

GRADE 5 SOCIAL STUDIES



ANCIENT CHINA

We are starting a new unit on Ancient China. For the final project you are going to have the option to choose activities from the following list. All activities are given in maximum point-values, which means that you can earn up to that many points, based on the quality, depth and range of your work. You may not repeat an activity.

You must choose at least one project from group III (Presentations), but you must also do other activities from at least two of the other category choices.

All projects that you complete must reach a grand total of **75 points**, as, that is what your final mark will be out of. You are allowed, however, to exceed this total if you want to increase your overall total so that you can reach 100% if you did not do well on one of your other projects.

All projects will be due the first of June, and you will be given class time to work on this, but I also advise that you do take some time to plan and do some work at home as well. You can pass a project in as soon as you are finished or present it to the class as well, if that is the type of project you choose.

Here is a list of all the activities that you can choose from. Choose projects that best suit your learning style and what grabs your interest the most.

Good Luck ☺

Mme Hale

I. Write:

1. The Chinese invented/developed several items that not only changed the world of the past, but also still affect us today. One of these was an inexpensive process to produce paper. Select 4 of these inventions and write at least two paragraphs on each. Include about when they were developed and why they were important.
(20 points)
2. Do a report on a woman who made a significant contribution during the historical periods reviewed. Illustrate it with a picture or other related image.
(45 points)
3. If you had an opportunity to go to live at one of the Chinese emperor's courts, would you? If yes, describe which one and what your life would have been like?
(15 points)
4. Think about the achievements of one of the people you have learned in this unit. Try to decide how history might have been changed had that person never lived. Explain in detail.
(20 points)
5. Pretend that you are Marco Polo. Choose five ideas or observations that he might have put into his travel diary. Share these diary pages with me. The writing style must be in keeping with the character, times and in journal format.
(30 points)
6. Describe something in the Ancient China lessons that made you change your mind about something that you thought differently about at one point. Tell why.
(10 points)
7. Describe the Ancient China social structure. How does it differ from that of today's society and how would you like to have lived in such a situation?
(15 points)
8. Choose characters in your ancient China learning that grabbed your attention. Write an article about that person as if you were writing about them in a Teen Magazine. Be sure to define and describe the magazine you are writing for. Include picture of this person on your magazine layout.
(20 points)

9. Write a "Dear Abby" letter that one of the historical characters might have written.
(10 points)
10. The Mongol's of Genghis Khan did not have a written language. Therefore, all writing about these invaders was done by those that they attacked. Discuss how you think this may have influenced our present day viewpoints of Genghis Khan and the Mongol's.
(20 points)
11. Explain the importance of dragons to the Chinese culture. Why? Do we have anything like this in our society today? Why do you think this is?
(10 points)

II. List:

1. Make a timeline of the 10 major Chinese dynasties that existed before a revolution drove out the last emperor in 1911. Be sure to show the beginning and end.
(15 points)
2. Make a list of ten **new** words and definitions that you learned about in this unit. **(10 points)**
3. Using a Venn diagram (that you will find in Mme Hale's Extra Copy Bin), compare and contrast the three major belief systems of China (Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism).
(20 points)
4. Make a pictorial timeline that covers events from two consecutive dynasties.
(20 points)
5. Make a timeline showing at least 9 Chinese inventions. Write one paragraph on each invention that includes information about when it was invented, why it was important and how much later it was *invented* in Europe.
(25 points)
6. Marco Polo left Venice when he was 17 and went to the Middle East and then China. After 20 years in China, he returned home to Venice. If you were Marco Polo, what gifts would you have brought back from China for your family? Explain.
(10 points)

III. Presentation:

1. With one or two other students, create a written script and 4 minute presentation to the class about the strengths and weaknesses of Kublai Khan's takeover of the Song Dynasty. Give teacher a finished draft of your script.
(50 points)
2. Write a poem that might have been written during the Song or Tang dynasties.
(20 points)
3. Read a Chinese fable to the class (let me review your choice first).
(15 points)
4. By yourself or with a partner design a lesson for the class all about the Chinese New Year. Why do they have this celebration? From when and where did it originate from? What are the customs of this event? What is your personal opinion on the celebration? What are the differences between our New Year's celebrations and their New Year's celebrations? What importance does the dragon have to this event? Develop an activity for the class to participate in to ensure they understand what you taught them.
(50 points)
5. Make a Power Point or Smart Board presentation that illustrates Ancient Chinese Society. Be sure to include the culture, food, clothes, religions, technology, and architecture of this time.
(50 points)
6. Make an actual Chinese kite. Make sure that it is illustrated appropriately.
(50 points)
7. Make an actual Chinese dragon that would simulate what they would use for their Chinese New Year.
(50 points)
8. Make a travel brochure about the Great Wall as an historic monument and tourist attraction. Be sure to discuss the different stages of construction, by whom, its length, the pros & cons of its construction and how effective it was [or wasn't]. Madame will photocopy the brochure for each student in the class, and you can present it to them.
(35 points)

9. Make-up Jeopardy questions and answers for two categories (each with values from \$100 to \$500) related to the history events, religion, culture, inventions or dynasties of China (this may include the Mongols). Play your game with the class.
(30 points)
10. Create a crossword puzzle from vocabulary and events in this unit. You can find a crossword maker on discoveryeducation.com. Have the class complete your activity in pairs and you correct their answers.
(25 points)
11. Choose a popular song, past or present, that could be considered one of the main historical characters or periods theme song. Write down the lyrics and explain why they describe your choice. Present this to the class.
(40 points)
12. Design a "Head Banz" game for the class to play using the vocabulary, people, places and things that you have learned in this unit. Design these words on index cards and play your game with the class.
(30 points)
13. Research all about "The Abacus" and discover how the Chinese calculator is constructed and used. Use your old Lego at home along with the website provided and build your own abacus with your Lego. Bring it to school to exhibit it to your classmates. Also explain to your classmates the purpose of the Abacus, when it was invented, what it was invented for and all you learned.
(40 points)

IV. Picture:

1. Design a bookmark that promotes something from Ancient China's past.
(5 points)
2. Create a movie poster and promotion for one of the dynasties or events in this unit. Cast the major characters from that time with real actresses or actors from today. Write a promotion piece about the *movie* that would persuade me to want to see it. Paper is available from the teacher.
(40 points)
3. Using calligraphy (that you previously learned in the Middle Ages Unit), show at least 10 Chinese characters and what they mean. Then create 2 new characters, built from the regular characters, which create 2 new words or ideas. Explain them. These are easily found on the Internet. **(20 points)**

4. Make a map that shows the Great Canal. Attach an explanation as to why it was important and what it took to build it.
(20 points)
5. Make a "wanted" poster for one of the historical characters. Include the following: (a) a drawing of the person (b) a physical description (c) the person's misdeeds (d) other info about the person that you think is important (e) the reward offered.
(15 points)
6. Design a poster that Emperor Wen might have wanted to use to help him in unifying the Chinese Empire. Be sure to include names, a catchy slogan and something visual. Be sure to keep it in character.
(20 points)
7. Draw a picture that shows some of the major cultural, political or economic achievements from one of the following dynasties: Sui, Tang, Song, Yuan, Ming or Qing. Attach an explanation as to what you chose and explain why.
(15 points)
8. Design two or three greeting cards that might have come from the Tang or Song periods.
(25 points)
9. Draw China's flag and color it. Explain on the back, what the stars represent.
(10 points)

V. Other:

Design and propose a project/activity of your own. Write up and present your idea to Mme Hale. We will determine the point value together.

Internet sites that support the activities menu

[Electronic Passport to Ancient China](http://www.mrdowling.com/613chinesehistory.html)

Wonderful, wonderful site. Lists all the dynasties, good info about each, covers the major belief systems, articles on Marco Polo, the Silk Road, The Mongols, Genghis Khan and the Mongols. It is as if they read our Activity Menu.

<http://www.mrdowling.com/613chinesehistory.html>

[Chinese Culture](#)

A wonderful overview of Ancient China, this site contains terrific links, with images and maps, about the Silk Road, Ancient religions and the Chinese Calendar [with what each of the animal symbols stand for].
http://www.pages.com.cn/chinese_culture/culture.html

[100 Celebrated Chinese Women](#)

There are lots of western schoolbooks on the history of China, I always wondered at the almost complete lack of mention of women. Well, not anymore. With exquisite art & articulate text, we have this site. It has completed 40 of the 100 stories to date. Must see!!
<http://www.span.com.au/100women/index.html>

[Female Heroes of Regions of the World](#)

Created by author and historian, Lyn Reese, this site contains biographies of 10 Asian women who are considered central figures in an event or a period. They are "heroic" because of their abilities, achievements or qualities that helped define the age in which they lived.
<http://www.womeninworldhistory.com/heroine.html>

[Why Europe?](#)

Outline and table discussing a number of the considerations that led certain regions towards colonization and imperialism.
Two images of [Zheng He's treasure ship](#) that compare the sizes of China's ships to those of Columbus.
<http://www.sonic.net/bantam1/why europe.html>

[The Great Chinese Mariner Zheng He \[Cheng Ho\]](#)

All about Zheng He and his voyages, with wonderful pictures and images.
<http://www.chinapage.com/chengho.html>

The Abacus

History, how to use and one to practice with.

<http://www.ee.ryerson.ca:8080/~elf/abacus/>

How to Build a Lego Abacus

This site gives step-by-step instructions on how to build your own Lego Abacus at home with Lego you have laying around your home.

This does not mean that Madame is telling you to go home and tell your parents that you have to go out and buy Lego for this project!

<http://www.ee.ryerson.ca/~elf/abacus/lego/>

A Short History of the Silk Road

Excellent range of information of its history, the caravans that used it and the fall of the Silk Road.

http://www.pages.com.cn/chinese_culture/silk/history.html

In Celebration of the Silk Road

An excellent site with clear maps and simple text, we have this site which provides the history of the Silk Road, linking the Mediterranean to China.

<http://www.access.ch/tuerkei/GRUPE/silkroad.html>

The Silk Road, in pictures

This Photo Journey of the Silk Road, put together by Oliver Wild of Cambridge University, shows what the Silk Road actually looked like.

<http://www.ess.uci.edu/~oliver/silk2.html>

Genghis Khan Exhibit

Primarily promotes the Royal British Columbia Museum's exhibition of "Empires beyond the Wall: Genghis Khan." Includes some very nice graphics, as well as some brief introductory material regarding Genghis Khan.

<http://pinc.com/khan/index.html>

[Peter's Kite Site](#) [Kite Plans on the Internet]

This Dutch Kite Ring site owned by Peter Peters is the one. So many actual kite design plans and models, available free. Click on single line kites and have a ball.

<http://www.win.tue.nl/~pp/kites/plans/>

[Traditional Chinese Kites](#)

Go to this commercial site by Pan Chinakie and click on OUR PRODUCTS. This will allow you close-up views of many excellent kite models.

<http://www.chinakite.com/htm/content.html>

[Pictures of Chinese Kites](#)

Wonderful pictures from 1999 kite tours of China. Great ideas for your projects. Be sure to click on the links of **Lianyungang** , **Weifang** and **Beijing**.

http://www.bhc.com/china_japan99/index.html#China

[Kites from China](#)

Although this site is for kites for sale, it contains wonderful pictures that could help you get an idea for your project.

<http://www.bigcitykites.com/chinesekites.html>

[Kite Flier's Site](#)

Kites: histories, events and detailed instructions-a very comprehensive set of kite related links.

<http://www.kfs.org/kites/>

[Splendors of Imperial China](#)

From the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, this site provides beautiful images of sculpture, ceramics and art from Imperial China, plus more.

<http://www.asianart.com/splendors/index.html>

[China Paintings Gallery](#)

View exquisite Chinese paintings to get a better idea of both life and culture in Ancient China.

<http://www.chinapage.com/painting.html>

[Portraits of Chinese Emperors](#)

Historical paintings from the Tang, Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties.

<http://www.chinapage.com/emperor.html>

[Stories and Parables from China](#)

Short stories and tales.

<http://www.chinapage.com/story/story.html>

[Ancient Chinese Fables](#)

I found a great site for more fables.

<http://www.librarycatalog.com/ccol/fables.html>

[China's Major Religions](#)

A clear, brief history and explanation of China's three major religions: Taoism, Confucianism and Buddhism.

<http://www.insidechina.com/underst/christm.php3>

Please fill out the following contract and sign it.

I am choosing the following projects:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Total points I am trying to earn.

Student-Parent Contract

The DEADLINE is May 31st during Social Studies Class. Students will receive sufficient time in class to work on these projects, but have to learn to budget their time and work hard during the time allotted. No projects or excuses will be accepted after the due date, unless there are unique circumstances that need to be addressed. If there are any questions please email me at the address located in your child's EAGLES book.

I am aware that this project is due on May 31st, 2010, and I understand it is my responsibility to budget/organize myself so that I finish in a timely manner. I also recognize that I may have to consult sources outside of school at a place such as the public library or Access Center for additional information if needed.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

I have gone through all parts of this packet with my child and understand the project, deadlines, instructions, and grading policy.

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____