

Escape Room in a Box- Chinese Edition

By Amanda Hilliard Smith

[FCS Teaching Museum](#)

Description:

Turn your classroom into an escape room as your students learn about China through a series of challenges.

Suggested Course: Seventh Grade Social Studies

Objectives:

Students will be able to describe the impact of communism in China in terms of Mao Zedong, the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, and Tiananmen Square.

Students will be able to explain how the mountain, desert, and water features of Southern and Eastern Asia impact trade and affect where people live.

Students will be able to explain how specialization encourages trade between countries.

Students will be able to describe Confucianism.

Students will be able to explain why international trade requires a system for exchanging currencies between nations.

Students will be able to explain how literacy rates affect the standard of living.

Students will be able to explain how Chinese economic system answers the economic questions of 1-what to produce, 2-how to produce, and 3-for whom to produce.

Task Options:

Option 1: Teams complete all 8 clues in one 90-minute class period or two 45-minute class periods. Challenge can take place at the beginning or end of the unit.

Teams of 3-4 students will work on one clue at a time. The team recorder will write down the answer on the handout. When the team solves a clue, the leader will raise their hand. The teacher will check the answer and make sure the team has reset the clue before moving on to another clue. Each group will be given 3 hint tickets, so they can ask the teacher a question if they get stuck. Teacher can use the stamp to keep track of hint tickets or right answer on handout.

Option 2: Teams complete one clue a day (about 10-15 minutes) over the course of the unit.

Teams of 3-4 students will work on one clue at the beginning of a class period. The team recorder will write down the answer on the handout. When all teams have solved the challenge then the teacher will review the answers with the whole class as a way of starting off the class period.

Option 3: Teachers can choose to have the students, especially those who struggle with reading, complete only the first part of each clue. It should take about 5 minutes a clue or 40 minutes.

Teams of 3-4 students will work on one clue at a time. The team recorder will write down the answer on the handout. When the team solves a clue, the leader will raise their hand. The teacher will check the answer and make sure the team has reset the clue before moving on to another clue. Each group will be given 3 hint tickets, so they can ask the teacher a question if they get stuck. Teacher can use the stamp to keep track of hint tickets or right answer on handout.

Supplies:

Storage Container	1	11.17
Mao Buttons	10	25.00
Political Spectrum Poster	1	
The Mao Button By Feng Jicai	4	
"One Belt and One Road" Map	1	
UV Ultra Violet Backlight	2	12.00
invisible ink	1	9.00
Silk Road Map on Transparency paper	1	15.00
Confucius Temple Cards	4	
Great Leap Forward posters	4	
money exchange receipt	2	
combination lock	1	5.01
Lockable Pouch	3	9.44
RMB currency	6	5.00
Chinese Coke label	1	
Chinese Character Password Lock	1	6.00
Literacy Chart	1	
lock padlock	1	8.00
China-Taiwan Articles	4	
red book	2	5.00
Stamp	1	16.00
ipads	3	school
Total		127.49

Student Handout

Team Name:

Team Members:

Clue: Mao Zedong	Clue: Currency Rates
Clue: Trade Routes	Clue: Literacy
Clue: Confucianism	Clue: Economic Systems
Clue: Great Leap Forward	Clue: Tiananmen Square

Hint Tickets:

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Clue: Mao Zedong

SS7H3d. Describe the impact of communism in China in terms of Mao Zedong, the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, and Tiananmen Square.

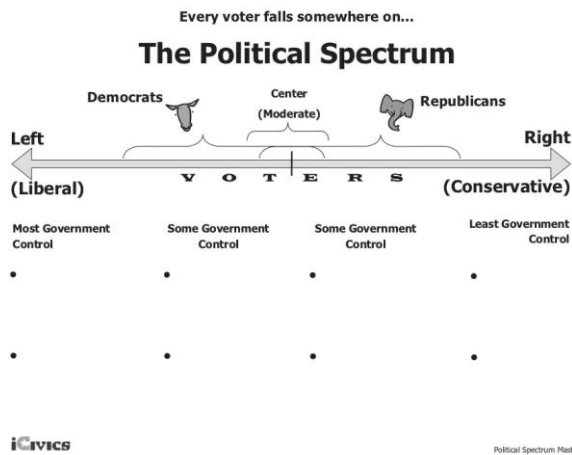
Students are given Mao Zedong buttons along with the following questions.



Questions:

1. Describe what you notice about these Mao Zedong buttons.
2. What symbols do you see?
3. How is Mao Zedong portrayed in the buttons?
4. Find the poster in the room which explains why Mao Zedong is facing left in most of his portraits.

Poster with a note stating where the next activity is located.



Students will find copies of Feng Jicai's *The Mao Button* short story with questions.

The Mao Button

By Feng Jikai

Questions:

1. What message did Mr. Kong want to send by wearing a “stupendous” Mao button?
2. What ways did people in China get Mao buttons?
3. What happens if you don't wear a Mao button?
4. Answer on handout: Feng Jikai begin his literary career during the Cultural Revolution. He used political satire as a way of expressing a political argument when such beliefs were forbidden. Describe how the author uses political satire in the story, especially at the end when Mr. Kong's button falls off. What is the author trying to say about communism?

Clue: Trade Routes

SS7G9 Locate selected features in Southern and Eastern Asia.

SS7G11 Explain the impact of location, climate, physical characteristics, distribution of natural resources, and population distribution on Southern and Eastern Asia.

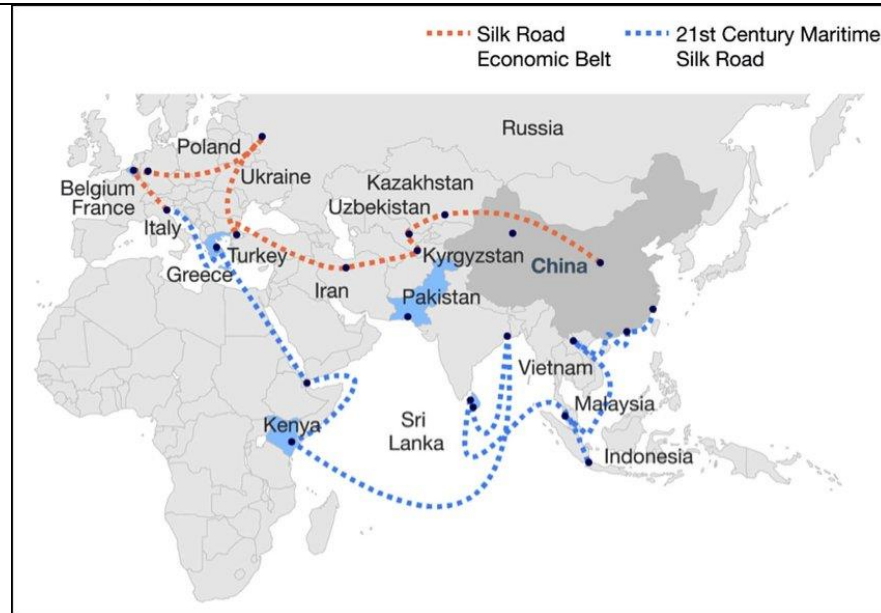
a. Describe how the mountain, desert, and water features of Southern and Eastern Asia impact trade and affect where people live.

SS7E8 Explain how voluntary trade benefits buyers and sellers in Southern and Eastern Asia.

a. Explain how specialization encourages trade between countries.

Students are given a map of Southern and Eastern Asia with the One Belt, One Road incentive along with a [UV Ultra Violet Backlight](#) to read each country biggest export.

"One Belt and One Road" is a massive trade and infrastructure project that aims to link China — physically and financially — to dozens of economies across Asia, Europe, Africa, and Oceania. It consists of two parts: The "Belt," which is the land route, and the "Road," which is not actually a road, but a route through various oceans.



Source: <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/capital-projects-and-infrastructure/our-insights/one-belt-and-one-road-connecting-china-and-the-world>

Countries Biggest Exports written in [invisible ink](#) on the map above.

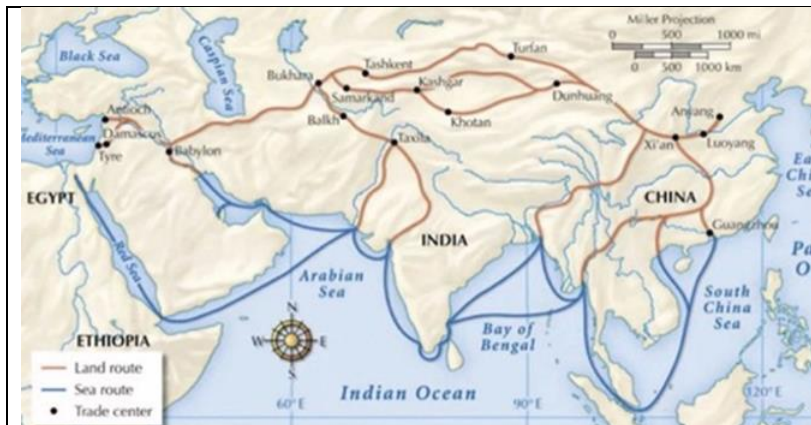


Source: <http://www.visualcapitalist.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/top-export-every-country-map.html>

Questions:

1. What country's biggest export (goods sold to another country) surprises you? Why?
2. What types of goods do most Asian countries specialize in?
3. What goods are China getting from African countries (Kenya)? European countries (Greece, Italy, France)? Middle Eastern countries (Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan)? Southeast Asia (India, Vietnam)?
4. How does specialization encourage trade between countries? Provide examples to your teacher from the map to support your answer.

Students are given a transparent map of the Silk Road after they explain the last answer to their teacher.



The Silk Road was an ancient network of trade routes, which linked the regions of the ancient world in commerce between 130 BCE-1453 CE.

Questions:

1. How do mountains, desert, and water features impact trade between Asia and Europe?
2. Answer on handout: What similarities do you see between the ancient Silk Road trade route and the 21st Century One Belt, One Road route?

Clue: Confucius

SS7G12b. Compare and contrast the belief systems originating in Southern and Eastern Asia: Buddhism, Hinduism, Shintoism, and Confucianism

Students are given pictures of a Confucius Temple and a locked ipad.



A: Dacheng Hall is the main shrine area of any Confucius temple - The hall sits in the middle of a granite courtyard with a large elevated platform in front of it as well as on the sides. Inside the hall is a very simple shrine set up with the Confucius Spirit Tablet (神位).



B: Inside the Dacheng Hall is a shrine set up with a Confucius Spirit Tablet dedicated to Confucius along with a collection of spirit tablets dedicated to important Confucius scholars and government officials. One of the common features of all Confucius temples is that there is no imagery or statues of Confucius.



C: The Dacheng Gate acts as the entrance to a Confucius Temple. The gate typically forms a perimeter around the courtyard and the Dacheng Hall. In most cases the gate is likely to be the most ornate part of the entire temple with murals to the sides of the main entrance as well as intricate designs on the roof.



D: The courtyard in front of the Dacheng Gate is a popular meeting place for people and is often the site of a lot of activity. Confucius's Birthday is commemorated on September 28th with offerings made at Confucian temples.

Questions:

1. What do you notice first?
2. How are the objects arranged?
3. What questions do you have about Confucianism?

Place the following cards in the order visitors would see as they enter the Confucius Temple. Arrange the letters in the correct order to unlock the ipad.

ANSWER: DCAB

ipad will open to the School of Life Eastern Philosophy- Confucius video. (5:35)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUhGRh4vdb8>

Questions:

1. Who is Confucius?
2. How do we know what Confucius taught if he didn't write anything down?
3. How did Confucius believe you should behave towards your parents?
4. Answer on handout: What impact has Confucianism had on Chinese society?

Clue: Great Leap Forward

SS7E7 Analyze different economic systems.

a. Compare how traditional, command, and market economies answer the economic questions of 1-what to produce, 2-how to produce, and 3-for whom to produce.

c. Compare and contrast the economic systems in China, India, Japan, North Korea, and South Korea.

SS7H3d. Describe the impact of communism in China in terms of Mao Zedong, the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, and Tiananmen Square.

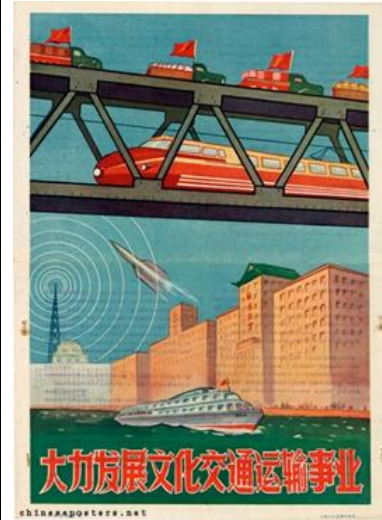
Students are given Great Leap Forward posters and a locked ipad.

Translation: Brave the wind and the waves, everything has remarkable abilities, 1958

Source: <https://chinese posters.net/themes/great-leap-forward.php>



Translation: Greatly develop the sectors of culture, communication and transport, 1960



Source: <https://chinese posters.net/posters/d25-140.php>

Translation: When the dining hall is well-run, the production spirit will increase, 1959

Source: <https://chinese posters.net/posters/e15-829.php>

Translation: The communes are big, the people numerous, the natural resources abundant, it is easy to develop a diversified economy, 1960



Source: <https://chineseposters.net/posters/d25-138.php>

Questions:

1. What do you notice about the poster?
2. What people and objects are shown?
3. What's happening in the image?
4. Why do you think this image was made?
5. These posters were used to promote Mao Zedong and the communist point of view. The term that can be used to describe posters used to promote a particular point of view will unlock the iPad.

ANSWER: **Propaganda**

IPad will open to a video on the effects of the Great Leap Forward on China.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bE4HeihPHU> (5 mins)

Questions:

1. What was the Great Leap Forward?
2. What did the Chinese communist party not like about the Soviet Union's economic plan?
3. Why did Mao Zedong develop this plan?
4. Was the Great Leap Forward a success? Use examples from the video to support your answer.
5. Answer on handout: Why did the posters portray the Great Leap Forward differently than the video?

Clue: Currency Rates

SS7E8c. Explain why international trade requires a system for exchanging currencies between nations.

SS7H3d. Describe the impact of communism in China in terms of Mao Zedong, the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, and Tiananmen Square.

Students are handed a money exchange receipt and a [combination lock](#) on pouch.



Use the first number of your answers below to open the combination lock.

How many U.S. dollars were exchanged for RMB? **100**

How many RMBs did this person receive? **610**

What was the exchange rate from U.S. dollars to RMB during this transaction? **6.1**

ANSWER: **1-6-6**

Inside the lock box the students will find RMB currency along with questions.

Questions:

1. Describe what you see on the RMB.
2. What message is China sending with the words/images printed on their currency?
3. Answer on handout: Why are different nations currency worth different amounts?

Clue: Literacy

SS7E9a. Evaluate how literacy rates affect the standard of living.

Students will be given a Coke label from China and a box with a [Chinese Character Password Lock](#).



Mandarin is the Chinese dialect spoken in Beijing. Mandarin is the only Chinese spoken language that can be understood throughout China. Chinese characters originated as pictures but have evolved overtime. There are over 50,000 Chinese characters but an educated person needs only about 2,000-3,000 to be able to read.

Coca-Cola is made up of 4 Chinese characters. Find the four characters in the list below.

山 (shān)	Mountain
人 (rén)	Man
一 (yī)	One
口 (kǒu)	Mouth
中 (zhōng)	Center
乐 (lè)	Happiness
水 (shuǐ)	Water
开 (kāi)	Open
可 (kě)	In/the
上 (shàng)	Up

ANSWER: ko-kou-ko-le

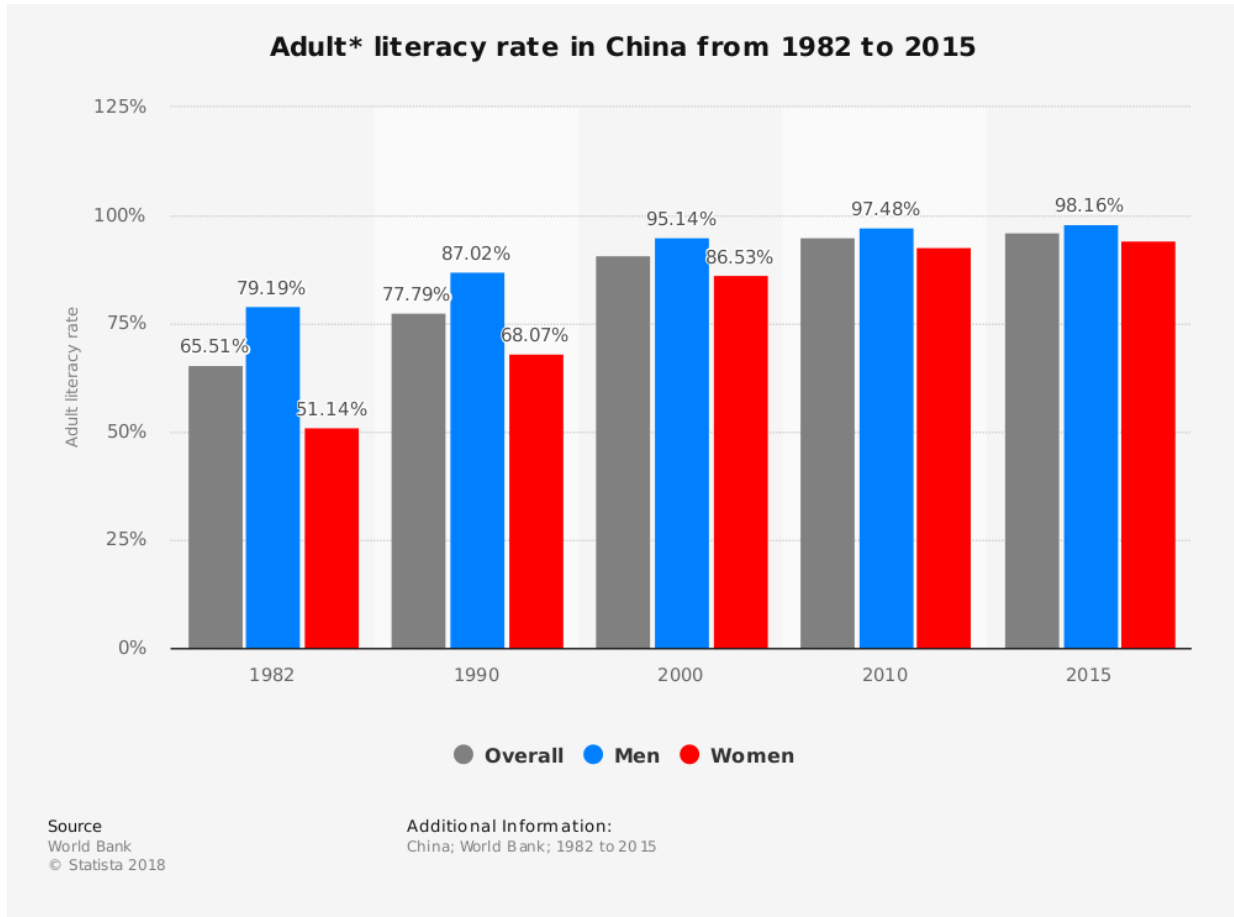
Cracking an international market is a goal of most growing corporations. It shouldn't be that hard, yet even the big multi-nationals run into trouble because of language and cultural differences. For example... The name Coca-Cola in China was first rendered as Ke-kou-ke-la. Unfortunately, the Coke company did not discover until after thousands of signs had been printed that the phrase means "bite the wax tadpole" or "female horse stuffed with wax" depending on the dialect. Coke then researched 40,000 Chinese characters and found a close phonetic equivalent, "ko-kou-ko-le," which can be loosely translated as "happiness in the mouth."

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/business-jokes/coca-cola-in-chinese-is-ke-kou-ke-la/articleshow/623585.cms>

Now translate these words into Mandarin to open the lock: Man, Open, Mountain, Center

ANSWER: 人, 一, 山, 中

Inside the lock box the students will find the chart with questions.



Questions:

1. What has happened to adult literacy rates in China from 1982 to 2015?
2. Why do you think the literacy rate for men are higher than women?
3. Answer on handout: How does literacy rates affect the standard of living in China?

Clue: Economic System

SS7E7 Analyze different economic systems.

- a. Compare how traditional, command, and market economies answer the economic questions of 1-what to produce, 2-how to produce, and 3-for whom to produce.
- c. Compare and contrast the economic systems in China, India, Japan, North Korea, and South Korea.

Students are handed a pouch with a [lock padlock](#).

	<p>Problem: The Chinese government wants to make sure that prepackaged food sold in the ancient Chinese capital city of Xi'an is safe to eat.</p>
	<p>Solution: The Chinese government gives the privately-owned company Good Morning Ancient Capital the sole right to produce prepackaged food in the ancient Chinese capital of Xi'an.</p>

In this example, who answers the following economic questions.

1. What is produced? **Government**
2. How to produce? **Private Company**
3. For whom to produce? **Government**
4. What to buy? **Citizens**

Your answers to the questions above corresponds with a direction on the padlock. Move the padlock's dial in the direction that corresponds with the answer to each question in order of 1-4.

Government - Right	Citizens- Up
Private Company- Left	Employees- Down

Inside the package students will find the following articles to read about the relationship between China and Taiwan.

Taiwanese Presidential Stop at LA Bakery Causes Massive Political Fallout in China

<https://la.eater.com/2018/8/20/17759896/85c-bakery-los-angeles-taiwan-president-china-coffee-news>



Downtown Los Angeles bakery has unexpectedly found itself at the heart of growing tensions between China and semi-autonomous Taiwan, and it all started over a photo of a cup of coffee. The backlash began at the Wilshire Boulevard location of Taiwanese restaurant chain 85°C Bakery, and is now rippling through mainland China and Taipei stock trading floors.

As reported everywhere from *The Guardian* to Singapore-based English language publication *The Straits Times*, the parent company of 85°C Bakery has found itself in hot water after photos were posted on social media showing Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen grabbing a coffee at a busy Downtown LA location. 85°C Bakery is a Taiwanese company that has proven popular throughout China, greater Southeast Asia, Australia, and the United States, where the company has quickly expanded over the past few years, so at first the presidential roll-through would seem only natural. Except, of course, for a long-simmering nationalist debate about the autonomy of Taiwan overall.

From a mainland Chinese perspective, Taiwan remains an integral part of the greater People's Republic of China, while many Taiwanese consider themselves to be a fully autonomous democracy. Only 18 countries in the world formally recognize Taiwan as a standalone state, and the United States ("The United States does not support Taiwan independence," says the State Department officially) is not among them.

Regardless, President Tsai has been on a whirlwind tour of the United States the past few days, drawing ire from Beijing, who contend that this is a pro-democracy political tour that was not approved by the Chinese government. When the photo of President Tsai enjoying a coffee in Los Angeles surfaced on Facebook and, later, Chinese platform Weibo, there was widespread call for a boycott, with some users saying 85°C Bakery is little more than a political front for the growing Taiwanese independence movement.

Well over half of the company's revenues reportedly come from mainland China, forcing the group into damage control mode after the news wiped out more than \$120 million from the company's stock in Taipei practically overnight. 85°C Bakery issued a statement fully supporting the anti-independence 'One China' doctrine, which immediately infuriated pro-independence Taiwanese forces. For now, President Tsai remains on her U.S. tour en route to countries in Central America.

Questions:

1. What is China's view on Taiwan?
2. Answer on handout: What can you learn about China's economy from this incident? Provide examples from the article to support your answer.

Gap has apologized for a map of China on one of its T-shirts that upset internet users in the country

<https://money.cnn.com/2018/05/15/news/companies/gap-tshirt-map-of-china/index.html>



A user on Chinese social network Weibo (WB) posted photos of a T-shirt they said was on sale at a Gap store in Canada, complaining that its design left out Taiwan and islands claimed by Beijing in the South China Sea. The US clothing brand is the latest international company to find itself in hot water over Chinese territorial issues.

The Chinese government in Beijing considers self-governed Taiwan to be an integral part of its territory and comes down hard on any suggestions to the contrary. China also claims sovereignty over a large swathe of territory in the South China Sea, including areas claimed by other countries like Vietnam and the Philippines.

Gap responded to the criticism on Weibo by announcing it had pulled the T-shirts from the Chinese market and destroyed them. "Gap Inc. respects China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We've learned that a Gap brand T-shirt sold in some overseas markets failed to reflect the correct map of China in the design," the company said in a statement posted late Monday on Weibo.

"We sincerely apologize for this unintentional error," it added. "We're currently conducting an internal inspection." The company didn't say whether the product would be withdrawn from sale in other markets.

A series of other big Western brands have apologized over missteps on Chinese territorial issues. Chinese authorities in January blocked Marriott's (MAR) websites and apps for a week after the company listed Tibet, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan as separate countries in emails and apps. Marriott issued an apology, saying it respects and supports China's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

US airline Delta (DAL) and European clothing retailer Zara also came under fire over similar issues on their websites in China. Both companies subsequently apologized. Beijing has also been pressuring international companies to change their websites outside China to fit its views, prompting a clash with the US government.

Earlier this month, the White House described as "Orwellian nonsense" Chinese demands that more than 30 international airlines, including some US carriers, alter their websites to remove any information that could suggest that Taiwan, Hong Kong or Macau are not part of China.

Questions:

1. What is China's view on Taiwan?

3. Answer on handout: What can you learn about China's economy from this incident? Provide examples from the article to support your answer.

Clue: Tiananmen Square

SS7H3d. Describe the impact of communism in China in terms of Mao Zedong, the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, and Tiananmen Square.

Students are given a [red book](#) and a locked ipad.



Questions:

1. What do you notice about the red book?
2. What symbols do you see?
3. What do you think was the purpose of the red book?
4. How many portraits of Mao Zedong are in the book. Use this answer to unlock the ipad.

ANSWER: 4

iPad opens to a video of Chairmen Mao in Tiananmen Square during the Cultural Revolution.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=evSelvjAvYk> (3 minutes)

1. What do you notice about the people in Tiananmen Square?
2. What symbols do you see?
3. How is Chairmen Mao treated by the crowd?
4. Spot the following Tiananmen Square locations in the video. How has these locations changed since 1966 when the video was made?



Monument to the People's Heroes



Gate of Heavenly Peace

5. Answer on Handout: How was the red book and Tiananmen Square used by the communist party to promote their beliefs?