



CULTUREGUIDE

CHINA

SERIES 2
PRIMARY (K-6)



DAVID M.

KENNEDY CENTER

FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

CHINA CULTUREGUIDE

This unit is published by the International Outreach Program of the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies at Brigham Young University as part of an effort to foster open cultural exchange within the educational community and to promote increased global understanding by providing meaningful cultural education tools.

Curriculum Development

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WHY STUDY CULTURES?

For most of us, cultures are misunderstood and misplaced; they are nebulous, vague, and hidden. Like the famous iceberg analogy, we know that most of what a culture is cannot be seen. But what does that mean? And why, then, should we study cultures if we do not know what we're studying in the first place?

In the late twentieth century, Brigham Young University did not embrace a new discipline, but rather a new area of study—the study of cultures. Typically, anthropology is the social science that studies culture. Why should they have all the fun? Cultural studies unites other academic disciplines (as needed), drawing upon literature, political science, sociology, and even the more applied areas of nursing, social work, law, and business. The study of cultures has grown into nothing short of a revolt against disciplines, “a mode of inquiry” that looks at things in new ways.¹

In 1982, the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies established International Outreach as a formal program to help build bridges of intercultural understanding. Since then, more than 10,000 *gratis* cultural presentations have been given to local area public schools, taking students to new places using language, multimedia, and imagination. *CultureGuides* derive from the same expertise that has been honed in classrooms—with the exciting exception that these intercultural learning tools are not geographically bound. Thanks to the Internet, accessible multimedia technology, and our trusty eMACs, a limitless audience can learn about different cultures.

Globalization, the driving paradigm of the post-Cold War world, means that now, more than ever, culture matters. Culture is the invisible context that may keep us from understanding important people, places, and ideas; it exists whether or not we think about it. Intercultural education can help us, not only as an intellectual exercise, but also in very practical ways to combat racism, to expand business, and to communicate effectively.

CultureGuides share the same aim as Edward T. Hall, the eminent cultural scholar, to try to “make culture real.”² Even though our “student guides” are not present in every classroom, we hope that *CultureGuides* will make classrooms of the mind and cultural laboratories wherever you may reside.

¹ Ziauddin Sardar and Borin Van Loon. *Introducing Cultural Studies*, Totem Books, New York: 1998.

² *The Edge: The E-Journal of Intercultural Relations*, Summer 1998, Vol. 1(3) Posted 10/11/98, <http://interculturalrelations.com/v1i3Summer1998/sum98sorrellshall.htm>.

GEOGRAPHY & CLIMATE

THE YANGTZE RIVER

From its source in Tibet to its mouth in Shanghai [shahng-hi], the Yangtze River stretches four thousand miles across China and has been the source of life, as well as a cause of lament, for the Chinese throughout their history. The impact of the Yangtze River is reflected in the literature, customs, and traditions of the Chinese people.



Starting Points

1. Can you name the three longest rivers in the world? They are the Nile, the Amazon, and the Yangtze. Identify these three rivers on a map.
2. Why are rivers important? Why do people often live along rivers? Discuss the role of rivers in transportation, trade, and agriculture.
3. How does the weather in the United States differ from state to state? China is just a little smaller than the United States; what do you think the weather is like there?



Information

History

Thirty million years ago, China looked nothing like it does today, because the western regions were completely under the Tethys Sea, which later extended into what we now know as the Mediterranean Sea. The Indian Peninsula pushed into the western edge of China, causing the land to rise and creating the Qinghai-Tibet [ching-hi] Plateau and the Himalayan Mountain Range (which still grows at a rate of 2 cm per year). Both areas are home to glaciers and are the source of many rivers in China and India, including the Yellow River, the Ganges, the Mekong [may-kong] River, and the Yangtze River.

Names of the Yangtze River

The Yangtze River has many names. The Chinese call it Chang Jiang [chahng ge'ahng], which means "Long River." The name is appropriate because the Yangtze is the world's third-longest river (although satellite images taken in the 1980s indicate that the Yangtze may be slightly longer than the Amazon); it runs a four-thousand-mile course from the Himalayas to the East China Sea. Along its course, the people who live by its banks have given it other names such as "The River to Heaven," named because of its nine-thousand-foot drop from the Tibet Plateau to the Sichuan [s-chew'ahn] Basin; "The River of Golden Sand" because it picks up sediment that gives it a golden brown color; "The Human Intestine" because it meanders so much; and "The Floating River" because of the dikes that have been built up along the banks to control the floods. The river keeps rising with the dikes, making the river higher than the land. This inspired one poet to write, "I sit on my porch watching the ships go by overhead."

Statistics

About four hundred million people live along the banks of the Yangtze River—that's about 33 percent of China's total population and 15 percent of the world's population. The Yangtze River is important to China because its water provides irrigation for the farmlands and it has been the main route of transportation to central China for centuries (see **Geography & Climate Visual 1**). Along the Yangtze River, wooden sailing vessels, known as junks, are commonly used for transportation, housing, and commerce. The Yangtze River is also the main dividing line of China: the people who live to the north of the river consider themselves “northerners” and the people who live to the south are “southerners.”

Divisions

The Yangtze River is divided into three sections: the upper, middle, and lower reaches. Each section is significantly different. The upper reaches of the river start at 6,000 m above sea level, flow across the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, and descend into the Sichuan Basin. The middle reaches start at the Sichuan Basin and run to the city of Wuhan [oo-hahn] in the Hubei [oo-bay] Province. The lower reaches begin at Wuhan and end at Shanghai, where the river meets the ocean.

Upper Reaches

The upper reaches of the Yangtze lie in a very cold and barren land. The altitude is so high and the weather is so cold that few plants can grow. The people survive on a special kind of barley that they grind up to make a type of gruel, which is the main dish of Tibet. The Qinghai-Tibet Plateau receives about fifteen inches of rain a year. Most of this moisture comes from the same glacial-melt waters that combine to form the Yangtze River.

The Yangtze River makes its way down the mountains very quickly, sometimes flowing at a rate of thirty miles per hour or more. It is a treacherous area and has seldom been explored. Several explorers have died trying to traverse the upper reaches of the Yangtze River.

Middle Reaches

The middle reaches of the Yangtze River are much calmer than the upper reaches. After the river makes its way down from the plateau, it enters the Sichuan Basin. (Sichuan means “Four Rivers” and is named for the four main tributaries of the Yangtze River that merge in this region.) After flowing through the Sichuan Basin, the river makes its way through the Qinling [chin-ling] Mountains, home of the famous Three Gorges.

The middle reaches are in one of the hottest areas of China—even hotter than some of the tropical southern provinces. The area between Wuhan and Chongqing [chong-ching] is sometimes called “the great furnace.” Because water retains heat well and the area is so humid (thanks to the Yangtze River), the summers can be unbearably hot, even if the sun is not shining. In fact, the sun rarely shines in the summer months; instead, heavy mists and fog prevail and only begin clearing up in early October. The Chinese say they like the mist because it gives the mountains an ominous and mysterious look, especially in the Three Gorges area (see **Geography & Climate Visuals 2–4**).

Even though the river is navigable in the middle reaches, it is still quite dangerous. The river can rise and fall sixty feet within twenty-four hours. It is not uncommon to see large ships stranded on the riverbanks because after they docked for the night, the river fell and left the ships on dry ground.

One of the most dangerous areas was known as “Come to Me” rock. The rock was given this name because if you steered your boat directly toward the rock, the current would push you away. But if you tried to steer around the rock, the current would pull you into it, smashing your boat. There were so many accidents on this rock that the locals made a fleet of rescue vessels and the government rewarded them for saving people. At first they received four hundred *yuan* [uehn] (a unit of Chinese currency) for saving a dead body and eight hundred for saving a live person. However, since the rescuers had to pay for the funerals, the government switched the reward to eight hundred *yuan* for a dead body and four hundred for a live person. Fortunately, during the 1950s, the government destroyed the rock so there would be no more accidents.

Lower Reaches

The lower reaches of the Yangtze River flow through the “rice basket” of China. This area between Wuhan and Shanghai produces 30–40 percent of China’s total grain (especially rice and corn; wheat is grown farther north). Because this area is flat and there are no mountains to control the river, the river has cut a haphazard path through the plains. Without mountains, the humidity is able to dissipate, creating a more tolerable summer climate than that of the middle reaches region. But the winter months are especially cold, and the winds can be very strong.

Flooding in the lower reaches has always been a problem for inhabitants and results from China’s monsoon season. During this season, or the rainy months of the summer, the heavy rains collect in over seven hundred of the Yangtze River’s tributaries, swelling the river to three or four times its normal volume. About once every decade this causes a disastrous flood, engulfing thousands of acres of farmland, and sometimes drowning the inhabitants (see **Geography & Climate Visual 5**). About once every century, the flooding is even worse and can affect the lives of over 300 million people (whether by drowning the inhabitants, destroying their homes, or affecting their livelihoods). The most disastrous flood on record occurred in the 1880s and saw a flow rate of 120 m³ of water per second (normal flow rate during summer is 20 m³ per second). Many attempts have been made to control the flooding. The people have built *pagodas* [puh-go-duhz] to provide shelter for the dragons which are believed to make the river flood when they are grumpy; constructed giant bronze statues of oxen (the ox is a symbol of the earth, which is able to control the water); and erected dikes on the river banks in order to contain the water. The most recent attempt has been the construction of a dam—the largest in the world—that will span the Yangtze River.

The Three Gorges Dam

In 1917, the government proposed building a dam to generate electricity and to stop the flooding of the Yangtze River. But because of severe political problems, no action was taken to build the dam until recently. In 1994, the Chinese Congress voted to build the dam, and it has been under construction ever since. The dam

will span the Yangtze River for one and a half miles and create a reservoir that will extend four hundred miles back through the mountains (see **Geography & Climate Visuals 6–9**).

The Chinese hope the dam will not only control flooding and save hundreds of lives every year, but also produce electricity, provide safer transportation routes to the interior of China, allow irrigation to the deserts in northern China, and help the country continue to develop economically. However, many people are afraid that it will damage the environment and adversely affect the climate. Also, almost two million people will have to move because their towns and villages will be covered by the reservoir. These people must tear down their houses and move everything before the dam is finished in 2012. Many of China's elderly do not want to move from their homes, which have been in their families for hundreds of years; however, they know that by moving to a city, their children and grandchildren will have better opportunities.

The Three Gorges

The Three Gorges is one of the most famous areas in China. The entrance to the first gorge is printed on the five-yuan bill (see **Geography & Climate Visual 10 and Additional Resources**). The Three Gorges contains an immense amount of historical and cultural artifacts. During the Three Kingdoms period, the Three Gorges was the site of many conflicts because the three kingdoms converged at the entrance to the gorges. During one battle, the forces of the Shu [shoe] Kingdom (led by Zhuge Liang [jew-geh le'ahng]) were trapped between the river and the mountains. Their only way out was to fight through the enemy, but their archers had run out of arrows, making victory seem impossible. Zhuge Liang decided to use the heavy mists, which the gorges are famous for, to his advantage. He had his soldiers tie several rafts together, and then sent the empty rafts downstream toward the enemy. Because of the mists, the enemy could not see clearly and thought they were under attack so they fired their arrows at the rafts. After a while, Zhuge Liang had his troops pull the rafts back and shout "thank you." He then collected all of the arrows from the rafts and started to battle against the enemy with their own arrows. Zhuge Liang's army won because of his trick.

The Three Gorges is home to some of the earliest civilizations in China, such as the Tujia [too-ge'ah] people (see **Geography & Climate Visual 11**). The Tujia people, who have lived at the Three Gorges for centuries, fish for a living. They are particularly fond of one type of fish called the "foolish fish." They say you can catch a foolish fish by merely putting your finger in the shape of a hook and dipping it in the water.

The ancient Ba [bah] people are famous for having built walkways to connect cliffs. To do this, they drilled holes in the face of the cliffs, placed long poles in each hole, and then connected the poles with planks. These holes are still visible, and in some places, the walkways have been reconstructed. The Ba people left many coffins on the cliff faces, which today are called "hanging coffins" (see **Geography & Climate Visual 12**). For a long time, no one knew what these coffins were because no one could reach them on the cliff faces. Therefore, the people invented stories to explain the coffins. One story told that the coffins were wooden planks with military

strategies inscribed on them left by Zhuge Liang (the man who won the battle with the borrowed arrows). Once a sailor climbed up and brought a coffin down. Before he looked inside, he tried to sell it in town, but the police ordered him to return it. Later some archeologists took one down and discovered it was a coffin. It revealed that the Ba people believed that the higher their ancestors were buried on the cliff, the closer their ancestors were to reaching the realm of the immortals. They also believed that once their ancestors made it to the immortal realm, their ancestors could help them get there.

Before there was steam power in China, the only way for boats to get upstream was for people to pull them. People who pulled boats upstream were called “trackers.” When a ship needed to travel upstream, the captain would hire a group of anywhere between thirty to three hundred trackers to pull the boat. Each tracker had a sling attached to the boat by a bamboo rope that he would put around his shoulder. This enabled him to pull the ship as he walked along the shore. It was a difficult job, because the Yangtze River runs fast through the Three Gorges area, and a lot of the riverbank is sheer cliff. In the late 1800s, people carved a pathway through the cliff for the trackers to walk on. The trackers used this path until the 1970s. Now the path is used by local people to get to and from their towns, schools, and farms. There are still trackers today, but they only pull boats to entertain tourists.

The Future

Throughout Chinese civilization, a large portion of the Chinese population has lived on the banks of the Yangtze River and has relied on the river for sustenance. Over the centuries, the river has been both destructive and beneficial. The recent construction of the Three Gorges Dam has forced many people to move from their ancestral homes, but the dam promises to help control flooding, provide safer transportation, irrigate arid areas, and produce electricity for China’s ever-growing cities.



Activities

1. Make a Chinese junk (see **Geography & Climate Visual 13**).
2. Draw a picture of the Three Gorges.
3. Pretend you are a soldier in the Shu army. Write letters home about the war and about your leaders.
4. Have a congressional debate about the Three Gorges Dam. Divide into two teams. One team will support the construction of the dam and the other team will oppose it. Discuss why you support or oppose the dam.
5. Pretend that you have been on a week-long voyage on the Yangtze River. Write journal entries about your voyages and include pictures (either drawings or pictures from magazines).



Discussion Questions

1. What kind of qualities would you need to be a tracker? What would some of the benefits of the job be?
2. What would you do to stop the flooding of the Yangtze River?
3. Why do people build dams?
4. How might the dam affect the wildlife around the Yangtze River?
5. Which part of the river would you like to live along? Why?
6. What is the biggest river you have ever seen? How wide is that river? How long is it? Compare this river's measurements to those of the Yangtze River.

HISTORY

CONFUCIUS

Although Confucius lived over twenty-five hundred years ago, he continues to influence the Chinese way of life. Reacting to centuries of war that surrounded early Chinese civilization, Confucius established a code of ethics for the government and the people. His philosophies became the mainstay of Chinese education for over two millennia.



Starting Points

1. Name some famous people. Why are these people famous? Confucius is famous for his contributions to Chinese society.
2. Imagine this hypothetical situation: someone is on a sinking ship with his or her father and grandfather. Unfortunately, there are only two life jackets. Who should get the life jackets? Because Confucianism teaches respect for one's elders, a Confucianist would give the life jackets to the elder males. A child would save his or her father and grandfather at his or her own peril.
3. Define a code of ethics. Confucius made a code of ethics for people to follow so that they would be more peaceful.



Information

History

Confucius was born in 551 B.C.E. in the town of Qufu [chew-foo], in what is now the Shandong [shaun-dong] Province. Despite the noble status of his family, Confucius lived in poverty. His father died while Confucius was young, and little is known about his mother. We do know that when she died, Confucius mourned by her grave for three years. Confucius lived near a famous mountain called Tai Shan [tie shaun] (see **History Visual 1**). He often climbed the four thousand steps to the top and meditated (see **History Visual 2**). Later Tai Shan became a pilgrimage site for nobles and other Confucianists. Of course, the nobility did not mind the stairs, because they were carried to the top in sedan chairs by unskilled laborers. Some people believed that if you climbed to the top on a certain day you would gain eternal life.

Confucius lived during China's spring and autumn period, from 770 to 476 B.C.E., in the later Zhou [joe] dynasty. During this period, China was divided into several states that were governed by warlords. Conflict affected everyday life in this war-torn period. Much of Confucius' hometown today reflects the influence that war had on the people (see **History Visual 3**).

Confucius' Work

Confucius wanted to change the world. He saw the original ruler of the Zhou Kingdom, Wu Wang [oo wang], as a great unifier and an ethical person. This ruler

had seen the problems in his and others' states and had overthrown immoral kings. In fact, he would only attack another kingdom if the king was immoral because he did not want to lose the "Mandate of Heaven" (the power given by Heaven to an emperor to govern). The Chinese believed that if a king reigned unethically, Heaven would remove his mandate and destroy the king's kingdom. Confucius tried to stop warfare because he wanted to share the idea of the Mandate of Heaven with all of China's kings.

Confucius established strict social rules that governed how people should act toward one another. He defined five basic social relationships and outlined obligations for individuals in each one:

1. Ruler and subject—Rulers should be compassionate, and subjects should be loyal.
2. Father and son—Fathers should be kind, and sons should be dutiful.
3. Older brother and younger brother—Older brothers should set good examples that younger brothers should follow.
4. Husband and wife—Husbands should be just, and wives should be submissive.
5. Older and younger—Older people should be considerate, and younger people should be respectful.

Each of these relationships emphasizes mutual respect and obligation, and defines individuals based on their interactions with others.

Confucius' description of these five relationships shows his concern for families and for the nature of politics. Because of his strong beliefs, Confucius traveled from state to state, trying to convince the kings to accept his philosophies. Despite Confucius' great concern for politics, he never actively participated in the political world. However, one legend suggests that he spent five years as a royal advisor, resigning after becoming the victim of court intrigue and conspiracy. During those five years, it is reported that crime was abolished and the people were much happier.

Confucius as a Teacher

Confucius is most famous for his work as a teacher. He believed that everyone should have an education, and he did his best to provide opportunities for people to learn. The majority of what we know about Confucius comes from the notes of his students, especially those of Mencius [men-shus], his most famous student.

Civil Service Exams

Despite the number of students that Confucius taught, his teachings were not particularly popular during his lifetime. It was not until the Han [hahn] dynasty, some three hundred years later, that his philosophies were adopted as a means of government. The Han began using the teachings of Confucius to find qualified people to serve in the government. Qualifying to work for the government became the goal of the educated elite, and they studied the writings of Confucius in order to pass the rigorous civil service exam. They had to memorize several books, each with thousands of characters. Passing the exam provided a way to advance in life because it guaranteed a job in the government. These exams were used (with a few notable

gaps during the Mongolian conquest of China) until the middle of the last dynasty (the Qing [ching] dynasty) when there were more people than there were jobs. Even though the writings of Confucius are no longer studied to the extent they used to be, the Chinese still live by Confucius' teachings. For two thousand years, his teachings defined Chinese relationships and continue to define them today.

Philosophies

One of the main tenets of Confucianism is loyalty to the family. Confucius saw the family as the basic unit of society, and he thought that if society was to be good, the family had to be good. His teachings emphasized such things as filial piety, or the duty of children to their parents (illustrated by his three-year mourning period when his mother died), which helped establish the attitude of respecting one's elders. If someone's father, uncle, or older brother asked him to do something, it was necessary for him to comply in order to be a Confucian "gentleman."

The other focus of Confucius' teachings was the government. He believed that only an ethical government could govern successfully. He also believed that the best way to govern was through example so the people could emulate the good actions of their government.

Influence on Culture

When China's imperial government was overthrown in 1911, a few changes were made to the Confucian ideals. Women came to be considered men's equals (during Confucius' time and for many years after, women were thought to be subordinate), and the government completely ignored Confucius' political teachings. However, today the Chinese still feel that respect to the elderly is very important, and teachers are highly revered (even more than doctors). Modern Chinese families are more closely knit than Western families. Usually three generations will live together, with the grandparents taking care of the grandchildren while the parents go to work.

Even though Confucius lived over two thousand years ago, his teachings form a large part of the foundation of Chinese culture; Confucian values still influence the way the Chinese interact with each other and with foreigners. Over the centuries, many people, including emperors and peasants, have studied the Confucian way of life and have tried to live like the "gentleman" that Confucius described. Countless people go to Confucian temples to pay respect to this great man (see **History Visual 4**).



Activities

1. Take a mock civil service exam where you have to answer questions about Confucius and China (see **History Visual 5**).
2. Complete the Confucian Relationships Worksheet (see **History Visual 6**).
3. Create an autobiography of Confucius' life. You could include made-up pictures, journal entries, and quotes from his peers.



Discussion Questions

1. Who would be the American equivalent of Confucius? Whom do you consider the wisest or most influential person in society today?
2. What would Confucius think about American relationships?
3. According to Confucius, what would happen if the American government were not run ethically? What are some specific parts of the American government system that Confucius would approve of? What parts would he reject or disapprove of?
4. What would it be like to be a student of Confucius?

POLITICS AND ECONOMICS

COMMUNISM

The Communist Revolution has influenced modern China more than any other event in its history. Since their conquest of the Nationalist Party in 1949, the Communists have gone to great lengths to create a spirit of revolution in the Chinese. Although the political and economic system of China is constantly reforming and moving toward a more capitalistic society, many remnants of the Mao years can still be seen in the older generations of Chinese people.



Starting Points

1. Every student should give the teacher a pencil. A pencil will be redistributed to each student, preferably not to the actual owner. Discuss reactions toward not getting to use your own pencil. Contrast private ownership with communal ownership.
2. Identify other communist countries. What do you know about those countries? Examples include North Korea, North Vietnam, China, Cuba, and the former USSR.
3. Look at the Chinese flag and talk about the symbolism of the stars (**see Politics & Economics Visual 1**). Do you know what is going on in politics in your city or state or in the country? It is important to be involved in politics? Would it make a difference if you did not have a say in your government? Compare your responses with the Chinese response. Why do you think that patriotism and political participation are on different levels in the United States and China?



Information

End of the Qing Dynasty

During the twentieth century, China experienced a considerable amount of political upheaval. The feudal system that had ruled China for the past twenty-five hundred years was overthrown by dissatisfied masses. At the same time, the government found itself crippled by foreign powers that were trying to take advantage of their inexperience in trade negotiations and their relatively weak military. The Chinese people suffered from unemployment because of the lack of demand for their main export—silk.

A Republic That Did Not Last

In 1911, Sun Yat-Sen [soon yaht-son] successfully led a revolution that overturned the government and led the way for the development of the new Republic of China. Unfortunately, the Republic quickly found itself divided because warlords gained power over specific regions of the country. Eventually, the Chinese Nationalist Party gained significant control over the entire country, but their government was highly oppressive. Even though his republic quickly fell, Sun Yat-Sen is revered today as

the father of modern China, and many Chinese people visit his mausoleum in Nanjing [nahn-ge'ing] to pay tribute to him.

Communist Revolution

After years of chaos in the government, a leader rose up who was able to overthrow the Nationalists and unify China under one government. Influenced by the writings of Marx and Lenin, Mao Zedong [mao zeh-dong] established a new type of thought in China. After many years of war against the Nationalist Party, Mao was able to take control of China with his Communist army while the Nationalists fled to Taiwan. In 1949, he established the People's Republic of China.

Mao's Hobby—Swimming

Mao Zedong lived as a peasant during his early life, although his family was wealthier than most peasants. He enjoyed swimming and continued to swim throughout his life. He is famous for having twice swam across the Yangtze River. In fact, the second time he was over seventy years old. During his later years, he had a swimming pool built in his government mansion and would often receive visitors—even heads of state—as he sat in a lounge chair next to his pool. He would, of course, offer his visitors a bathing suit so they could join him for a swim.

Mao as a General

As a young adult, Mao became interested in Communism and was very attracted to the idea of universal equality in social class. He started an underground group that eventually formed an army. He fought against the Goumingdang [go-ming-dang] (Nationalists), taking control of several northern provinces. However, it was difficult to gain support, and the Goumingdang was much stronger than the Red Army (Communists). At one point, Mao led his exhausted but dedicated forces on a year-long march covering several thousand miles. He started with eighty thousand troops and marched across the country, fighting the Nationalist forces and recruiting villagers to the Communist forces. He ended with only ten thousand troops, losing thousands to fighting, cold, sickness, and starvation. However, the Long March was a great moral victory and inspired the people's loyalty to Mao. The Chinese still think of the Long March with pride, just as Americans proudly recall George Washington and his troops spending a harsh winter in Valley Forge.

Mao as a Politician

Despite the incredible prestige that Mao gained as a military leader, he was less successful as a politician. In the late 1950s, he proposed a program known as "The Great Leap Forward," which involved establishing iron smelting furnaces in every town in order to increase steel production and compete with Great Britain. Unfortunately, this led to mass deforestation because the people cut down almost 40 percent of China's forests to fuel the furnaces. Even more sadly, these furnaces didn't even produce a usable grade of steel. Mao implemented unsuccessful farming practices like close planting (planting rice so close together that the plants choke each other) and deep planting (planting as deep as a yard below the earth, making it impossible for the plant to grow at all). This led to a three-year famine that caused the death of over thirty million people and even led to such atrocities as cannibalism and infanticide.

The Cultural Revolution

The Cultural Revolution was another of Mao's reforms that was intended to inspire a spirit of revolution in the younger generation who had not experienced the Communist Revolution. (Some people believe Mao designed and used this movement to purge his political enemies.) The Cultural Revolution advocated focusing on the "new" and destroying the "old." This led to the destruction of many of China's historical artifacts and traditions and forcing young people to perform manual farm labor. The manual labor was meant to make the young people appreciate the people who had fought to create the People's Republic of China; they had done manual labor instead of getting an education. This was also meant to show the young people the privileges they enjoyed because of the earlier generation. Despite the Cultural Revolution's efforts to inspire a spirit of revolution, the youth just resented being forced to give up their college education to do menial labor.

Nixon's Visit

During the Mao years, China was closed off from the Western world because of the great distrust each side had for the other's political system. Mao met with very few international dignitaries, with the exception of a few Russian figures and Richard Nixon, the American president. Nixon's visit was a landmark event in both countries; photos of Mao and Nixon's handshake are still displayed in China.

Deng Xiaoping

The reforms that have shaped modern China began primarily with Mao's successor, Deng Xiaoping [deng she'ao-ping]. Deng Xiaoping was good friends with Mao and worked with him during the early years of communism. However, because Deng did not always agree with Mao, he was sent to government farms for "reeducation" three times. In this case, "reeducation" meant that some of Mao's supporters captured Deng and hurt him physically. By doing this, they were trying to scare Deng and make him stop opposing Mao.

Despite Mao's attempts to "reeducate" Deng, after Mao died Deng initiated huge reforms in government policy. He is famous for saying, "It doesn't matter if the cat is white or black as long as it catches mice," meaning it doesn't matter if China ever reaches the ideal of communism because as long as the people are taken care of, then the government is doing its job. Deng focused his reforms on education, private ownership, and entrepreneurship.

Western Influence

After Nixon's visit, China began opening its borders to Westerners. At first many visitors to China found their itineraries highly restrictive, but now tourists and business people are free to travel the countryside. The Chinese people are curious about foreigners and enjoy speaking with them. The Chinese, especially those from more rural areas, enjoy taking pictures of foreigners.

Western influence continues to grow in China. English seems to make everything more appealing: T-shirts, notebooks, and junk food packages, often with humorous translations of Chinese into English, can be found all over the country. Western clothing, shoes, books, movies, and fast-food franchises are also prevalent. One of

the best places to find these things is a night market (**see Politics & Economics Visual 2**) where, in the evenings, many vendors set up their small booths on the streets. In some of the larger cities, vendors sell inexpensive imitations of well-known American and European brands in these markets.

Communism Today

For the past several years, China has focused on building up its major cities. Elaborate highways and office buildings have been developed. The government is highly involved in business and industry: government vehicles, which are easy to recognize because they are all painted blue (**see Politics & Economics Visual 3**), can be seen all over as evidence of this involvement. The great effort and expense of these projects is evident in such places as Beijing [bay-ge'ing] and Shanghai. Shanghai, in particular, is considered the capital of Chinese industry; its skyline is marked by both high-rise buildings and the cranes that build them, symbols of the city's constant growth (**see Politics & Economics Visuals 4–5**).

In urban areas, there is also a growing middle class, a sure sign of capitalist influence and evidence of private ownership of business (most land is still owned by the government, although the government has recently allowed limited private ownership). Communist ideals, which are not reflected in the economy, seem present only in the government. In contrast, most of China's rural areas have made little progress, and because China has such a large population, the unemployment rate is very high. Many Chinese families barely get by living on farms, which are sometimes terraced into a hillside because of the lack of farmable land (**see Politics & Economics Visual 6**). Many people work in steel factories or coal mines (**see Politics & Economics Visual 7**), as fishermen (**see Politics & Economics Visuals 8–10**), or in construction. These labor-intensive jobs pay little, but many people do them anyway because it is difficult to find a high-paying job in China. To get out of these jobs, many rural people try hard to receive permission to move to the cities where there are more jobs. In China, you have to have special permission from the government to move to a new place because if the people could go wherever they wanted, no one would stay on the farms. Sadly, even if they could leave, most country people do not have sufficient education to compete for work in the city. Fortunately, this is all starting to change. One of the goals of the Three Gorges Dam project is to develop the countryside—so the Chinese government is beginning to develop the countryside as well as the cities.

The People's Views

Although the Chinese constitution grants the Chinese universal suffrage, their votes do not carry any weight in the government's decision-making processes. In fact, most people do not pay attention to the government's actions and know nothing about the policies of the leaders. They remember Mao and Deng Xiaoping, but few can comment on newer leaders like Jiang Zemin [ge'ang zeh-min]. Despite this, the Chinese have very strong nationalistic and patriotic feelings. On the first of October they celebrate National Day, a week-long celebration of the Communist Revolution. The Chinese also show their pride by displaying the Chinese flag and frequently visiting historical sites that remind them of their country's past struggles.



Activities

1. Write a short, imaginary interview with a soldier who survived the Long March. Draw a picture of the soldier during the march.
2. Write newspaper articles about the Chinese government. You could take a Chinese perspective or a foreign perspective. Possible headlines could be “Communist Revolution Victorious,” “Chairman Mao Swims the Yangtze,” etc.
3. Write an obituary for Chairman Mao.
4. Look for things in the classroom or at home that say “Made in China.”
5. The first of October is considered the birthday of the People’s Republic of China. Learn and sing the Chinese version of “Happy Birthday” (see **Politics & Economics Visual 11**).



Discussion Questions

1. What would it be like to live during a famine? What can be done to prevent a famine like the Chinese had?
2. Why do you think Mao didn’t want foreign visitors to come to China?
3. Imagine that you live in a communist country. How difficult would it be to give all your possessions to other people who might need them more?

LIFESTYLES

CHINESE PAINTING

Painting is one of the oldest traditions of China, and many famous works still exist from before the time of Confucius. Cultural aspects are represented by various figures, and almost every detail is symbolic. The Chinese even view handwriting as an art form and frequently compliment and correct each other on their written characters.



Starting Points

1. Define what art is. Name several famous works of art.
2. Would you consider a written sentence, like this, to be art? For the Chinese, a simple word can be a great work of art—a single brushstroke from the emperor can be a valuable piece of art. Look at the Chinese characters for the words *ai* [i] (love), *xin* [sheen] (heart), and *ping* [ping] (peace) (see **Lifestyles Visuals 1–3**). These examples illustrate the artistic structure of the written language and are examples of Chinese calligraphy.
3. Find examples of Chinese art and American art. How are the examples different and how are they similar (see **Additional Resources**)? How do the examples reflect each respective culture?



Information

Background

Painting is a unique part of Chinese culture. This art form has been passed down for centuries with an emphasis on reproduction rather than innovation which means that Chinese painting today looks very similar to what it did two thousand years ago. This stress on imitation reflects China's pride in its tradition as the oldest continuous civilization.

Chinese painting is a strict art. In order to produce an acceptable work, you must follow the established rules and use the appropriate tools. Paintings are generally done in watercolor. Black and white is the dominant color scheme with occasional touches of color to add emphasis or show emotion. The sparse use of color leaves paintings uncluttered, allowing artists to express themselves.

Materials

Chinese painters use several interesting tools. Some of the earliest paintings were made with wooden blocks, which led to the development of a printing press that used a process similar to modern-day rubber stamping. Today a complete painting and calligraphy set contains several brushes; a sloped mixing block; a column of dry, black paint that is later mixed with water in the mixing block so that the paint is the right consistency; a *chop* (a block of stone, usually jade or marble, that is carved

with the artist's name and used to stamp his or her name on his or her paintings); and red ink used solely for stamping the artist's name.

Chinese paintbrushes are made of wolf or lamb hair and range from a single strand of hair used for detail, to brushes several feet long with foot-long strands of hair for bold, powerful strokes. The size of the brush is important because most works are based on single brush strokes. That is, the painted object is drawn with single strokes and is not blended, dabbed, or colored in. This makes Chinese painting extremely difficult because there is no room to correct an error. Taking more than one stroke to form a line shows an artist's inexperience.

Chinese paintings are made on several kinds of paper. Rice paper, though very delicate, is frequently used; silk is also a popular medium. The most common paper is made from a combination of various substances, including bark, leaves, fur, and cloth. Before the invention of paper, the Chinese wrote on stalks of bamboo and then strung them together. This is why Chinese characters were traditionally read from top to bottom, right to left.

Art Education

Even though Chinese art may appear simple to create, becoming a master of Chinese painting is extremely difficult. It requires a minimum of seven years of study as an apprentice. The first year is spent painting pictures of bamboo as bamboo is such a common element in Chinese paintings.

There is a famous Chinese story about an emperor who wanted a painting of a chicken. He asked his artist how long it would take to make a good painting, and his artist replied, "three years." The emperor was shocked that it would take so long but he commissioned the artist to do the painting. When after three years the artist returned to the emperor empty handed, the emperor was very angry. The artist asked for a brush and paper and proceeded to paint a chicken right there. Now the emperor was truly furious. He demanded, "If you could paint a chicken in five minutes, why did you make me wait three years?" The emperor was about to have him executed, but the artist asked the emperor to come to his home so that he could explain everything. As the emperor entered the artist's home, he saw hundreds of canvases with paintings of chickens on them. Then the emperor understood: even though the artist was able to paint a chicken in five minutes, it took him three years of practice to gain the skill.

Symbolism

A stroll through a Chinese art museum, gallery, or store will reveal that Chinese art prominently features a few very famous motifs. One of the most popular things to paint is the four seasons which shows four paintings of the same landscape (usually with water and a boat) as it would look during each season. It is popular because it represents the stages of life: spring meaning birth; summer, childhood; fall, adulthood; and winter, old age or death. Animals and plants are also popular, and each has a meaning. Cranes and turtles represent longevity, bamboo represents loyalty and longevity, fish represent prosperity, dragons represent power and strength, and birds represent tranquility.

Words as Art

Chinese painting encompasses more than just pictures—even words can be art. Symbolic or abstract words are often painted with different styles of handwriting and displayed to remind people to live in harmony. Words with such meanings as love, heart, and peace are commonly used for this purpose (see **Lifestyles Visuals 1–3**). Poetry that has been elegantly written in large letters is frequently hung in houses. In the past when travelers found a beautiful mountain, cave, or stream, it was common for them to carve a verse of poetry on a rock to share the significance of that spot. Subsequent travelers would add additional verses of poetry to the original (see **Lifestyles Visuals 4–5**).

Chinese painting is still an important aspect of Chinese life. Families often display paintings of their family protectors or famous sayings. The Chinese desire to improve penmanship stems from the traditions of Chinese painting.



Activities

1. Practice drawing Chinese characters (see **Lifestyles Visual 6**).
2. Paint the four seasons in watercolor. In accordance with Chinese tradition, the paintings should be in black and white with sparse color to add emphasis.
3. Draw something to represent one of these words: love, happiness, friendship, honesty.



Discussion Questions

1. Why is art an important part of Chinese culture?
2. Why is penmanship important in China? Why do you think the Chinese think of words as art? How important is penmanship in America? Is penmanship important to you? Why or why not?
3. How is Chinese traditionalism shown in Chinese art?
4. The Chinese use many symbols in their art, including cranes, turtles, bamboo, fish, dragons, and birds. Why do you think these symbols were chosen? What do they mean?

FACTS ABOUT CHINA

Official Name: People's Republic of China

Capital: Beijing

Government Type: Communist state

Area: 9,596,960 sq km

Land Boundaries: 22,117 km—
Afghanistan, Bhutan, Burma, India,
Kazakhstan, North Korea, Kyrgyzstan,
Laos, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia
(northeast), Russia (northwest), Tajikistan,
Vietnam

Climate: extremely diverse; tropical in
south to subarctic in north

Lowest Point: Turpan Pendi 154 m

Highest Point: Mount Everest 8,850 m

Natural Resources: coal, iron ore, petro-
leum, natural gas, mercury, tin, tungsten,
antimony, manganese, molybdenum,
vanadium, magnetite, aluminum, lead,
zinc, uranium, hydropower potential
(world's largest)

Natural Hazards: frequent typhoons (about
five per year along southern and eastern
coasts); damaging floods; tsunamis; earth-
quakes; droughts; land subsidence

Population: 1,298,847,624 (Jul 2004 est.)

Ethnic Groups: Han Chinese 91.9%,
Zhuang, Uygur, Hui, Yi, Tibetan, Miao,
Manchu, Mongol, Buyi, Korean, and other
nationalities 8.1%

Religions: Daoist (Taoist), Buddhist,
Muslim 1–2%, Christian 3–4%, *note:* offi-
cially atheist (2002 est.)

Languages: Standard Chinese or Mandarin
(Putonghua, based on the Beijing dialect),
Yue (Cantonese), Wu (Shanghaiese), Minbei
(Fuzhou), Minnan (Hokkien-Taiwanese),
Xiang, Gan, Hakka dialects, minority lan-
guages (see Ethnic Groups entry)

GDP: \$6.449 trillion (2004 est.)

GDP Per Capita: \$5,000 (2004 est.)

GDP Composition By Sector: agriculture:
14.5%; industry and construction: 52.9%;
services: 32.3% (2004 est.)

Labor Force: 778.1 million (2004 est.)

Unemployment Rate: urban unemploy-
ment roughly 10%; substantial unemploy-
ment and underemployment in rural areas
(2004 est.)

Industries: iron and steel, coal, machine
building, armaments, textiles and
apparel, petroleum, cement, chemical
fertilizers, footwear, toys, food process-
ing, automobiles, consumer electronics,
telecommunications

Agricultural Products: rice, wheat,
potatoes, sorghum, peanuts, tea, millet,
barley, cotton, oilseed, pork, fish

Exports: \$436.1 billion (f.o.b., 2004 est.)
machinery and equipment, textiles and
clothing, footwear, toys and sporting
goods, mineral fuels

Imports: \$397.4 billion (f.o.b., 2003 est.)
machinery and equipment, mineral fuels,
plastics, iron and steel, chemicals

Trade Partners: Japan, Taiwan, South
Korea, U.S., Germany (2002)

Currency: yuan (CNY) *note:* also referred
to as the Renminbi (RMB)

Exchange Rate: 8.28 yuan = \$1 U.S. (2003)

HISTORY AND HOLIDAYS

TIME LINE

5000 B.C.E.	Agriculture starts along the Yellow River
2500	Horses are domesticated
1500–1027	Shang (Yin) dynasty—the first major dynasty in China; Chinese create the first calendar and writing system
1027–256	Zhou dynasty
551–479	Mandate of Heaven developed
403–221	Life of Confucius
221–206	Warring States period; Qin dynasty—the first unified feudal empire; building of the Great Wall begins
206 B.C.E.–220 C.E.	Han dynasty—the first centralized empire; Buddhism comes to China from India; Confucianism officially adopted
100 C.E.	Paper invented
220–589	Divisional period creates the Three Kingdoms
618–907	Tang dynasty—an age of considerable artistic advancement
907–960	Five Dynasties period
960–1271	Song dynasty—the empire restores central government and neglects northern and western frontiers; Mongols invade; Genghis Khan and united Mongol tribes annex northern China; Kublai Khan, grandson of Genghis Khan, conquers Song dynasty
1271–1368	Yuan dynasty—Mongol rule in China begins; Kublai Khan names kingdom; Yuan dynasty brought to an end by revolts in Mongolia
1275	Venetian merchant Marco Polo spends twenty years in China
1368–1644	Ming dynasty—the native Chinese drive out the Mongols; the second Ming emperor captures Mongolia; Beijing becomes the new capital
1644–1911	Qing dynasty—Manchurians invade China; China is again under non-Chinese rule
1839–1842	Opium War between Britain and China
1900–1903	Boxer Rebellion
1911	Sun Yat-Sen leads revolution, overthrows Qing dynasty
1912–1949	Republic of China—struggles between Communists and Nationalists; Japan invades China but is defeated in 1945
1934	Long March of the Communists
1937–1945	Sino-Japanese War; Communists and Nationalists combine against Japanese
1945–1949	Chinese Civil War—Communists victorious
1949–1976	People's Republic of China—Communists defeat the Nationalists and found the People's Republic of China;

Nationalists flee to Taiwan creating one of the most prosperous Asian economies; Mao Zedong is the leader of China from 1949 until his death in 1976

1978 Economic reforms initiated

1989 Government troops attack student protestors in Tianamen Square

HOLIDAYS

The Chinese celebrate certain holidays according to the Chinese lunar calendar which consists of twelve months. It is different than the Gregorian calendar most of the Western world uses because it is based on the cycles of the moon. The dates of holidays based on the lunar calendar change each year.

1 Jan	New Year's Day
Jan/Feb	Spring Festival, or Chinese New Year (the first day of the first month on the Chinese lunar calendar, celebrated for two to three weeks during the first month of the Chinese lunar calendar; during this period, a majority of the Chinese population enjoys an extended break from school and work; this is the largest, most celebrated occasion in China and much of Southeast Asia; parades, parties, eating, performances, and fireworks are common during the Chinese New Year)
Feb	Lantern Festival (celebrated the fifteenth day of the first month on the Chinese lunar calendar; this festival marks the end of the Chinese New Year season; feasts, dances, and lantern exhibits are familiar events for this day)
1 Apr	Tree Planting Day (this holiday began in the late 1970s when the reformist government began a greening campaign throughout the country)
Apr	Qing Ming [ching ming] (celebrated in the early spring; families honor their deceased ancestors by leaving offerings at their graves)
1 May	International Labor Day (this holiday is celebrated much like New Year's Day; workers enjoy a work-free day and celebrate in the parks)
May/Jun	Dragon Boat (celebrated the fifth day of the fifth month on the Chinese lunar calendar; this day commemorates Qu Yuan [chew uehn], a famous patriot who drowned himself in protest of the emperor's surrender to an enemy; Qu's followers launched their boats into the river where he drowned in an attempt to save his body from being devoured by the fish; today, dragon boat races are held)
1 Jun	Children's Day (elementary schools have parties; parents give their children gifts; many parks, museums, and theatres are open free of charge to children on this day)

- 1 Jul** The CCP's Birthday (this day celebrates the founding of the Chinese Communist Party in 1921)
- Aug/Sep** Mid-Autumn Festival (celebrated the fifteenth day of the eighth lunar month; this is the second largest festival in China and is celebrated during the full moon; families feast and watch the moon together on this day)
- 1 Oct** National Day (the anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

CHINESE EMBASSY TO THE UNITED STATES

2300 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20008
Phone: (202) 328-2500, Fax: (202) 588-0032
Web site: <http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/>

THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY TO CHINA

American Embassy Beijing
3 Xiu Shui Bei Jie
Chaoyang District, Beijing, PRC 100600
Phone: (86-10) 6532-3431
Web site: <http://www.usembassy-china.org.cn/>

CHINA NATIONAL TOURISM ADMINISTRATION

9A Jianguomennei Avenue
Beijing, China 100740
Phone: (86-10) 6520-1114, Fax: (86-10) 6512-2096
Web site: <http://www.cnta.com/lyen/index.asp>

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FILMS

China: A Century of Revolution, Sue Williams, 1997.

China: Beyond the Clouds, Phil Agland, 1994.

The Mao Years, 1949-1976, Sue Williams, 1994.

Mulan, Pam Coats, 1998.

Not One Less, Zhao Yu, 1999.

INTERNET SITES

The Art of China:

<http://pasture.ecn.purdue.edu/~agenhtml/agenmc/china/china.html>

Biography of Confucius:

<http://www.cifnet.com/~geenius/kongfuzi>

China the Beautiful:

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

Chinese Cultural Products:

<http://www.chinasprout.com>

CIA World Factbook:

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ch.html>

Confucius:

<http://www.friesian.com/confuci.htm>

Five-Yuan Bill:

<http://www.paulnoll.com/China/Money/money-ROC-05Y.html>

Inside Red China:

<http://radfilms.com/china.html>

Money of China:

<http://www.paulnoll.com/China/Money/money-PRC-5Y-1999.html>

My China Experience:

<http://www.globaled.org/curriculum/china/reviews/myChina.html>

Stories of Hope: Yangtze River Delta, China

<http://www.pbs.org/journeytoplanetearth/hope/yangtze.html>

Three Gorges Dam:

<http://www.irn.org/programs/threeg>

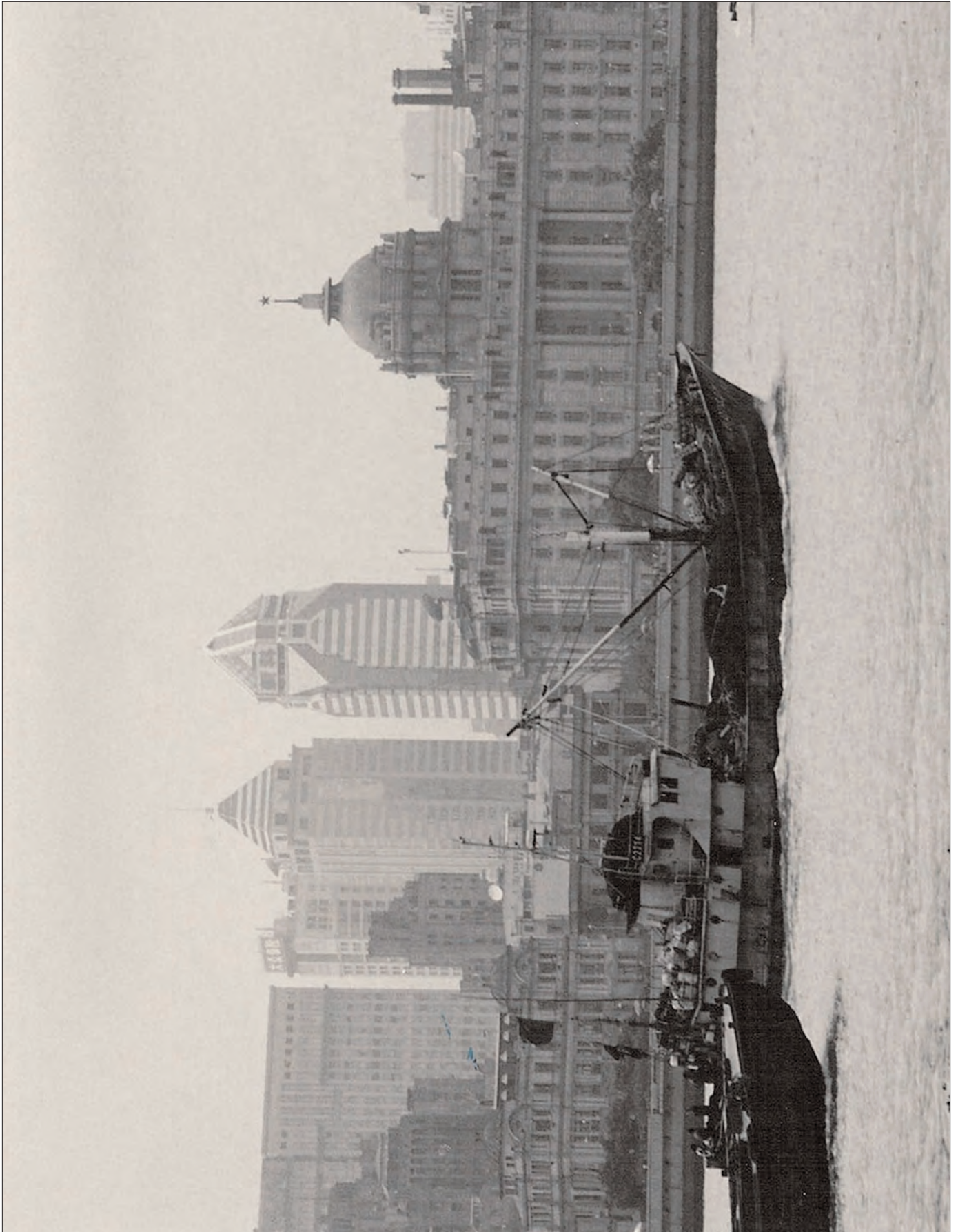
Timeline:

http://unr.edu/homepage/elliott/ NYT_China.html

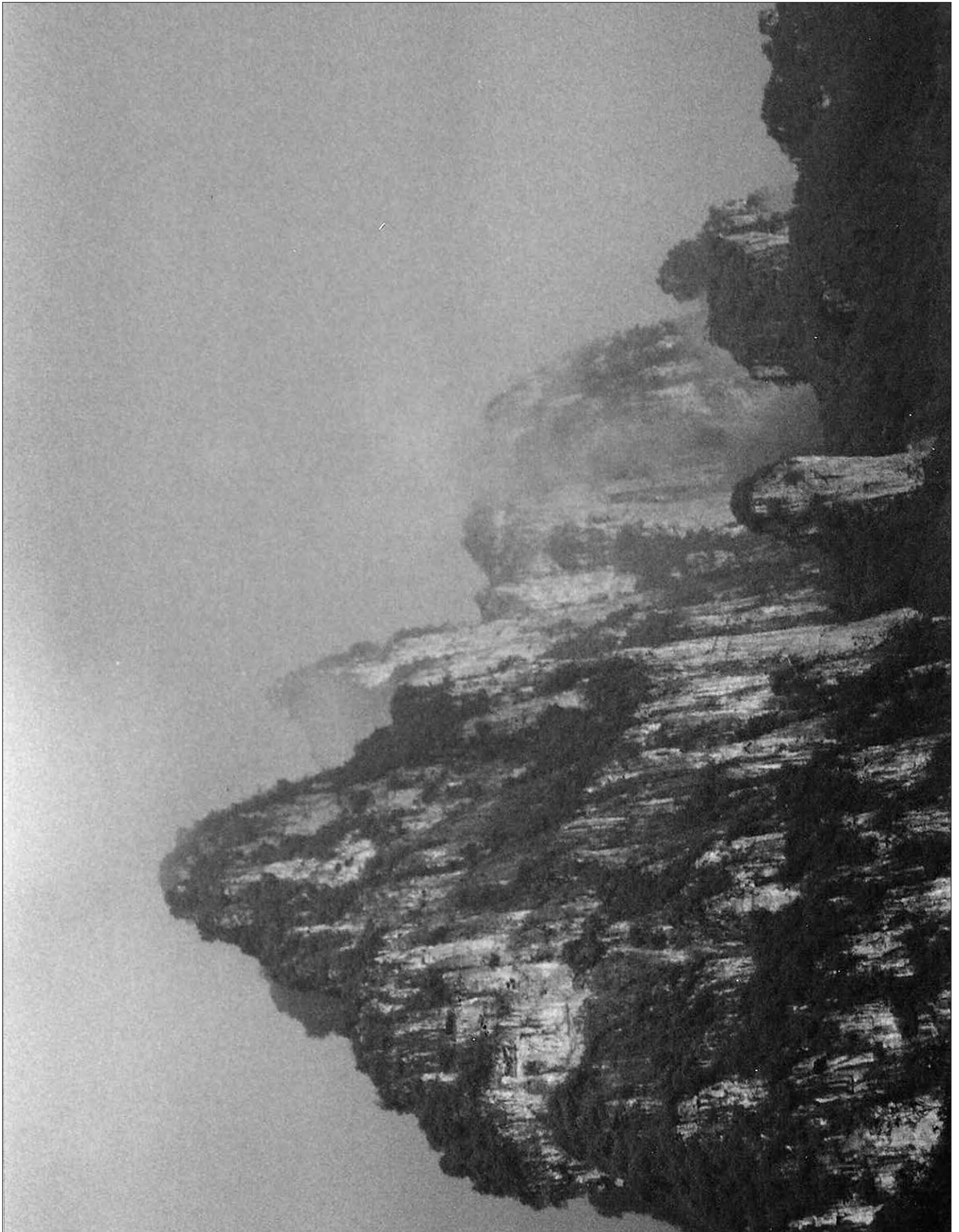
The Water Page—The Yangtze River:

<http://www.thewaterpage.com/yangtze.htm>

Geography & Climate Visual 1: Cargo Boat on the Yangtze River in Shanghai

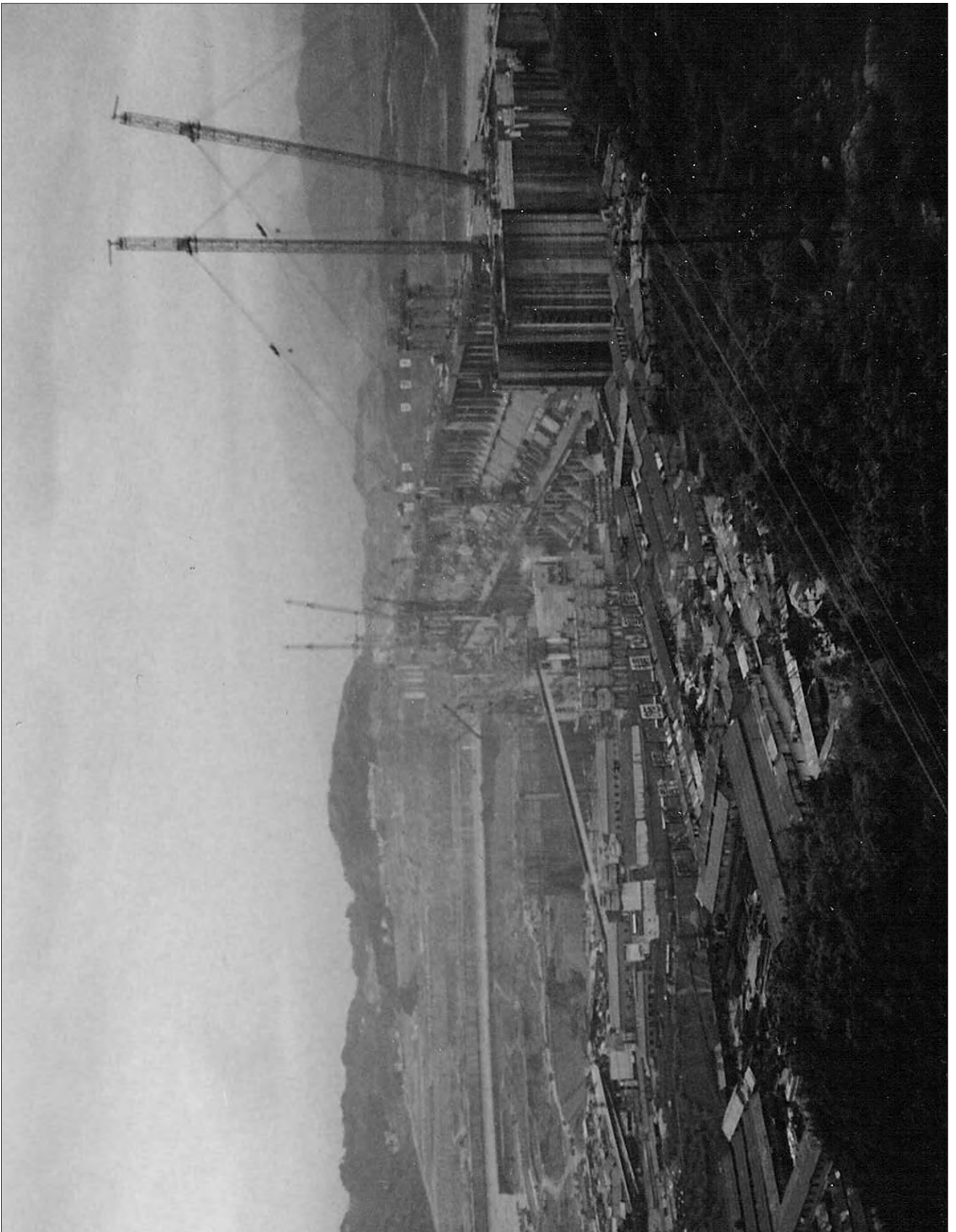








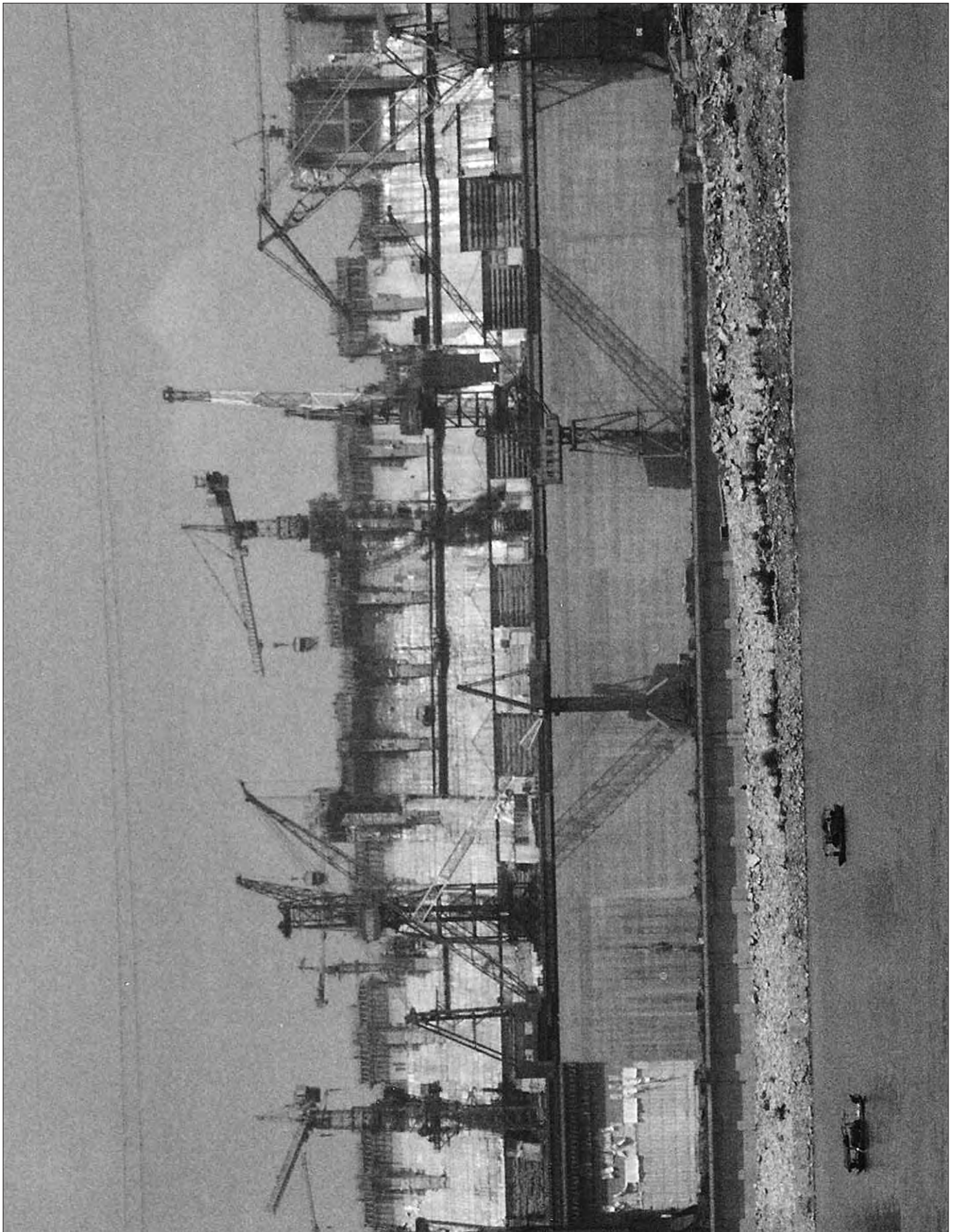




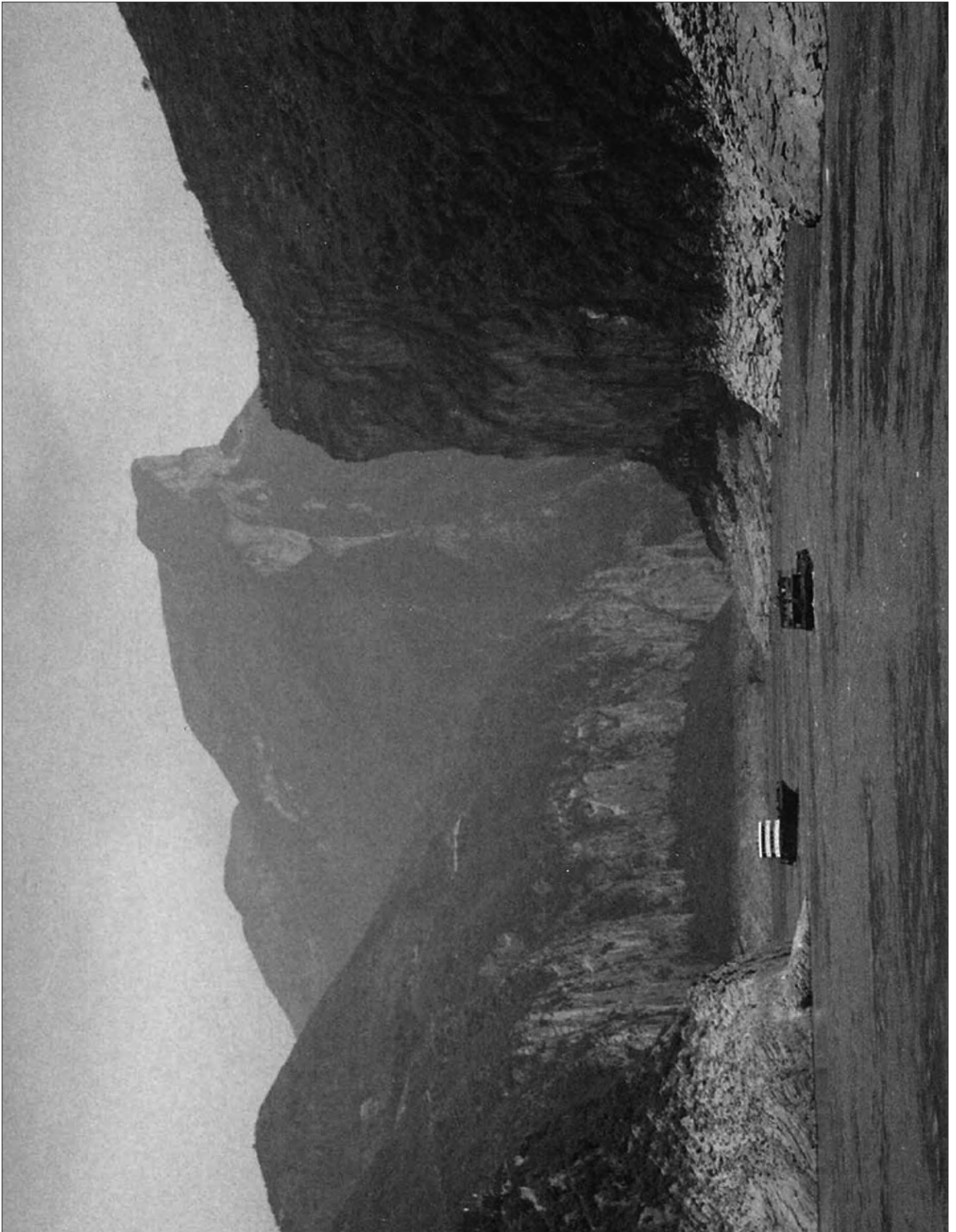
Geography & Climate Visual 7: Three Gorges Dam—Main Wall

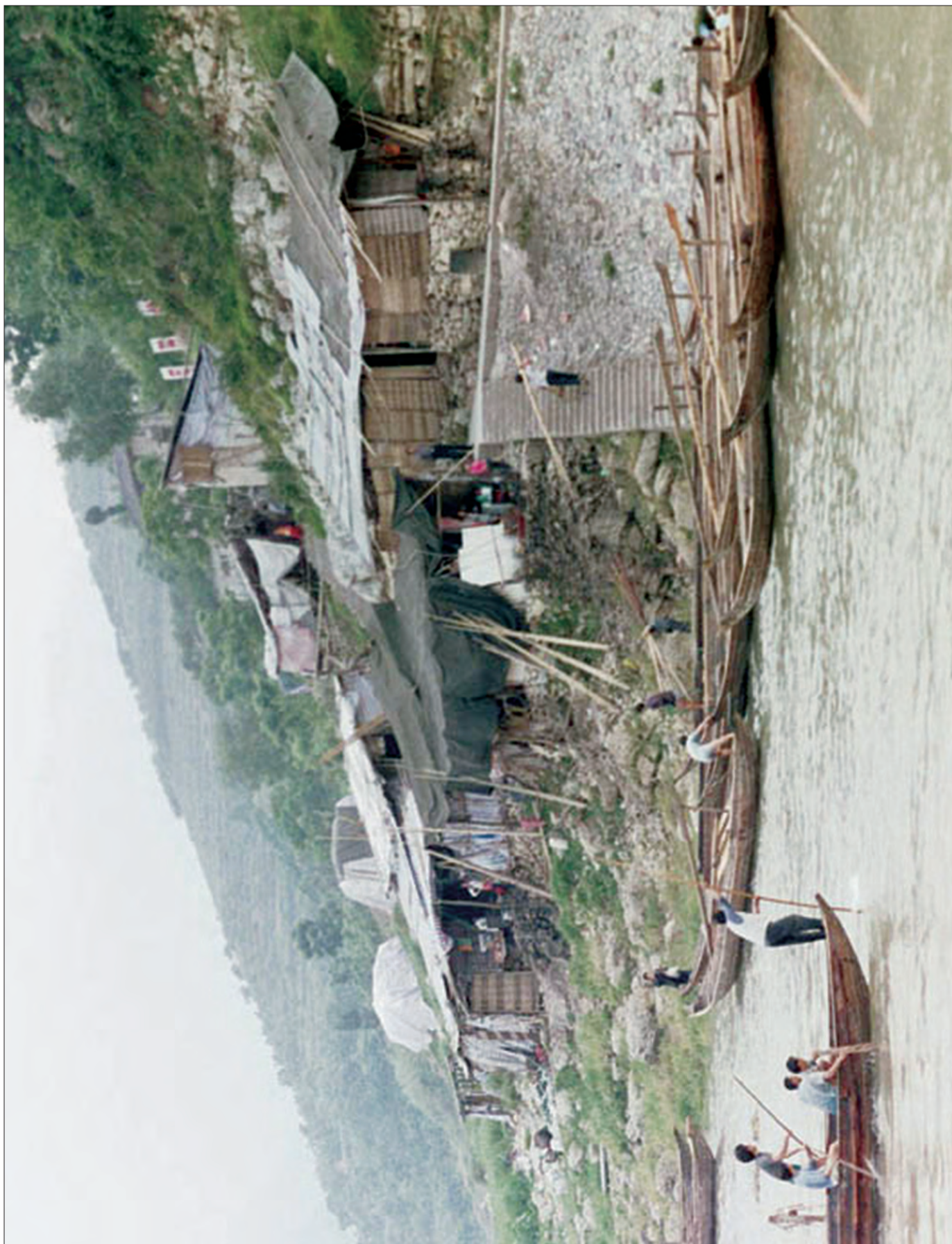


Geography & Climate Visual 8: Three Gorges Dam—Main Wall from a Distance











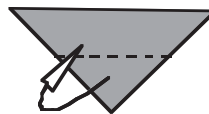
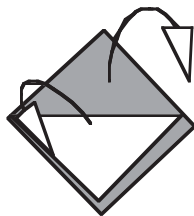
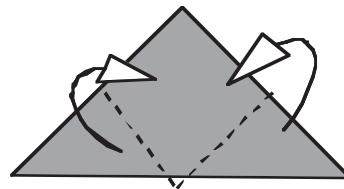
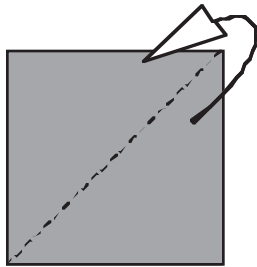
HOW TO MAKE A CHINESE JUNK

You will need:

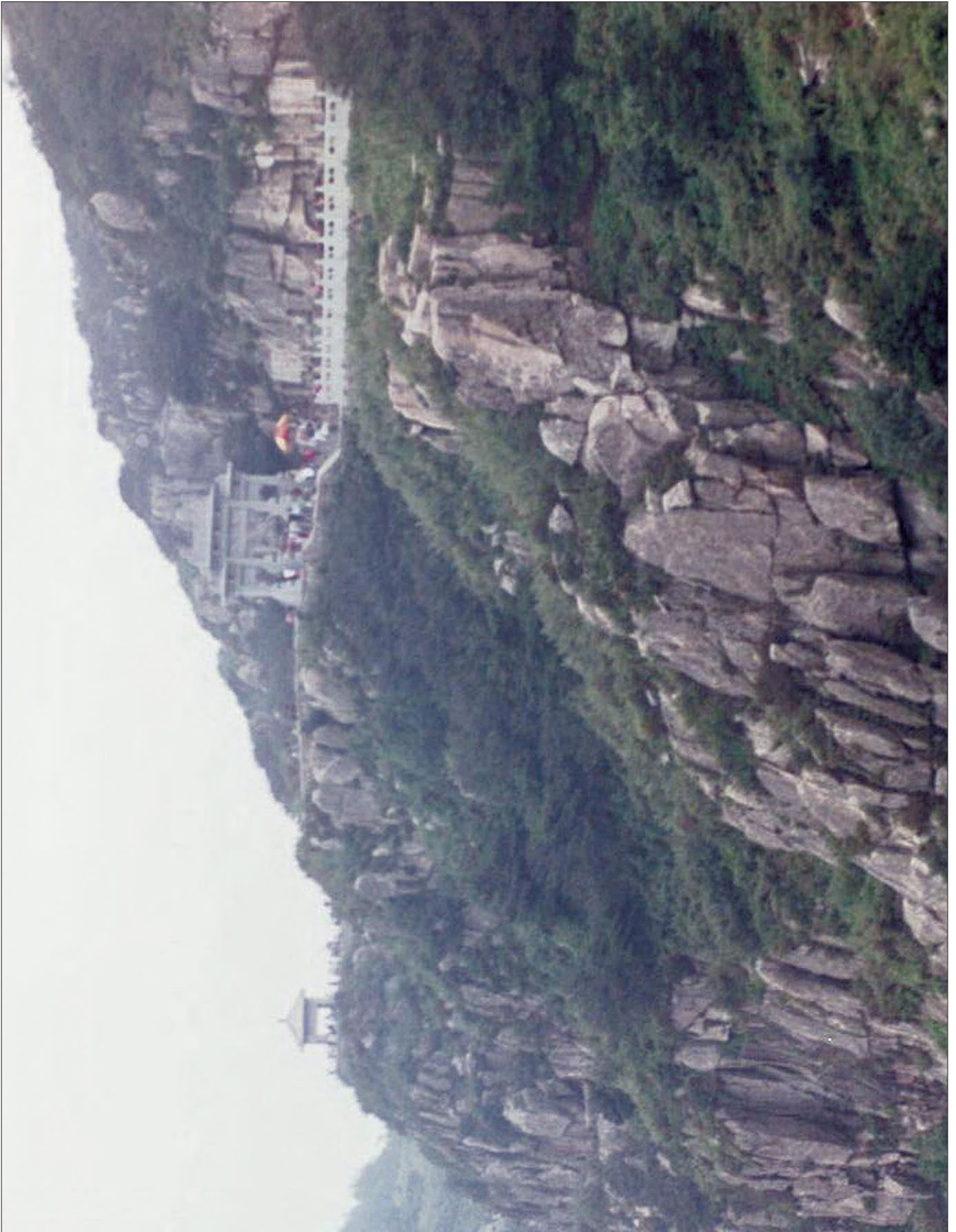
A square piece of paper

Procedure:

1. Fold paper in half, diagonally (it should make a triangle).
2. Hold the triangle so that the ninety-degree angle is at the top.
3. Fold the two corners of the triangle toward the ninety-degree angle so that you have a diamond. The ninety-degree angle should still be at the top, even though it is not a triangle anymore.
4. Separate the two pieces of paper of the top ninety-degree angle by folding one down in the front and the other down in the back. This makes another triangle.
5. Hold the opening at the top, fold the bottom point halfway up, and tape it. This creates the bottom of the boat and is the part that goes in the water.



History Visual 1: Tai Shan–Confucian Temple



History Visual 2: Tai Shan Stairs





History Visual 4: Confucian Temple



Name: _____

CIVIL SERVANT EXAM

Instructions: Answer the following questions to determine your position in the Confucian government.

1. Where was Confucius born?
 - A. Chicago
 - B. Qufu
 - C. Sri Lanka
 - D. Guangdong (Canton)
2. How long did Confucius mourn after his mother's death?
 - A. 2 months
 - B. 3 years
 - C. 120 days
 - D. His mother died before he was born.
3. Why was Confucius dissatisfied with the social conditions of his time?
 - A. He lived during a time of constant warfare.
 - B. He thought women should have the right to vote.
 - C. He wanted to marry a Chinese princess.
 - D. He was a palace servant.
4. Who was Confucius' most famous student?
 - A. Liu Bang
 - B. Mao Zedong
 - C. Mencius
 - D. Aristotle
5. According to Confucius, what is the most important unit of society?
 - A. the family
 - B. the imperial cabinet
 - C. Confucius' dog, Fei Long (flying dragon)
 - D. the individual
6. Confucius is most famous for being a
 - A. teacher
 - B. king
 - C. man who loved war
 - D. scientist

6 correct answers—You are the emperor.

5 correct answers—You are the governor.

4 correct answers—You are the mayor.

3 correct answers—You are a farmer.

2 correct answers—You bring the governor his lunch.

1 correct answer—You carry the nobility up the four thousand stairs to the temple.

Name: _____

CIVIL SERVANT EXAM

Instructions: Answer the following questions to determine your position in the Confucian government.

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 - B. king
 - C. man who loved war
 - D. scientist

6 correct answers—You are the emperor.

5 correct answers—You are the governor.

4 correct answers—You are the mayor.

3 correct answers—You are a farmer.

2 correct answers—You bring the governor his lunch.

1 correct answer—You carry the nobility up the four thousand stairs.

Name: _____

THE FIVE CONFUCIAN RELATIONSHIPS

Match the two columns to show the five Confucian relationships. Then answer the questions below.

subject

older brother

son

husband

younger

father

wife

ruler

younger brother

older

1. Pick one relationship and describe it.

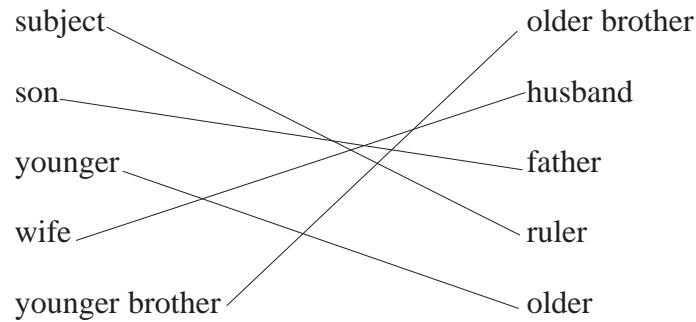
2. Which relationship do you think is most important? Why?

3. Draw a picture of one of the relationships.

Name: _____

THE FIVE CONFUCIAN RELATIONSHIPS

Match the two columns to show the five Confucian relationships. Then answer the questions below.



1. Pick one relationship and describe it.

2. Which relationship do you think is most important? Why?

3. Draw a picture of one of the relationships.



What do the stars represent?

There are two meanings:

1. The big star represents the Communist party, or the government of China. The little stars represent the social structure of a communistic society made up of soldiers, workers, farmers, and students.
2. The big star represents the ethnic majority of Han Chinese. The little stars represent some of the more prominent minorities including Tibetan, Mongolian, Manchurian, and Uyghur.

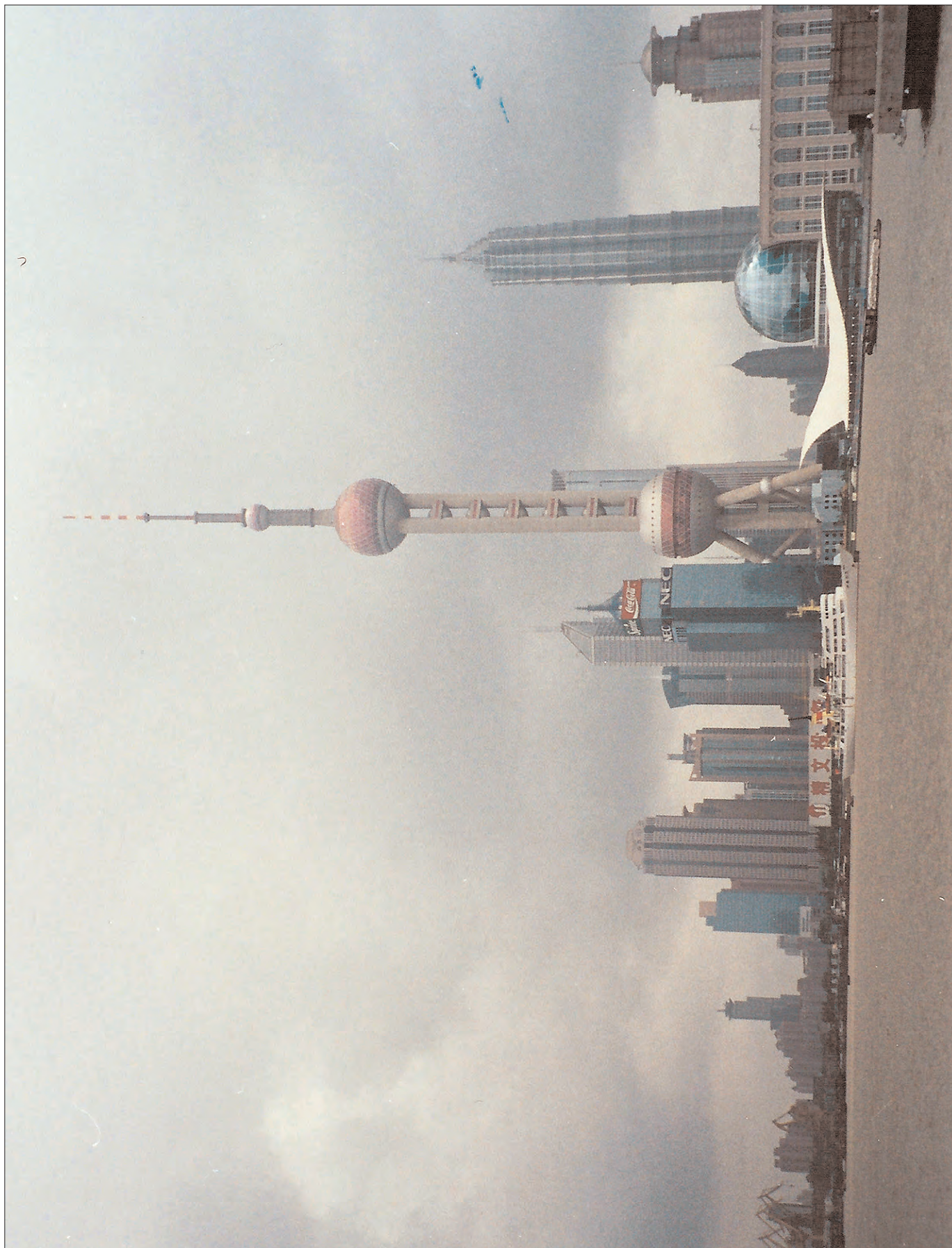
What does the red field represent?

The red field symbolizes the spirit of revolution that has made China what it is today. It represents the Republican Revolution that ended the Qing dynasty as well as the Communist Revolution that established the People's Republic of China. The red also symbolizes the Cultural Revolution that helped the rising generation understand the hardships that their parents and grandparents went through during the previous revolutions.

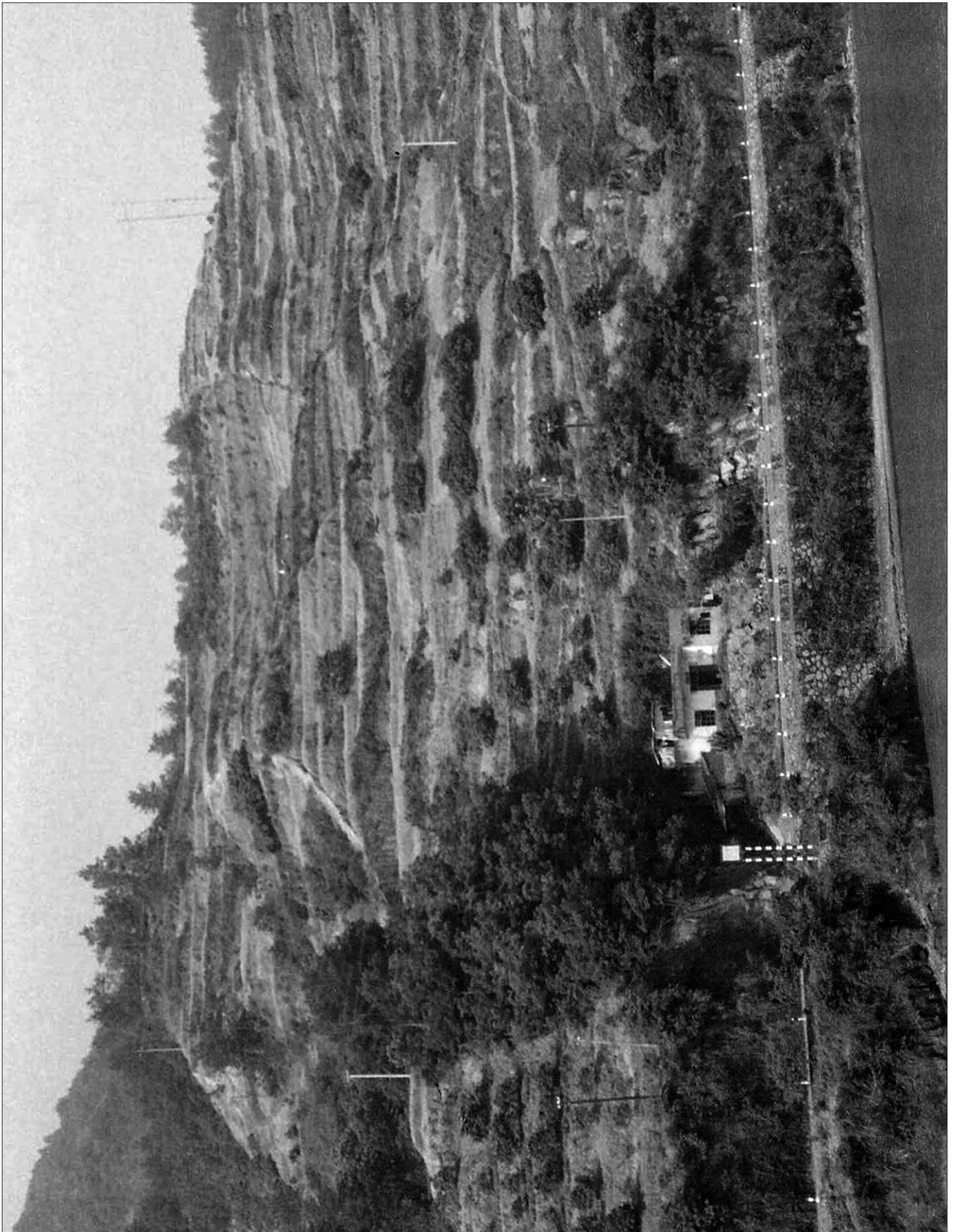




Politics & Economics Visual 4: Shanghai

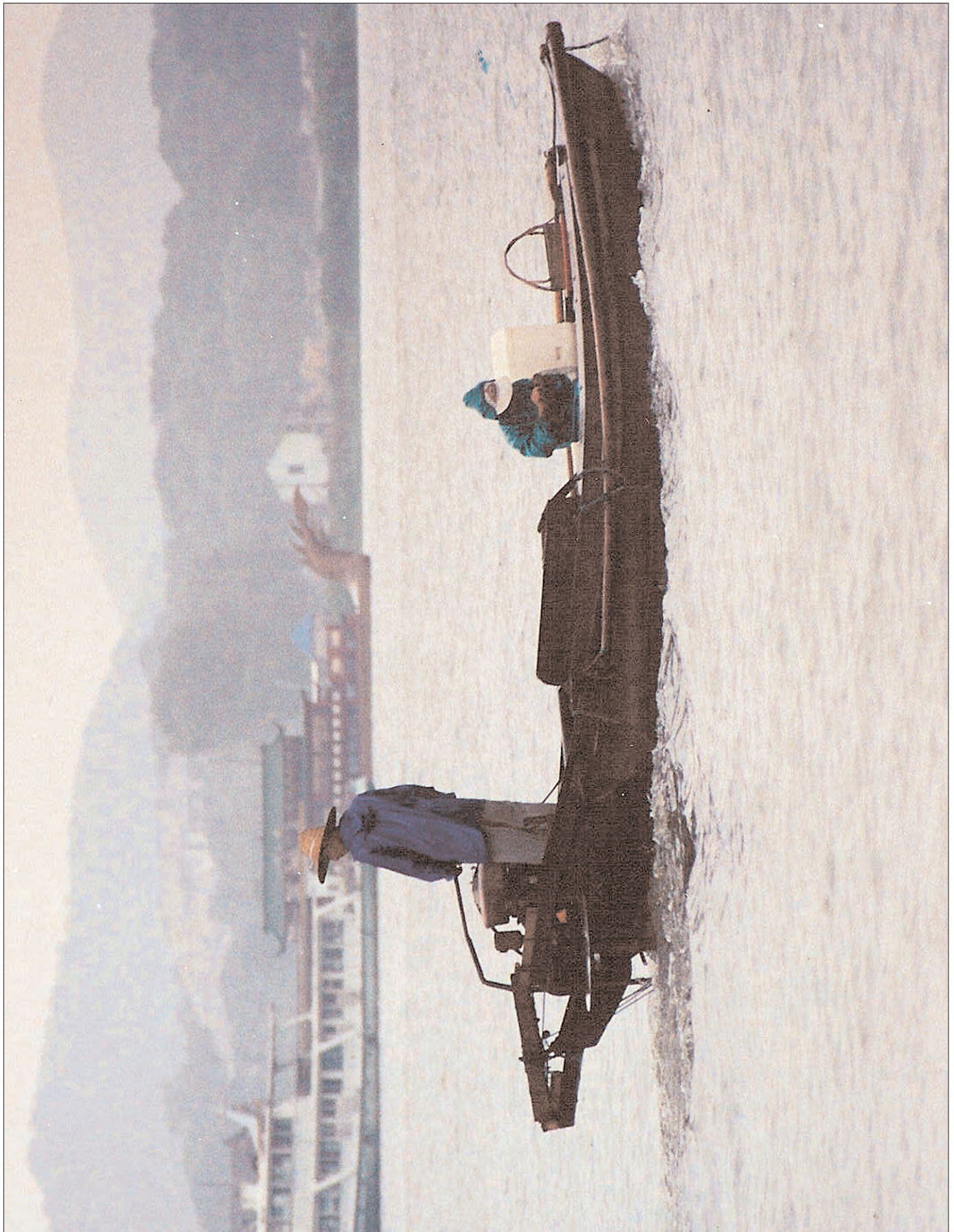


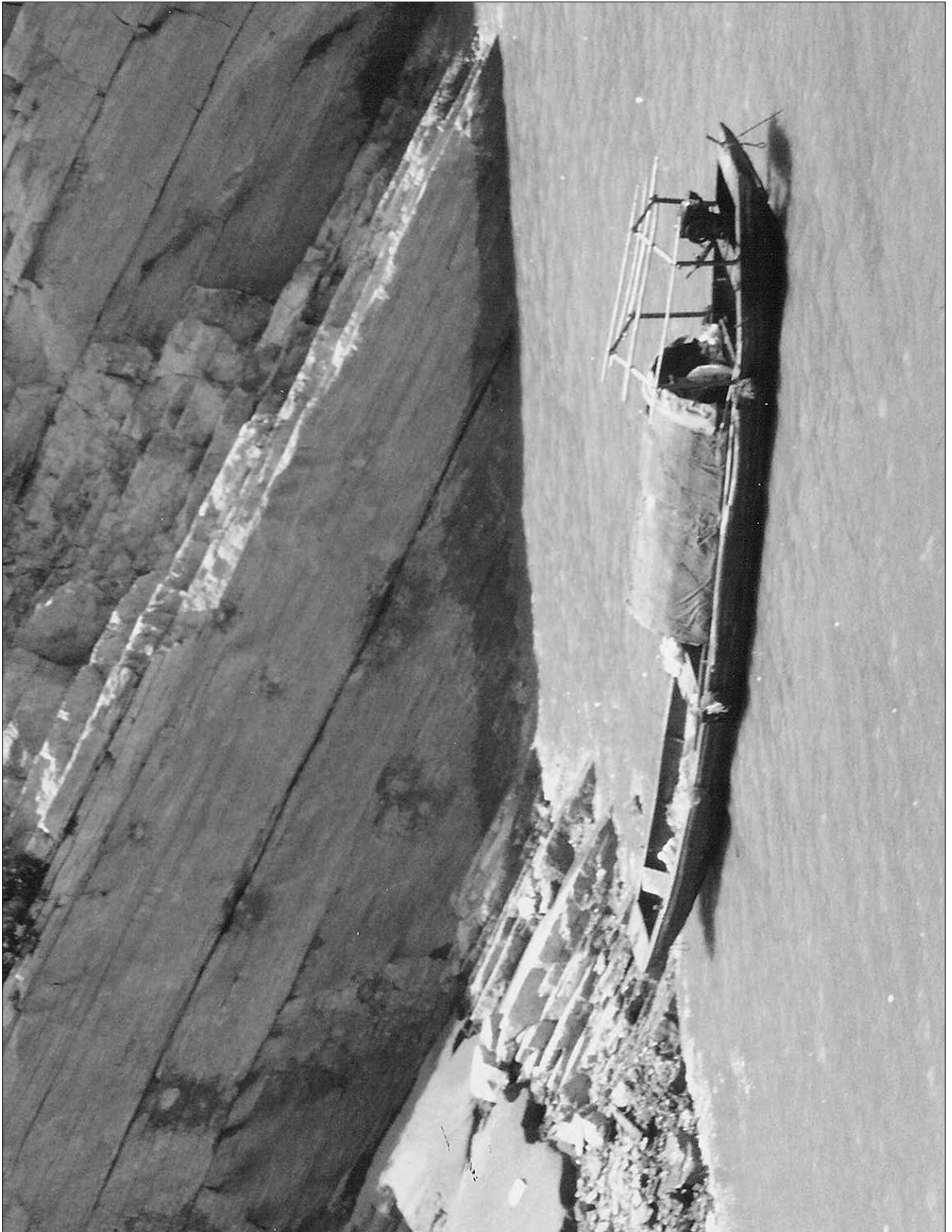












“Happy Birthday” in Chinese

The tune is the same as “Happy Birthday” in English. It is easy to sing, because the same words are sung over and over:

Zhù Nǐ Shēngrì Kuàilè
(jew knee shung-r kwi-la)

Literal translation:

Zhù = wish, Nǐ = you, Shēngrì = birthday, Kuàilè = happy
“Wish you birthday happy.”

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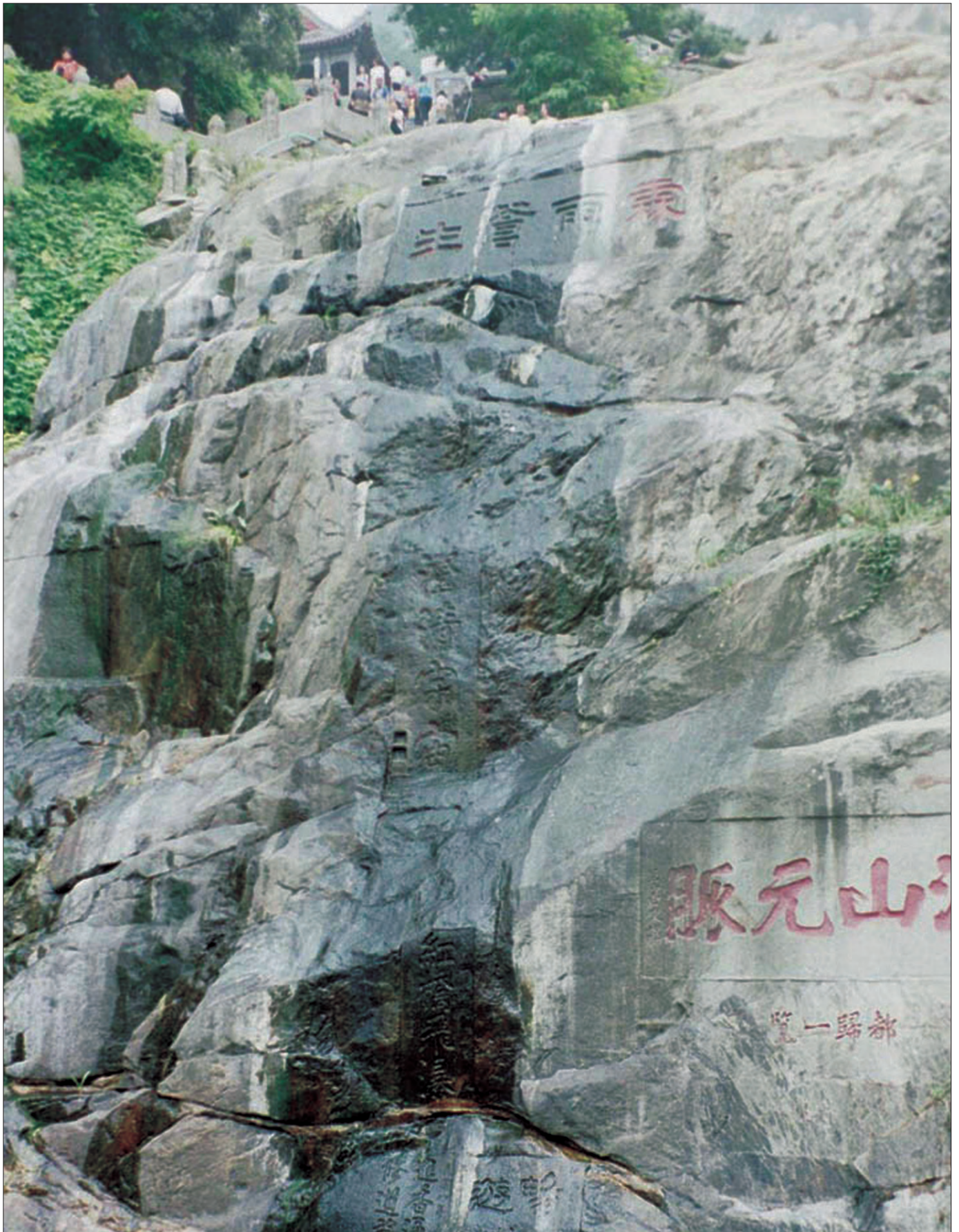
Literal translation:

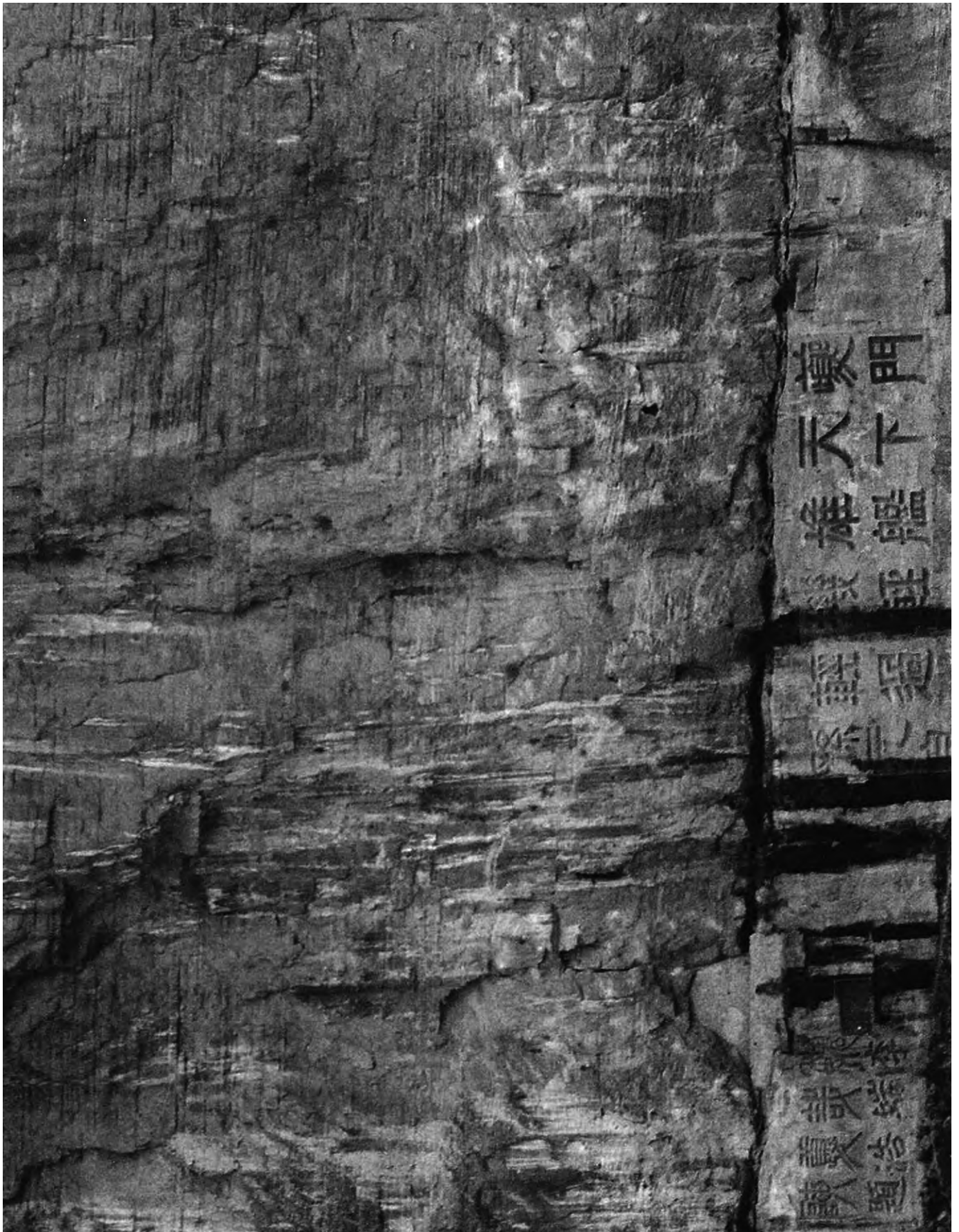
Zhù = wish, Nǐ = you, Shēngrì = birthday, Kuàilè = happy
“Wish you birthday happy.”











CHINESE CHARACTERS

How to draw Chinese characters: The number of brushstrokes in each Chinese character is very important and is the basis for looking up characters in the dictionary. The order of the brushstrokes is as follows:

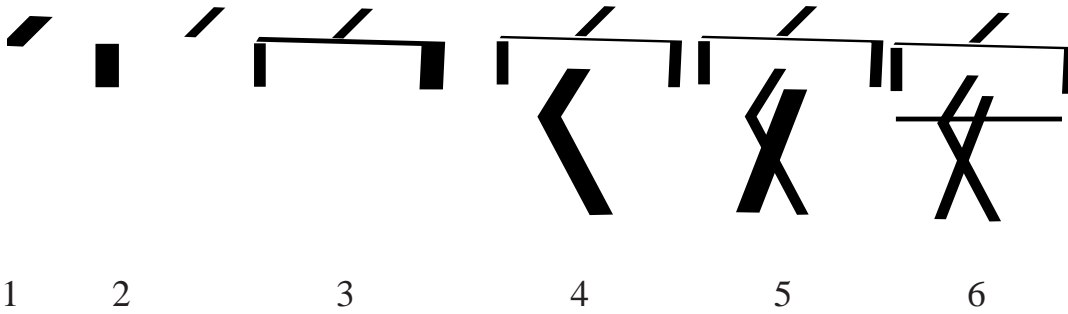
1. One radical, or root, is drawn at a time (every character is made of at least one radical). For example, 女 is the radical for woman, 马 is the radical for horse, and the combination of these two radicals means mother.
2. Draw strokes from top to bottom.
3. Draw strokes from left to right.
4. Draw strokes from the outside to the inside, but never close the outside before drawing the inside. For example, when drawing 国 (country), draw the left vertical (1 stroke), then the top and right vertical (1 stroke),* then draw 王 on the inside, and finally the bottom line of the box.
5. Draw strokes from the middle to the outside.

* A horizontal line to a vertical or diagonal line to the right side counts as one stroke (口 is three strokes: left vertical = one stroke, top plus right vertical = one stroke, bottom = one stroke; 又 is two strokes). You should not pick your pen up after completing the top stroke; instead, move directly to the right side stroke.

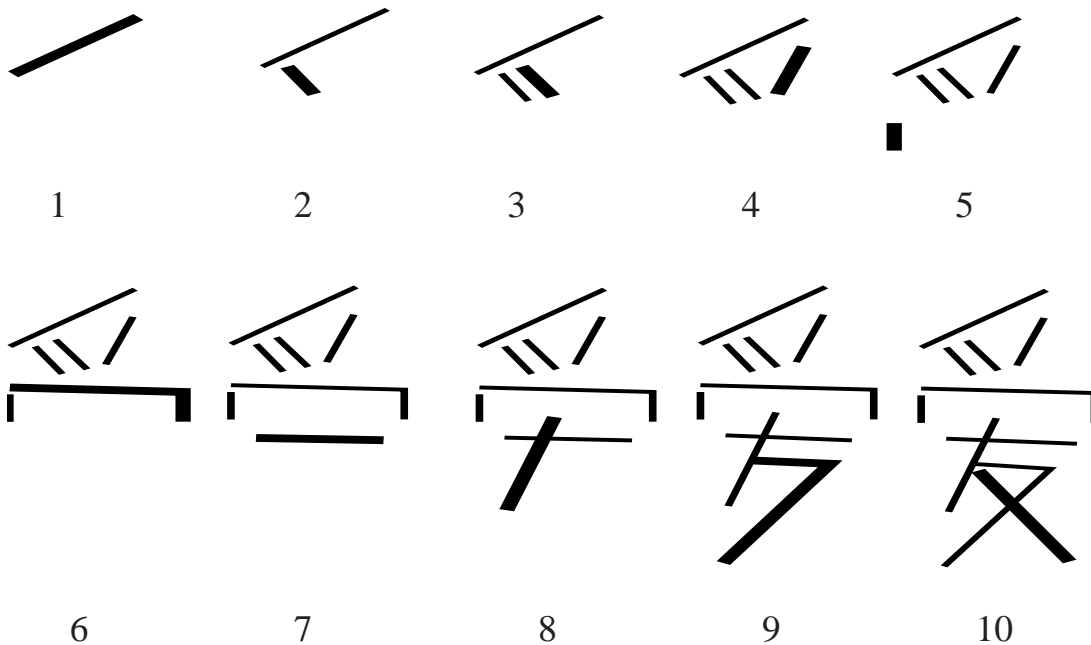
Instructions: Use the paper provided to practice writing characters. A stroke-by-stroke demonstration can be found on the following page.

Lifestyles Visual 6: Chinese Characters (2 of 3)

Drawing the character for “peace” takes six strokes:

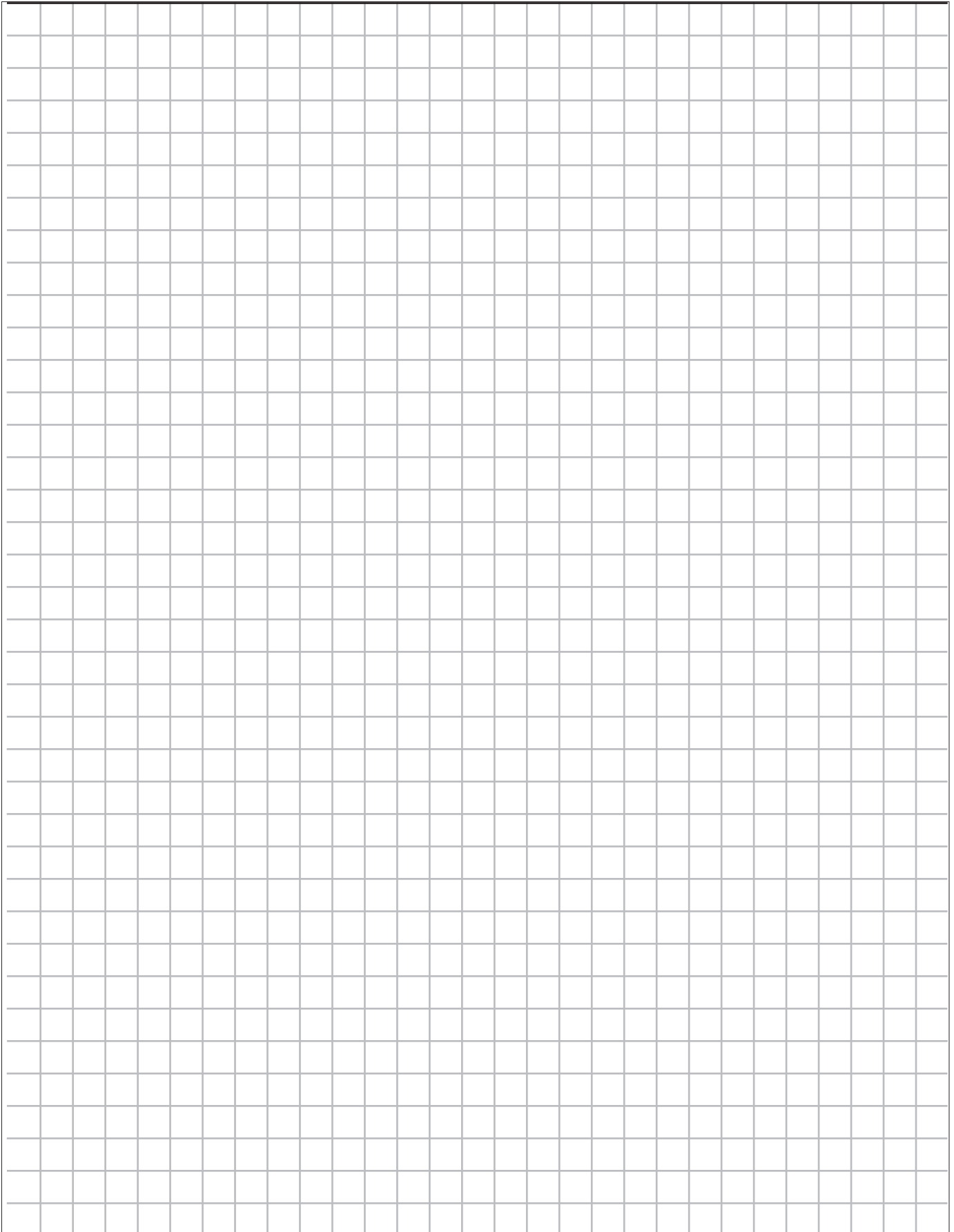


Drawing the character for “love” takes ten strokes:



For more characters, look in a Chinese-English dictionary. Try to find characters that sound like your name or have an interesting meaning.

Lifestyles Visual 6: Chinese Characters (3 of 3)





FLAG OF CHINA

The flag is red with a large, yellow, five-pointed star and four smaller, yellow, five-pointed stars (arranged in a vertical arc toward the middle of the flag) in the upper left-hand corner. The flag has two meanings: (1) The big star represents the Communist party, or the government of China, and the smaller stars represent the social structure of a communist society made up of soldiers, workers, farmers, and students. (2) The big star represents the ethnic majority of Han Chinese, and the smaller stars represent some of the more prominent minorities including Tibetan, Mongolian, Manchurian, and Uyghur.

Map of China

