

DISCOVERING China!

On a Treasure Hunt

Hi!

By now, you've read all three pages in "Discovering China!"—a new kind of study unit for Middle School students. The questions here will help you to review what you've just learned about China. They can also help you expand your "treasure chest" of knowledge about world cultures, in general....

PART A. Directions. Read all five statements carefully. Then, on the line to the left of each one, write **T** if it is *true*, **F** if it is *false*, or **O** if it states an *opinion*.

- ___ 1. Xinjiang is in the western part of China.
- ___ 2. China is neglecting its people's need for modern roads.
- ___ 3. China spends just about the right amount of money on its people's social welfare needs.
- ___ 4. The Chinese Empire came to an end in 1949.
- ___ 5. One of the goals behind China's current tree-planting program is to reduce pollution.

PART B. Directions: Read the first question carefully. Then select the best answer from the three choices that follow. Copy the **Letter** of that choice (**a**, **b**, or **c**) on the line to the left.... Answer all the other questions in **Part B** the same way.

- ___ 6. On which continent is China located?
a) Africa b) Asia c) Europe
- ___ 7. The term "China Proper" refers to the part of China where its culture originated. Which of the following geographic features is in China Proper?
a) Qinghai-Tibet Plateau b) North China Plain c) Himalaya Mountains
- ___ 8. Which of the following rivers does *not* flow through China Proper?
a) Black Dragon River b) Yellow River c) Yangtze River
- ___ 9. Which of these statements about China's Great Wall contains an error?
a) It is a network of walls. b) It was built by emperors. c) It is in southern China.
- ___ 10. If you wanted information about daily life in old Beijing, which of these would be your best source?
a) the Great Wall b) a book of Chinese legends c) surviving *hutongs*
- ___ 11. Who was the first emperor to unify China under a central government?
a) Puyi b) Zhu Yuanzhang c) Qin Shi Huang
- ___ 12. In which of the following "books" would you *most likely* find an account of trade in ancient China?
a) *The Terra Cotta Warriors* b) *The Silk Road* c) *The Ethnic Minorities of Yunnan*
- ___ 13. The construction of the Three Gorges Dam has affected China in several ways. What was the *main purpose* for which the Dam was built?
a) increased electric power b) relocation of people c) changes in job patterns
- ___ 14. In which Chinese city is the new Pudong business district located?
a) Shanghai b) Xi'an c) Chongqing
- ___ 15. In round numbers, what is the current population of China?
a) 1,300,000,000 b) 130,000,000 c) 13,000,000

PART C. Directions. Choose **one** of the next two questions. Use a separate sheet of paper for your answer. Whenever possible, use details to support your answer.

- 16. Imagine that you were with Amy and John on their trip to China. Write a *journal entry* of your own for "Day 22." In it, describe the place or experience that you think best symbolizes the "real" China.
- 17. Write an *essay* for your school paper. In it, state and explain your views on whether the USA and China should encourage student-exchange programs at the college level.

Name _____ Date _____

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By Reading More

Yes! *Reading is a great way to learn about world cultures. Ask a librarian to help you find good examples of any culture's written works—its poems, essays, news stories, legends. And, as you read, you'll discover beliefs and values that make that culture unique. Consider these writing samples from China....*

a. Which Came First?

The Chinese marked the location of Mount Qomolangma ... on their map more than 280 years ago. [However] Westerners today continue to refer to the peak as Mount Everest.... It is time, say scholars and Tibetans, for the world to rectify the error made by British colonials over a century ago.... The ... marking of Qomolangma on the map by Chinese people preceded the British colonists' mapping by more than 130 years.... In the Tibetan language, "Qomolangma" represents the mother goddess of the earth.

Think about "a"! *This news story appeared in 2002. (1) In what century did the British name Mount Everest? (2) What is this mountain's Tibetan name? (3) Why does the writer argue that we should call this mountain by its Tibetan name?*

b. A Writer's Advice

In 1986, Chinese author Ba Jin said: "Only those who do not forget the past will be masters of the future."

Think about "b"! *China was a great empire until it was hurt by invasions and wars in the 19th and 20th centuries. As the country began to recover, why do you think Ba Jin urged the Chinese people to "not forget" their past?*

Directions. After reading each item, answer the questions below it. Use a separate piece of paper. Include the letter and number of each answer.

c. Confucius Says...

The Master said that Tsze-ch'an had four of the characteristics of a superior man. In his conduct of himself, he was humble. In serving his superior, he was respectful. In nourishing the people, he was kind. In ordering the people, he was just.

Think about "c"! *(1) According to this ancient Chinese teaching, what were the four characteristics of a "superior man"? (2) How important do you think those characteristics are, in today's world?*

d. The Five Mascots!

Beijing [China] has unveiled its five 2008 Olympic mascots ... to coincide with the 1,000-day countdown to the big event.... Each mascot has a rhyming two-syllable name, the traditional way of expressing affection for children in China. *Beibei* is the Fish, *Jingjing* is the Panda, *Huanhuan* is the Olympic Flame, *Yingying* is the Tibetan Antelope and *Nini* is the Swallow. The first characters of their two-syllable names read "*Beijing Huanying Ni*," or, in English, "Welcome to Beijing."

Think about "d"! *This news story was written in 2005. (1) What "big event" was it referring to? (2) What does the mascot Nini represent? (3) The mascots were chosen by a committee. What Chinese traditions seem to have guided their selection?*

e. A Very Old Legend

A very old man lived behind two tall mountains. He was unhappy about the fact that the mountains stood

between him and the next village, where he had friends. So he assembled his family. "I suggest," he said, "that we all work together to remove these mountains and open a direct path to the next village."

His wife said, "How could you remove two tall mountains? Where would you deposit the soil and rocks?"

But his sons had an idea. "We could carry them to the seashore."

So the very old man and his sons began to break off the mountains' rocks and dig the soil, which they put into baskets and carried to the seashore.

One day, a neighbor stopped the old man. "How foolish you are!" he said. "At your age, you have chosen an impossible task!"

The old man sighed and said, "You are the one who is foolish. When I die, my sons will carry on—and so will their sons, and their grandsons, and so on. But mountains do not grow. So why do you think they cannot be removed?"

The neighbor could not answer.

Think about "e"! *(1) What comparison did the old man make between the mountains and his family? (2) Imagine that you overhear Chinese parents telling this legend to their child. What lesson might they want the child to learn from the legend?*

a-Excerpted from "No Longer Everest, but Mount Qomolangma," in *People's Daily Online*, 11-20-02; **b**-From a 1986 speech by Ba Jin; **c**-Adapted from *The Analects of Confucius*, at <http://eawc.evansville.edu>; **d**-Excerpted from "Mascots promise a 'friendly' Olympics," in *China Daily*, 11-12-05; **e**-Based on *Lie zi, The Writings of Lie Yu Kou*, at www.chinavista.com.