



Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Geography of China	5–6
Climate	7
Agriculture	8
Climate and Agriculture	9
China’s Sorrow: The Yellow River	10
Provinces and More	11
Population.....	12–13
The Great Wall of China	14
Construction Maths	15
The Grand Canal	16
The Grand Canal: Counting Costs	17
Tuan and the Giant Snail: A Chinese Folktale	18–19
The Chinese Zodiac	20–21
The Art of Writing	22
Chinese Crossword	23
Make Your Own Paper	24–25
Paper Lanterns	26
Landscape Painting	27
Philosophies of China	28–29
Chinese Proverbs	30
Silk	31
The Abacus	32
The Giant Panda	33
Is the Panda a Bear or a Raccoon?	34
What is a Habitat?	35
The Loss of Habitat	36
The Problem of Overpopulation	37
The Panda in Crisis	38–39
Pandas for Sale	40–41
Other Endangered Species	42
What Can I Do to Help?	43
China in the Twentieth Century	44
Tiananmen Square	45
Hong Kong	46
Answer Key	47–48



Introduction

For centuries China has faced the problem of how to feed and care for its large population. The land produces a limited amount of resources, and the population of China exceeds a billion people.

Unfortunately, this dilemma has placed a heavy burden on China's natural resources. Forests are being cut down to supply wood for homes and fuel and to make land usable for agriculture. Industrialisation is polluting the rivers and lakes. This leads to the loss of habitat for many species such as the panda.

The panda, though only one of China's endangered species, is a symbol of the country. By studying the panda and its relationship to China, we can better understand the complexities of preserving an endangered species in a developing nation.

Currently there are fewer than a thousand pandas surviving in the wild. They are quickly disappearing not only due to loss of habitat but also as a by-product of unrestrained poaching. These gentle animals are often caught and killed in the snares set for other animals.

This book will also give some suggestions as to how we can do our part to help save endangered species from extinction. It links the teaching of environmental issues with the human cultures that live in that environment. Teaching these subjects together provides a unique opportunity to learn how intimately connected we as humans are to nature.



Geography of China

China is a land of contrasts. Inside its borders are deserts, rivers, valleys, huge mountain ranges, great forests and fertile plains. China is home of the Yangtze River, one of the longest rivers in the world, and the Himalayas, the tallest mountains in the world.

China has been isolated from the rest of the world for centuries by several natural barriers: the Gobi Desert to the north, the Himalayas to the south, the Pacific Ocean to the east, and more mountains and deserts to the west.

On the blank map on page 6, label the following:

Gobi Desert

Liao River

Sea of Japan

Mt Everest

West River

Kunlun Mountains

Gulf of Tonkin

Grand Canal

Great Wall of China

Amur River

Himalayas

Taklimakan Desert

Mekong River

Yellow Sea

Tian Shan Mountains

Huai River

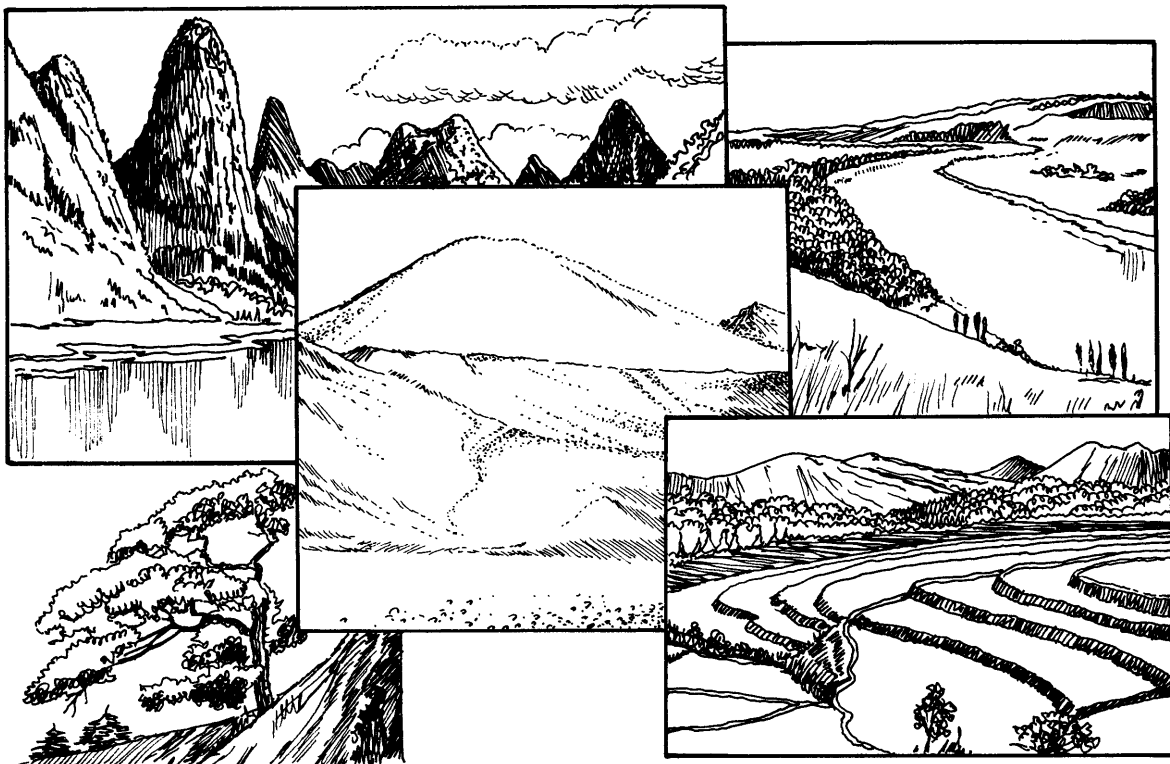
Yangtze River

East China Sea

Yellow River

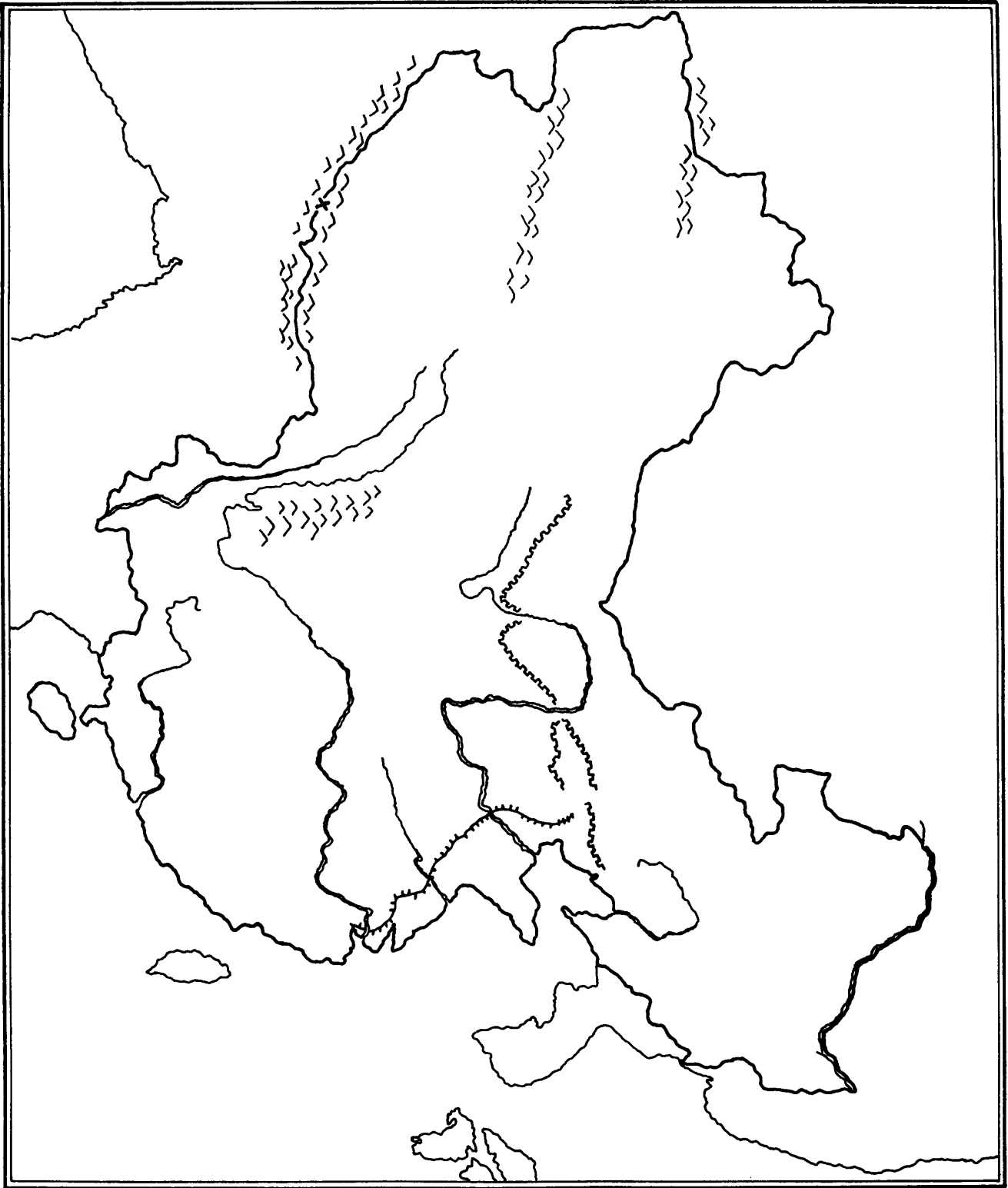
Daxue Mountains

South China Sea





Use with page 5.





The Great Wall of China

One of the greatest construction projects ever undertaken, the Great Wall stretches more than 6000 kilometres.

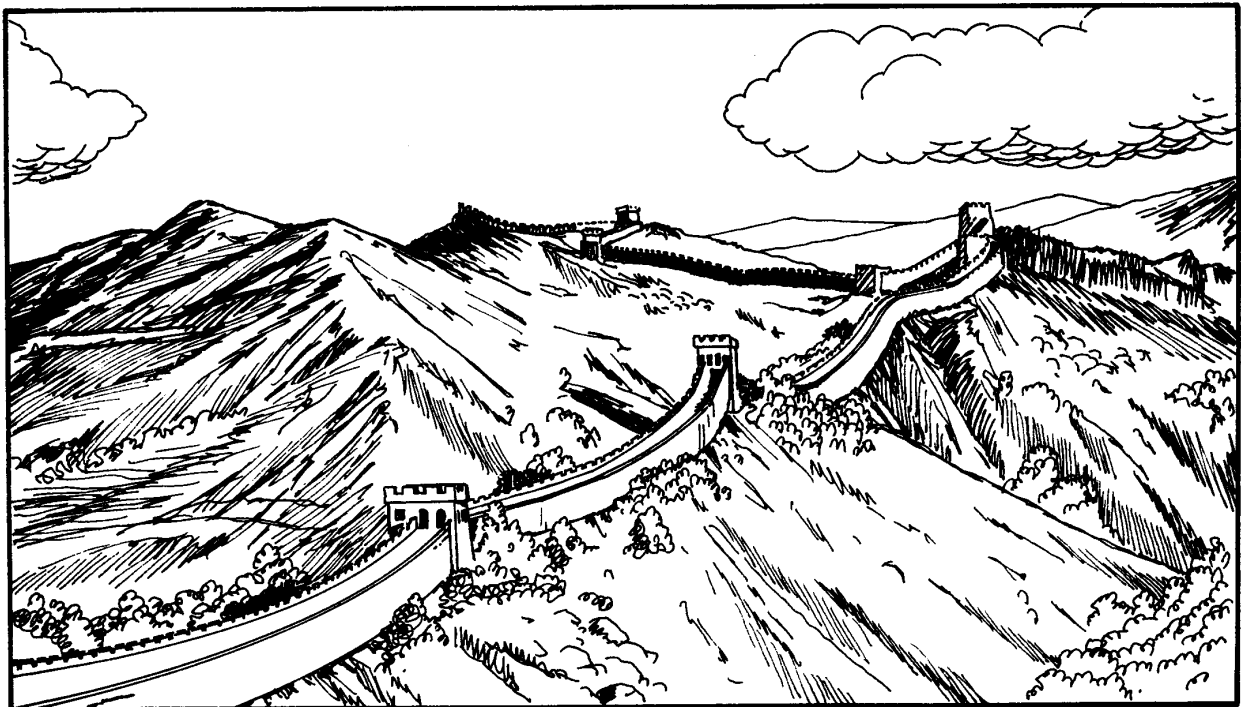
During the Qing dynasty, the first emperor of China connected several walls that had already been built. At this time the Great Wall was made of brick and stone. The stone facing and crenellated ramparts were added during the Ming dynasty in the sixteenth century. It is estimated that over a million workers were used to build the Great Wall. Many died from their efforts and were thrown into the foundations for the next section of wall.

The main purpose of the Great Wall was to keep out invaders from the north. It was also used to regulate trade and

prevent smuggling. It was somewhat effective in keeping invaders out, and it helped to define China's boundaries.

Command posts and towers were placed along the Great Wall. Guards would relay messages along the wall via messengers, smoke signals and mirrors. Mail was regularly delivered and records were kept of supplies. At the gates, guards carefully inspected passports and packages. Trained police dogs also were used.

These days the Great Wall is an extremely popular tourist attraction. Historians study the wall for objects found within it, and scientists study it to see how it has been affected by earthquakes. It is certainly a great source of wonder for many people.





Construction Maths

In order to create the Great Wall of China, engineers had to make accurate measurements. They did not measure things in kilometres. Instead, they measured things in *li*. Examine the tables below to learn how the Chinese measure objects.

1 catty = 625 grams

1 kg = 1.6 catties

1 li = 4.80 km

1 km = 0.2 *li*

1 Chinese foot = 33 cm

1 metre = 3 chinese feet

1 mou = 0.06 hectares

1 hectare = 17 mou

1. If a stone used to build the Great Wall weighs 110 catties, how many kilograms does it weigh? _____
2. If a stone is 3 Chinese feet long, how many metres is it? _____
3. How many Chinese feet make a kilometre? _____
4. The Great Wall is known as the Wall of 10 000 *li*. How many kilometres is that? _____
5. How many stones would it take to stretch the length of five kilometres if each stone were 3 Chinese feet long? _____
6. Ho Shigong lives on a 65-hectare farm. How many *mou* is it? _____

Other Measurements

1. How many catties do you weigh? _____
2. How many Chinese feet is it across your classroom? _____
3. How far is it from your class floor to the ceiling in Chinese feet? _____
4. How tall are you in Chinese feet? _____

Extensions

- Make your own Chinese measuring stick and measure other objects in the room.
- Use a map of your state to calculate the distances between cities in *li*.
- Use a scale to weigh objects. Then convert the weights to catties.
- Make up your own maths problems for the rest of the class to solve.