

Week of May 18  
Second Grade Social Studies  
China

We want to give students a chance to explore, read, learn about China. Included are videos, pictures, slide shows, books, worksheets and an art activity..

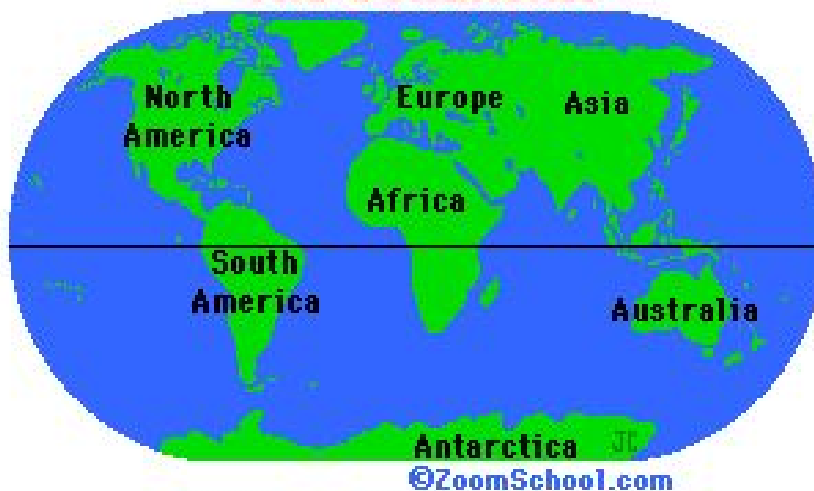


● Monday 5/18

Listen to Mrs. Vienneau read "A Trip to China" (it's on the webpage)  
Complete map of the continents of the world

This map is for viewing purposes only. You do not need to print.

**The Continents**



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Color in and name all seven continents.



● Tuesday 5/19

Complete the worksheets 'Learning About China'

Explore the National Geographic link on China.

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/countries/china/>

Browse through the slides 1-10, and read fast facts, geography, people and culture, nature, government and economy, and history.

# LEARNING ABOUT CHINA



China is a country on the continent of Asia. Asia is colored red on this map. What color is the continent you live on?

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# LEARNING ABOUT CHINA

Have you heard of a country called China?

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Have you ever met someone from China?

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Write what you know about the country of China.

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## • Wednesday 5/20

Explore deeper the National Geographic link on China

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/countries/china/>

View the slides 1-10, read fast facts, geography, people and culture, nature government and economy and history.

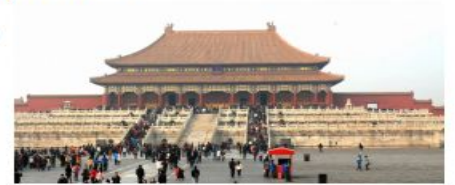
Read Fun Facts About China AND **share two facts** with someone at home

# FUN FACTS ABOUT CHINA

The capital city of China is Beijing. The neighboring countries of China include Afghanistan, Bhutan, Burma, India, Kazakhstan, North Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Vietnam.

Mount Everest, which is the largest mountain in the world, is on the border of China and Nepal. China also has the fourth longest river in the world, the Yangtze River.

This building is part of “The Forbidden City” in Beijing. It was built in the Ming Dynasty. A dynasty is when one family rules a country or region over a long period of time.



## China's Flag

The flag of China is also known as the Five-starred Red Flag.



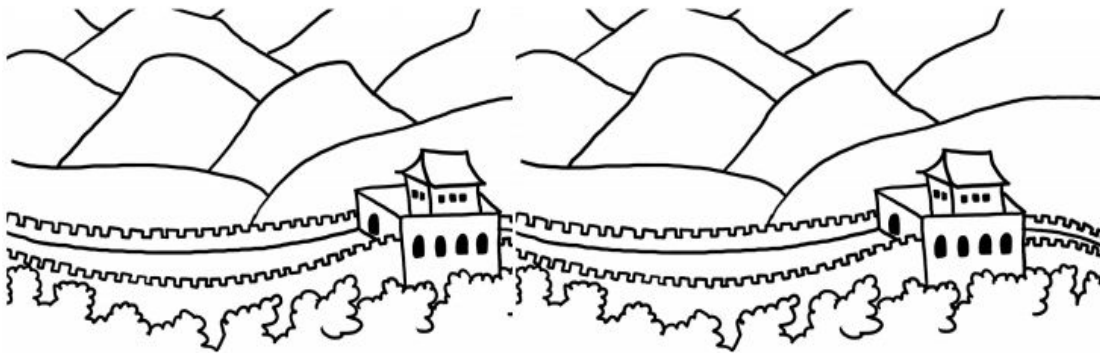
## FUN FACTS, continued

Giant Panda or Panda Bear can be found in China.  
Bamboo shoots and leaves make up more than 99 %of its diet.



## THE GREAT

## WALL OF CHINA



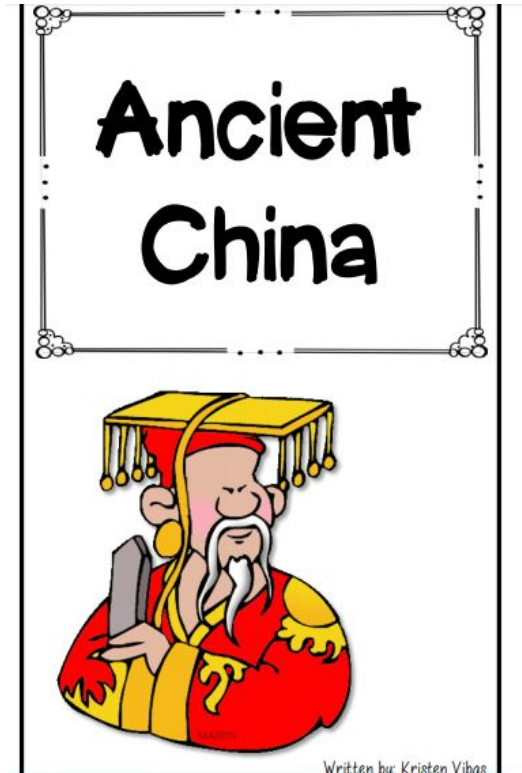
The Great Wall of China was built over 2,000 years ago and is the largest man made structure in the world. It is 5,500 miles long, and 25 feet tall. The wall was built by slaves and poor people and many of them lost their life in accidents while building the wall. The wall has many lookout towers along its length.

Thousands of tourists visit the Great Wall of China every year.

# • Thursday 5/21

Read the book below to learn more about the country China.

Complete Important Details Worksheet



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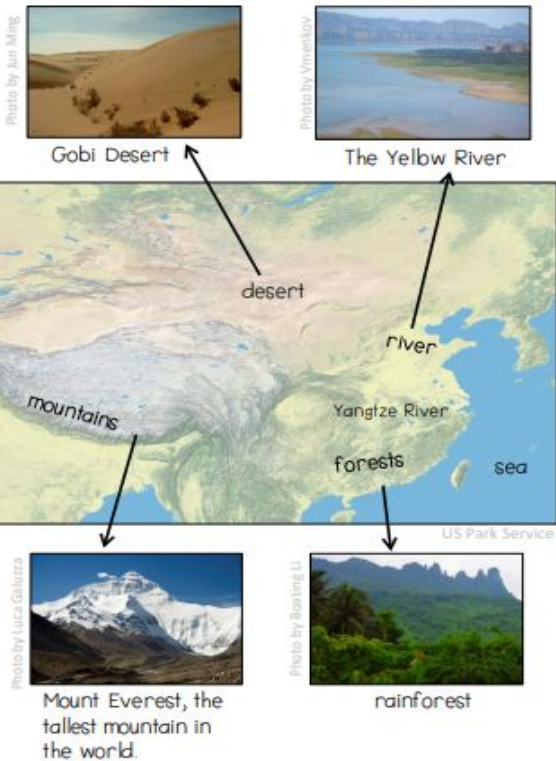
## The Land of Ancient China

China is a country in eastern Asia. It was a large and powerful empire during ancient times.



The land in China has many hills and mountains. It also has forests and a desert.

Two long rivers are in China, the Yangtze River, and the Yellow River.



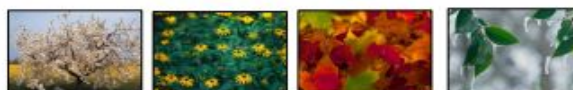
The mountains, desert and rivers were natural barriers that helped to keep the Chinese people safe from outside invaders.

People settled along the river valleys. The river was used to irrigate the crops. Each year, the rivers flooded, leaving nutrient rich soil behind called loess (low-es). This type of soil was fertile, and very good for growing crops along the river.



Crops along the river.

The climate in ancient China was temperate with four seasons.



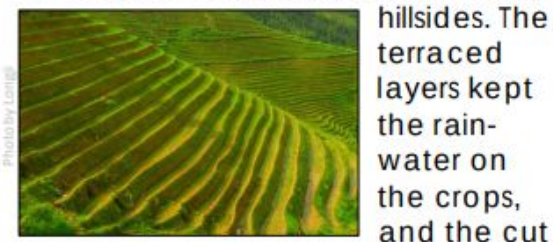
spring summer fall winter

The land and climate was diverse. This provided China with a wide variety of plant life.

## Life in Ancient China

The people in ancient China were divided by class, peasants were poor and nobles were rich. Most peasants were farm workers.

Farming was important. Farmers had to adapt to the land. They farmed on hillsides.



The terraced layers kept the rain-water on the crops, and the cut

“steps” in the land made it easier to work. Some of the crops grown included rice, ginger root, beans, wheat, millet, plums and sugar cane.

People in ancient China believed in different gods. There were different religions and beliefs. People built temples to worship and pray.

Buddhism was a religion found in ancient China.



a temple

Buddha, a great teacher, believed it was important to lead a simple life with peaceful behavior. Following this belief would lead to nirvana, or complete happiness.



Buddha  
“Enlightened One”

Confucius was another famous teacher. He taught that respect for parents and ancestors was important. He also believed that education and good government was important. Much of today's Chinese culture came from the teachings of Confucius.

The rulers of ancient China were called emperors. Qin Shi Huangdi was an emperor. He was an important ruler. He made everyone use the same money and the same writing.



Qin Shi Huangdi

An emperor was part of a dynasty, or ruling family. When an emperor died, someone in the family became the next emperor. Families stayed in power for long periods of time. There were many dynasties that ruled China throughout history. The Han dynasty ruled for almost 400 years. During this time, trade became wide-spread. Roads and bridges were built. People traveled across borders to trade goods with China. Interdependence grew between civilizations.

## The Silk Road

Trade was very important in ancient times. People traveled across the land and water between Rome and China to trade goods and ideas with each other. These trade routes became known as the "Silk Road."

China was an important part of this trading because of the



silk workers

beautiful silk they produced. Other items they traded were gold, silver, gems, spices, tea and ivory. Ideas were also shared.



routes along the Silk Road

People learned a lot about other civilizations along the trade routes.

## The Great Wall

The Great Wall of China was built to keep out enemies. The wall is several thousand miles long, and is the largest structure ever built.



New emperors added to the wall, making it longer and longer. Many people died while building this massive wall. Eventually, invaders did make their way over, bringing an end to ancient China.

The Great Wall still stands today and is visited by tourists from around the world.

## Inventions from Ancient China

The ancient Chinese people gave the world many contributions through their inventions. The Silk Road was named for one of their inventions, but there were many others.

Paper was an important invention. It was used for writing, but was also used in other ways. The Chinese people were the first to make and use paper money. They also made playing cards out of paper. People traded paper along the Silk Road.

Another invention was the

compass



compass was an important tool for navigating on both land and sea.

Metal was found in ancient China. Bronze, a yellowish brown metal,

\*\* Typing error 'magnetic tool'. 'It was'



was used to make pots, statues, and coins. Iron, a stronger metal, was used to make plows, weapons and cannons.



a bronze cooking vessel

Gunpowder was first invented by ancient Chinese scientists. This explosive powder was used to make bombs, guns and rockets for the military. Gunpowder was also used to make fireworks. Fireworks were used as colorful explosive displays during celebrations.



Other inventions include the wheelbarrow, seismograph, matches, crossbow, abacus, sundial and the list goes on and on. The ancient Chinese people were very inventive!

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## Glossary

**adapt-** to change

**barriers-** obstacles

**class-** the division of people depending on their status in society

**climate-** the weather at a place over a long period of time

**contribution-** something given

**dynasty-** rulers who belong to the same family

**empire-** territory

**interdependence-** countries or cultures dependent on each other

**invaders-** attackers

**irrigate-** a system of bringing water

**tourists-** sightseers

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Name:

## Important Details

Chapter	3 Important Details I Learned from Each Chapter		
	Detail #1	Detail #2	Detail #3
The Land of Ancient China			
Life in Ancient China			
The Silk Road			
The Great Wall			
Inventions of Ancient China			



# • Friday 5/21

Answer the challenge questions.

Make a dragon

Watch and enjoy '2 Panda Bears Are Better Than 1,' video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJl6qlyA0WM>

## Challenge Questions:

1. What are the names of the 2 rivers in China?(hint: they start with the letter "Y".)
2. What is the tallest mountain in China **and** the world?
3. In China, what is the desert called?

Write your answers on the lines below.

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## Dragon Paper Craft -directions are below

### **What you will need**

1. 2 or 3 sheets of contrasting colored paper. Small amount of white paper.
2. scissors
3. glue
4. marker pen

### **Instructions**

1. Print out the dragon body and tail on one colored sheet of paper.
2. Cut out small triangles on a second sheet of colored paper.
3. Cut two small circles on white paper for the eyes.
4. If you like you can cut a small piece of red paper to represent the fire (as shown in the picture).
5. Glue the pieces together to form as dragon. (I turned the dragon over and ran a line of glue down the spine and stuck the triangles on from the back).
6. Draw in eyes and nostrils.



