

# Teacher's Guide for FACES

February 2013: China in a Day

Teacher's guide prepared by Heather Bode

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## Getting Started:

Assess students' knowledge of China. Use the T/F quiz listed here to get you started. You will go through the answers to this activity to wrap up the issue.

### T/F QUIZ

1. China has always been a Communist nation.
2. China is the most populated country on earth.
3. Mt. Everest is located in China.
4. The Forbidden City is one of the eight wonders of the world.
5. Exercise is important to Chinese culture.
6. The Chinese are credited with inventing the kite.
7. The different dialects of the Chinese language are easily understood.
8. The Chinese are very serious about the education of their children.

## High Five

(RI7) What effect does the photograph have on these pages? How does it tie in to the title of the issue?

## At a Glance

(RL7) Describe the size of China in relation to its bordering countries.

(RL1) Look at the section listing Chinese industries. Challenge students to find something in your classroom that was made in China.

## The Sichuan Snub-Nosed Monkey: China's Golden Treasure

(RL4) Vocabulary:

herbivore, fruticose lichen, supertroop, clear-cutting, selective logging

(RI1) Look at the sidebar listing stats. Why is there such a wide range in estimating the monkey population?

What is it about China's geography that provides the perfect habitat for this monkey?

Why is the snub-nosed monkey considered an endangered species?

(L5) Why/how is this monkey a "golden treasure" of China?

View video footage at [www.arkive.org/golden-snub-nosed-monkey/rhinopithecus-roxellana/videos.html](http://www.arkive.org/golden-snub-nosed-monkey/rhinopithecus-roxellana/videos.html) .

## One Day in China

(W7&RI9) Research communism and compare/contrast it with democracy.

(RP1&EE3) Use the opening paragraph to pose problems such as:

What is the total world population? What is the U.S. population?

Construct a pictograph showing Chinese population in relation to the rest of the world.

(RL8) What evidence in the article suggests that China is a “vast new power” in Asia?

(SL1) The article mentions that the Chinese government feels that having only one time zone unifies the nation. How do you feel about this? Discuss in groups.

(RL2) After finishing the article, what does it say is the driving force behind this culture? What is the message for us?

### **Energy at Work in China**

(SL1) Choose one or more of the following activities to complete in partners or groups.

- Look at the work Xia Wu Xiang is doing in China. What are we doing in America? What do future energy sources look like? (Consider the Bakken oil fields, wind farms, etc.)
- Make a list of everything you use that requires an energy source. What steps do you take at home and at school to save energy?
- Make a Venn Diagram for renewable/nonrenewable resources.
- Make a list of the positives and negatives for solar, wind and waste energy.

(RL2) Why is Xia Wu Xiang’s work so important to China? How is it important to the world?

(W3) Last Fall’s TV hit *Revolution* was about what happens when the world loses power. Imagine you have been entrusted with Xia Wu Xiang’s knowledge of renewable energy. How would you go about educating people and restoring energy sources to the world?

### **E-bikes: The Future of Chinese travel?**

(W1) Opinion piece: Americans should/should not follow China into the e-bike industry. Support your opinion with information from the article.

(W6) Use the internet to find e-bike manufacturers. (Google electric bike.) Find photos of prototypes that might work in various locations across America. Come up with an advertising campaign and present it to your class.

(SL2) Summarize the article and then answer the question posed in the title. If someone would do the (W6) activity listed above (meaning a live presentation vs. reading a magazine article) which method would be more effective?

### **Growing Up: A Day Off**

(RL3) Setting: Lv lives in the capital city of China. Because of this, she has special opportunities to see some of China’s well-known tourist attractions. If you live in Washington D.C., what special opportunities do you have?

(W7) Research: the Great Wall, the eight wonders of the world, Summer Palace, National Art Museum of China

(RI1) Read the third and fourth paragraphs where Lv talks about her family. What tone/mood is created?

### **Growing Up: A Day in the Life**

(RL1) In the opening paragraph, Yuxuan describes her middle school as “unusual”. What makes her school so unusual?

(RI1) Notice that neither of these two girls mentions siblings. Why?

Look at the interests of these two girls. Is there anything listed that might seem very American?

(RI7) Create captions for the pictures accompanying this article.

### **Tea & Tiles**

(RI1) What are the benefits of the teahouse setting? Does your school have something similar? What games could be played in your setting?

(RL2) Create subheadings for the article to determine its message.

(W7&SL6) Research the rules of mahjong and teach it to your classmates. If you can't find a real tile version, go to [www.mahjonggames.com](http://www.mahjonggames.com) to play online versions.

### **Go Fly a Fengzheng!**

Read more about kite history at [www.sacu.org/kitehistory.html](http://www.sacu.org/kitehistory.html).

(W2) Write a paragraph explaining the process of how to fly a kite.

(W7) Research Marco Polo. Notice that he reported men GLIDING IN kites 700 years ago. What does this mean?

### **What Time Is It?**

(SL1) Some cultures don't pay much attention to time. We might say they are a more "laid back" culture. Is China one of those cultures? Is America? Why/why not?

(SL2) View this documentary about how clocks first came to China. (Just view the first 8 minutes.) Then summarize what you learned.

<http://english.cntv.cn/program/documentary/20110109/107642.html>

(RL7) Google Forbidden City to view images of its construction.

(RL4) Define automaton. (Students might be familiar with this word if they have seen the movie *Hugo*.)

### **In Search of Gold**

(RL1) What role does the government play in the lives of elite athletes?  
What cultural differences did you notice in the article?

(RL3) Refer back to the student who wrote *Growing Up: A Day in the Life*. Compare and contrast these children: elite education vs. elite athletes.

(RL6) What is Amy Feng's point of view about the athletic training?

(RL7) Focus on the photographs. Describe the mood they create.

(RI2) What is the message of the article?

(W7&8) Research the potential health problems from over-training child athletes. Take notes and present them to the class.

### **Ancient Secrets of the Chinese Language**

(RL4) Vocabulary: dialect, unintelligible, literate

(RL1) Take the four subheadings and turn them into questions. Find the answers to the four questions and you will reveal the secrets of the Chinese language.

### **Dim Sum: Tasting China One Plate At A Time**

(W7) Research the Silk Road. What was the importance of it? How did it inspire other explorers to find a sea route?

(RL8) Find evidence in the article that shows Chinese etiquette differs from American etiquette.

(RL7) How do the photographs used with the article help convey the dim sum experience?

### **Dear Tommy**

(RL2&8) Compare/contrast the moods conveyed by the emails and pictures. Find evidence to support your opinions.

(W1) Tiantian mentions writing argumentative essays. What would Tiantian say about American schooling vs. Chinese schooling? What reasoning would she use to support her point of view?

(RI1) Tiantian mentions remembering ice cream. What do you remember from when you were 4? Why do you think she remembers ice cream and its cost?

### **The Gift of the Phoenix**

(RI1) How did the farmer show faith in the promise of the phoenix?

How did the wife show faith in the promise of the phoenix?

Why was the emperor unable to see the treasure?

What was he expecting to see?

(RL3) What words describe these characters?

- Peasant
- Emperor
- Servant

(RL2) What is the theme of the story?

(RI1) Look at the ending of the story. Do you think it is a fair ending? Does it say the peasant ever got out of the dungeon? Even if he didn't, do you think the peasant would complain to the emperor? Why/why not?

### **Wrap Up**

Go through the answers to the T/F quiz.

1. False. China became a communist country in 1949. It was ruled by a series of powerful dynasties before that.
2. True.
3. True. It straddles the border between China and Nepal.
4. False. The Great Wall of China is one of the eight wonders of the world.
5. True. Some might argue that it is false. This is an opinion statement but there is more evidence in the issue suggesting it is true.
6. True.
7. False. The different dialects cannot be understood through speaking.
8. True. This is another opinion statement. Evidence in the issue suggests it is true.

Invite someone from a Chinese restaurant to speak to the class. Sample Chinese cuisine. Try the recipe listed at the end of the Dim Sum article.