fireworks for celebrations.

## Chinese Rocket

After inventing gun powder, the Chinese began experimenting with the gunpowder-filled tubes. At some point, they attached bamboo tubes to arrows and launched them with bows. Soon they discovered that these gunpowder tubes could launch themselves just by the power produced from the escaping gas. This was the first rocket. The Chinese used rockets as weapons in their wars against the Mongols.

## Silk

Silk was a soft and light material much desired by rich people throughout the world. It became such a valuable export that the trade route running from Europe to China became known as the Silk Road. The Chinese learned how to make silk from the cocoons of silkworms. They managed to keep the process for making silk a secret for hundreds of years.

## **Paper**

Paper was invented by the Chinese as well as many interesting uses for paper like paper money and playing cards. The first paper was invented in the 2nd century BC and the manufacturing process was later improved around 105 A.D.

## **Printing**

Wood block printing was invented in A.D. 868. This was actually hundreds of years before the invention of the printing press by Gutenberg in Europe.

## **The Compass**

The Chinese invented the magnetic compass to help determine the correct direction. They used this in city planning at first, but it became very important to map makers and for the navigation of ships.

## **Boat Rudder**

The rudder was invented as a way to steer large ships. This helped the Chinese to build huge ships as early as 200 A.D., well before they were ever built in Europe.

## **Project**

Choose 4 Chinese inventions.

Write a sentence about it in your own words.

Explain why this invention helps us today.

Draw a picture for each.

# Pandas

The giant panda has a white head with black eye patches, ears and shoulders. Unlike other bear species, giant pandas are **herbivorous** spending up to 12 hours a day chewing bamboo shoots and roots. Because of poaching and habitat loss, they are extremely **rare**, living in small groups in the bamboo forests of China. Although there have been many international conservation efforts, it may not be enough to save this species.



## **Panda's Territory: Where do pandas come from?**

Giant pandas have lived in the bamboo forests of China for thousands of years and have been honored by the Chinese for a very long time. In fact, giant pandas have appeared in Chinese art for thousands of years. Because the giant panda is considered a national treasure in China, it is **protected** by law so that it does not become extinct.

Although giant pandas have long been known to the Chinese, they have only been known to people living outside of China for just over 100 years. The first European to see a live giant panda in the wild *was* a German **zoologist** named Hugo Weigold. In 1916, he bought a cub while he was on **expedition**.

## **Where do pandas live?**

There is only one place where giant pandas live in the wild: high in the mountains of central China. There, they are living in cold and rainy bamboo forests that are often misty and covered in heavy clouds. Years ago, giant pandas lived in lowland areas. However, as people built more and more farms and cities on that land, the giant pandas were forced up into the high mountains.

## **Panda's Lunch: What do pandas eat?**

In the wild, a giant panda's diet is nearly **entirely** bamboo. Bamboo is a giant grass that grows in the mountains of China. Because bamboo is so low in **nutrients**, an adult giant panda needs to eat about 15 kilograms of bamboo each day. It eats the stems, shoots, leaves and all.

There are about 25 different types of bamboo that wild pandas will eat. Pandas not only eat bamboo, but also other grasses, insects and occasionally, small **rodents**.

In zoos, giant pandas eat bamboo too, but they also eat sugar cane, rice gruel, carrots, apples and sweet potatoes.

### **Panda Cubs: How are baby pandas born?**

When a giant panda is first born, it is tiny. It weighs about as much as a hen's egg. At birth, it is pink, blind, helpless and hairless. During this time, the mother cares for it closely, often holding it in her paw and keeping it close to her chest. The cub doesn't open its eyes until it is six weeks old and it doesn't walk until it is three months.



Cubs drink milk from their mothers for about nine months but they stay with their mothers for a long time after that. In fact, it can be up to three years before a giant panda cub leaves its mother.

### **How does a panda spend the day?**

In the wild, giant pandas spend most of their time resting, eating or looking for food. Unlike other bear species, giant pandas do not **hibernate** during the winter months. They also do not build **permanent** dens. Instead, they shelter in caves and trees.

Pandas are good climbers. They can also swim, though they spend most of their time on land. Although they might seem pretty quiet, giant pandas do make a lot of growling and honking sounds.

### **Why are pandas endangered?**

Today, giant pandas are at risk of becoming extinct. Only about 1,000 giant pandas are left in the wild. All of these live a small area in the bamboo forests of China. There are about 150 live in **captivity**. This is why the giant panda is one of the most severely **endangered** species in the world.

### **How big are pandas?**

Giant pandas are about the size of a black bear. When they are standing on all four legs, giant pandas are about 1 metre tall at the shoulder.

Males are usually larger than females. Males can weigh 115 kg or more in the wild.

**The 6th Finger:** The giant panda has five fingers plus a "thumb," which isn't a real thumb but a kind of bone that allows the panda to grasp bamboo.

### **Is the panda dangerous?**

The panda is thought of as quiet, gentle and harmless, but the giant panda can be as dangerous as any other bear when *provoked*. It has been known to attack humans on occasion.

### **Fast Facts**

**Type:** Mammal

**Diet:** Bamboo shoots and roots

**Average life span in the wild:** 20 years

**Size:** 1.2 to 1.5 m

**Weight:** 136 kg

**Protection status:** Endangered

**Major Threats:** Habitat loss, poaching and human encroachment

**Habitat:** Mountainous regions where bamboo is present

**Location:** Central China



<https://en.islcollective.com>



# Silk

## What is silk?

Silk is a thin, but strong fiber that silkworms produce when they are making their cocoons. It can be woven into a very soft and smooth fabric. Silk fabric was invented in Ancient China and played an important role in their culture and economy for thousands of years.

## Making Silk

The ancient Chinese bred special moths to produce the quality silk they wanted. Here are the steps in the process for making silk:

- A moth lays 500 or so eggs and then dies
- Baby worms hatch from the eggs are fed mulberry leaves for one month until they are fat
- The worms spin cocoons
- The cocoons are steamed to kill the growing moth inside
- The cocoons are rinsed in hot water to loosen the threads
- Women would unwind the cocoons and then combine six or so fibers into silk threads
- The threads are woven into cloth
- The cloth is then pounded to make it softer



## Silk in Chinese Culture

Silk cloth was extremely valuable in Ancient China. Wearing silk was a sign of being important. At first, only members of the royal family were allowed to wear silk. Later, silk clothing could be worn by other rich people, but ordinary people were not allowed to wear silk. Silk was even used as money in Ancient China.

## Keeping silk a secret

Silk became an important export for the Chinese. Kings of foreign lands desired silk and would pay high prices for the cloth. The emperors of China wanted to

keep the process for making silk a secret. Anyone caught telling the secret or taking silkworms out of China was put to death.

## Smuggling Silk

The Chinese managed to keep silk a secret for over 1000 years. However, in 550 AD the secret of silk became known to other countries when two monks from Europe managed to smuggle some silkworm eggs out of the country. They hid the eggs inside of their bamboo walking sticks.

## Interesting Facts about Silk

- Silk was used for other purposes than clothing such a paper, fishing lines, bowstrings, and canvas for painting.
- Around the thirteenth century, Italy became one of the major producers of silk. Some of the finest silk in the world is made in Italy today.
- Silk clothing was often embroidered with designs. The most popular designs were of flowers and birds.
- Silk was such an important product from China that the trade route from Europe to China became known as the Silk Road.



SILK-WORM MOTII (Male).



1. Draw the life cycle of the silk worm.
2. Write the steps of how silk is made, starting from when the moth lays the eggs.
3. Why is silk such a special cloth?
4. Who wore silk in China in the early days?
5. Why do you think the poorer people were not allowed to wear it?