

### Grade 3 Unit Plan on China

3.1 Students describe the physical and human geography and use maps, tables, graphs, photographs, and charts to organize information about people, places, and environments in a spatial context.

#### Lesson 1

**Objective:** Students will learn to identify and describe the geographic features of China using interactive maps, photographs, and non-fiction readings.

**Opening:** Virtual panoramic field trip: <https://www.airpano.com/360photo/China/>

Guiding questions

1. What types of land features do you see?
2. What kind of water features do you see?

**Activity:** Students will read the non-fiction text within a small group. Students will use the article to complete a bubble chart with the types of geographic features.

*China is a huge country in more than one way. More than 1.3 billion people live there. That's about a fifth of all the people on Earth! And China is the fourth largest country in the world. It covers more than 3.5 million square miles.*

*This large country has many different kinds of land. It has some very low areas of land. In fact, the third lowest place on Earth is in China. It is called the Turpan Depression. Other parts of China have mountains. For example, the Himalayan mountain range is in the west part of the country. This range has some of the tallest mountains in the world.*

*The melting snow in the mountains is a source of water for many rivers. In fact, the snow creates two of China's most important rivers. These are the Yellow River and the Yangtze River. The Yellow River is China's second largest river. It is very special to the Chinese people, as it was the starting place of Chinese civilization. The Yangtze River is China's biggest river. It is the third longest river in the world! The Yangtze is important to the economy of China.*

*There are thousands of rivers in China. But other parts of China are desert land. And there are rainforests in some areas of the country. China's landscape is very diverse!*

**Closing:** Label map and identify major bodies of water and land features using a geographic map.

#### Lesson 2

**Objective:** Students will learn to describe the geographic features of China using traditional Chinese landscape paintings and reading & writing poetry.

**Opening:** Gallery walk (digital or physical) of traditional Chinese Landscape paintings with

student conversation frames.

- I notice \_\_\_\_\_ in the paintings. What do you notice?
- There are \_\_\_\_\_ in the painting. Do you see any other land or water features?



**Activity:** Students will create their own painting of a specific river, mountain range, or region. They will work in partners and present their painting/drawing to the class in a 2 minute presentation using the vocabulary from the unit.

**Closing:** Ticket-out-the-door will be to identify what they learned about Chinese Geography and what they would like to learn more about.

### Lesson 3

**Objective:** Students will be able to describe the people, places, and accomplishments in

Ancient China in a written prompt.

**Opening:** Short Video on ancient China and small group quiz on the content.

<https://jr.brainpop.com/socialstudies/ancienthistory/ancientchina/>

**Activity:** Closely read the article as a class and annotate new vocabulary and interesting facts.

*Have you ever seen a spider hanging from a thread? The thread is made of something called silk. Other insects make silk, too. Some caterpillars make silk. These insects are often called silkworms.*

*People are able to make fabric out of the silk from these insects. The fabric is soft and shiny. It is also quite strong. And it is thought of as grand.*

*Weaving silk fabric is an ancient practice. It began in China thousands of years ago. People there raised silkworms so they could make silk fabric. This was an important way they made money.*

*Over time, the silk woven in China got better. It was used for robes, decorations, and other things. Some of these products were used in China. But some of them were traded away. Through trade, the silk from China became popular in places like Rome and Greece. It was so popular that a set of trade routes connecting China and the West was called the Silk Road!*

*Today, silk is made in many countries. But China makes and sells more silk than any other country! Even after thousands of years, China and silk still go hand in hand.*

**Closing:** Independent writing prompt: How does the geography of China affect the innovations of the Chinese people? Use information from maps, paintings, video, and video tour to support your answer.