Greetings 6th graders:

I hope you all are doing well and being safe at home with your families. Here are your Social Studies lessons for the next two weeks. You will be asked to read passages, answer questions, and complete DBQ or RACE responses.

Week 1 & 2- "Ancient China: Travel Journal Part 1"
"Ancient China: Travel Journal Part 2"
"Ancient China: Travel Journal Part 3"
"Ancient China: Travel Journal Part 4"
"Ancient China: Travel Journal Part 5"

1)Read passage
2)Answer multiple choice questions
3)Answer short answer questions
4)Compete constructed response questions using DBQ form. (document based questions or RACE response)
5)To check answers, you may go to www.readworks.org, search the story you are reading, and click on show answers.

Please send me an email at mlemoine@redrivercharter.org if you have an questions about any of these lessons. Also, parents when your child has completed these activities, please send me an email letting me know that they have completed or attempted to work on these skills.

Ancient China: Travel Journal Part 1

by ReadWorks

Jade Buddha Temple in Shanghai

Last night we landed in Shanghai. This 2000-year-old city is in the central eastern part of China. It is actually considered one of the *youngest* cities in the country! It is very hot here now, 105 degrees. In the winter, though, the weather is near freezing.

Today I learned so much about China! We visited one of Shanghai's most famous temples. It is called the Jade Buddha Temple. A temple is a religious building, like a church. The Jade Buddha Temple is used by people who practice Buddhism. Buddhism is the largest religion in China, but not the oldest. Taoism (*dow-ism*) is the oldest.

The temple was built in 1918. However, the two jade Buddhas the temple was named after were brought here from Myanmar in 1882. Jade is the most popular stone in China. It is green

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and smooth, and when you hold it in your hand, it is cool. In street markets, you can find many things made out of jade, such as jewelry, statues, and chops. Chops are stamps that have a person's signature on them.

Today, I bought a beautiful necklace made out of jade. It had a tiger carved on it. I got it because I was born in 1998, the year of the tiger. The tiger is one of the 12 animals that go with the 12-year Chinese calendar. I had to laugh because my mom found out she was born in the year of the pig!

At the market, I also bought a pink silk shirt. It was made in a silk factory right here in Shanghai. China is famous for its silk. The Chinese have been making silk for thousands of years.

The silk-making process is very interesting. Silk comes from the cocoon that silkworms make when they are transforming into moths. It takes a long time for people to make things out of silk. A three-foot by five-foot rug can take up to 11 months to make by hand.

I'm getting tired, so I'm going to sign off for today. Tomorrow we're taking a cruise down the Yangtze River. I can't wait!

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Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1. Shanghai is one of the _____ cities in China

A. youngest

B. oldest

C. prettiest

D. most interesting

2. Which of these happened first?

A. The narrator bought a silk shirt.

B. The jade Buddhas arrived from Myanmar.

C. Shanghai was founded.

D. The Jade Buddha Temple was built.

3. What might have helped cause China to become famous for its silk?

A. It takes a long time for people to make things from silk.

B. Jade is the most popular stone in China.

C. The silkworm is part of the 12-year Chinese calendar.

D. There are many silkworms in China.

4. Read the following sentences: "In street markets, you can find many things made out of jade, such as jewelry, statues, and chops. Chops are stamps that have a person's signature on them."

The word chop in this context means

A. An object used to cut something in half

B. An object used to eat food

C. An object used to glue something together

D. An object used to sign a document

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5. This passage is mainly about

A. visiting Shanghai.

B. the Jade Buddha Temple.

C. the weather in Shanghai.

D. how silk is made.

6. The author notes that China is famous for its silk. Where does silk come from?

7. Is Shanghai near the Yangtze River? Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence:

_____ exploring and discovering much about China on the first day of the trip, the author intends to keep learning about China by taking a cruise down the Yangtze River.

A. Despite

B. So

C. Which

D. Before

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Ancient China: Travel Journal Part 2

by ReadWorks

Photograph by Rebekah Hanousek-Monge

The Yangtze River

Today we started a long journey down the Yangtze River. The Yangtze is the third longest river in the world. I was shocked when we got here because the water is brown. It resembles chocolate milk! Our guide told me that it is only brown during the rainy season. The brown is actually just sediment that comes up from the bottom of the river. During the rest of the year, the water runs clear.

The Yangtze is lined by tall mountains. The people who live in these mountains farm and fish. You'd be amazed to see these farms because the hillsides they sit on are practically cliffs. If you tripped, you'd probably roll right down into the river.

We have seen a lot of animals along the river. There are water buffalo, mountain goats, birds, bats, cattle, and even monkeys. My favorites are the monkeys because they swing from tree to tree. They are a little shy though. The water buffalo swim in the water. The only part of them you can see are their heads bobbing up and down.

So far, this trip has been amazing. I can't believe we have three more days to travel down the Yangtze. I wonder what we'll discover next.

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Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1. The Yangtze River is

A. The third longest river in the world.

B. The longest river in the world.

C. The second longest river in the world.

D. The most famous river in the world.

2. Why is the Yangtze's water only brown during the rainy season?

A. because sediment stays at the bottom of the river

B. because of the farmers that live along the river

C. because of the animals in the water

D. because the rain stirs up sediment

3. Read the following sentence: "The Yangtze is lined by tall mountains."

The word **lined** in the sentence most nearly means

A. underneath

B. having on both sides

C. wrinkled

D. drawn on with pencil or pen

4. Why does the author describe the areas around the river?

A. to explain to the reader why the water was brown.

B. to entertain the reader with descriptions of animals.

C. to inform the reader about farming on a mountain.

D. to give the reader a full picture of the river.

5. This passage is mainly about

A. the author's visit to China.

B. monkeys and water buffalo.

C. why clear water becomes brown.

D. the Yangtze river and its surroundings.

6. Is the author enjoying her trip? How can you tell?

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7. What animal does the author enjoy watching the most and why?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence:

The author has enjoyed her trip in China so far, _____ she remains excited by the thought of what she will discover next during her travels!

A. but

B. because

C. until

D. so

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Ancient China: Travel Journal Part 3

by ReadWorks

Illustration by Rebekah Hanousek-Monge

"The 8th Wonder of the World"

Today I saw the most amazing thing in the city of Xi'an (*shee-on*). I gazed out upon thousands of ancient warriors made out of terracotta, a kind of clay. These clay warriors are over 2000 years old.

The warriors were found underground, below a farm. In 1974, several farmers were digging a well and discovered fragments of the terracotta warriors. The government brought in archaeologists to dig further.

The archaeologists discovered thousands and thousands of ancient life-size warriors. They even found terracotta horses buried with them. Since then, archaeologists have only unearthed a small portion of all the soldiers. They believe that thousands more lie buried underground.

The warriors are incredible. No two faces look alike. They are all different. Some warriors are standing, some sitting. All of the warriors seem to have their own personality.

Historians believe these warriors were created to protect the tomb of an ancient emperor. The emperor is buried in a pyramid one mile away. Instead of burying his troops alive with him, which was the tradition, the emperor wanted to spare his soldiers' lives. So, he had artists work for years and years to create the terracotta warriors.

The warriors may not be the official eighth wonder of the ancient world. However, they surely are a wonder to behold!

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Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1. The terracotta warriors are made out of

A. bronze

B. marble

C. clay

D. paint

2. What happened that caused modern people to discover the warriors?

A. Some farmers found them accidentally.

B. A map was found showing where they were.

C. Historians decided to dig them up.

D. Archaeologists found them in a pyramid.

3. Why does the author describe the story of the farmers finding the warriors?

A. to show how works of art are very different in China

B. to explain that people did not know the warriors were buried there

C. to compare the warriors with other great historical discoveries

D. to illustrate the fact that people were always searching for the warriors

4. Read the following sentences: "In 1974, several farmers were digging a well and discovered fragments of the terracotta warriors. The government brought in archaeologists to dig further."

The word **fragments** means

A. historical documents

B. pieces or parts

C. fake copies

D. clothing items

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5. What is the main idea of this passage?

A. Terracotta warriors have always been the most loved part of Chinese art.

B. Soldiers of ancient China were admired by their emperor.

C. Many wonders of the world go undiscovered for thousands of years.

D. Terracotta warriors are amazing to see and were surprising to find.

6. Why were the terracotta warriors created, according to historians?

7. Why did people not know that the terracotta warriors were buried underground for two thousand years?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence:

_____ archaeologists dig further beneath the ground, many terracotta warriors will remain undiscovered.

A. So

B. Until

C. Of

D. Even though

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Ancient China: Travel Journal Part 4

by ReadWorks

Today we took a bus ride out to the Great Wall of China. You wouldn't believe the size of this thing! With all of its branches included, the Great Wall is more than 13,000 miles long. I didn't see the entire wall, of course. But, what I did see was unbelievable.

The wall was started by Emperor Qin Shi Huang of the Qin Dynasty. He's the same emperor who built the terracotta warriors. He began building the Great Wall over 2000 years ago, but it was under construction for hundreds of years. It was built to defend China from its enemies, namely the Huns and the Mongols. The section of the wall we climbed was on the Mongolian border.

Today, the Great Wall is no longer used for defense. Thousands of tourists go to China every year to visit the wall. Chinese people visit and climb the wall as well. It's a very popular tourist attraction.

The wall is made of brick and it winds through beautiful mountains. There are thousands of stairs to climb on the wall. Some are very narrow and steep. The climb was difficult. At times it was so steep, I felt like I was climbing a ladder. On the way down, I was sure to use the railing on the sides.

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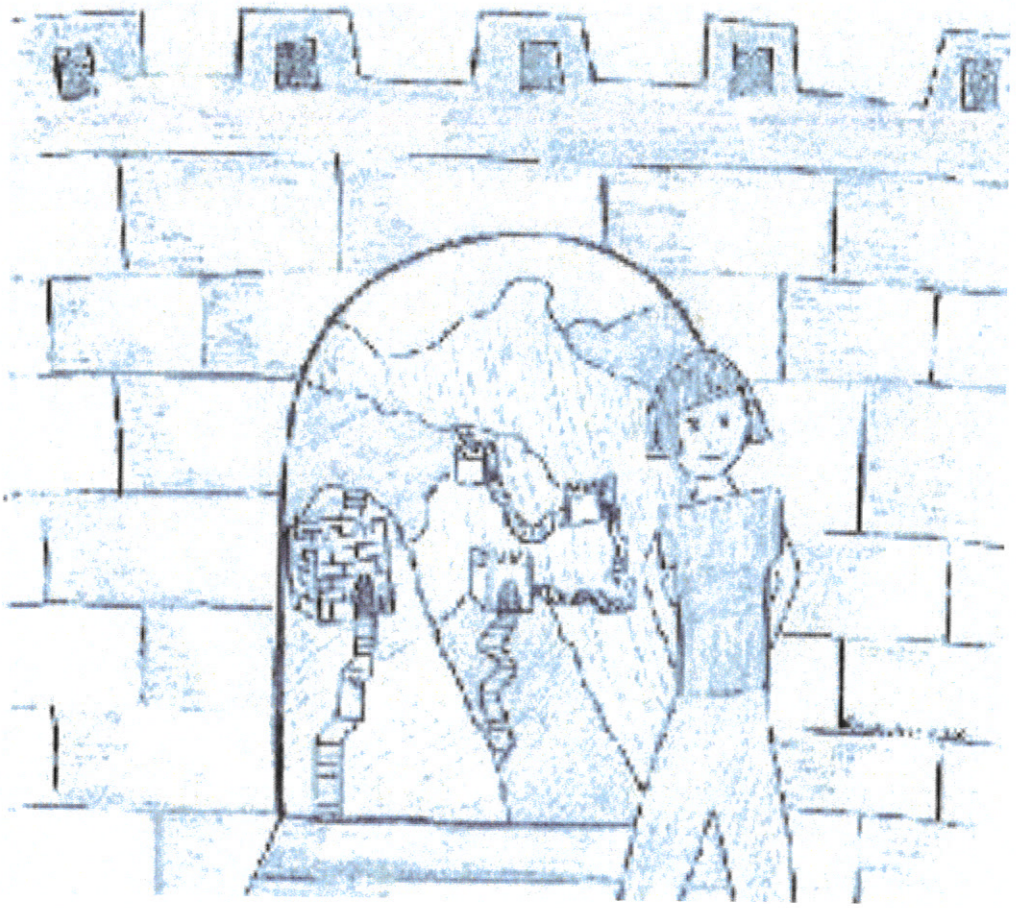

The Great Wall

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Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1. What is the purpose of this passage?

A. to inform

B. to persuade

C. to inform and entertain

D. to inform and persuade

2. Why is the Great Wall likely such a popular attraction?

A. it defended China from its enemies

B. it was under construction for hundreds of years

C. it is very old, very big, and has nice views

D. it is a difficult climb

3. The Huns and the Mongolians were _____ of China

A. Friends

B. Tourists

C. Peoples

D. Enemies

4. How long did it take to build the Great Wall?

A. ten years

B. a thousand years

C. two thousand years

D. hundreds of years

5. Read the following sentence: "The section of the wall we climbed was on the Mongolian border."

The word **border** most nearly means

A. branches

B. dividing line

C. construction

D. tourist attraction

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6. About how long is the Great Wall of China?

7. Why did it take so long to build the Great Wall? Provide supporting details from the text.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence:

The Great Wall of China has many steps to climb, _____ many are narrow and steep.

A. for

B. so

C. and

D. yet

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Ancient China: Travel Journal Part 5

by ReadWorks

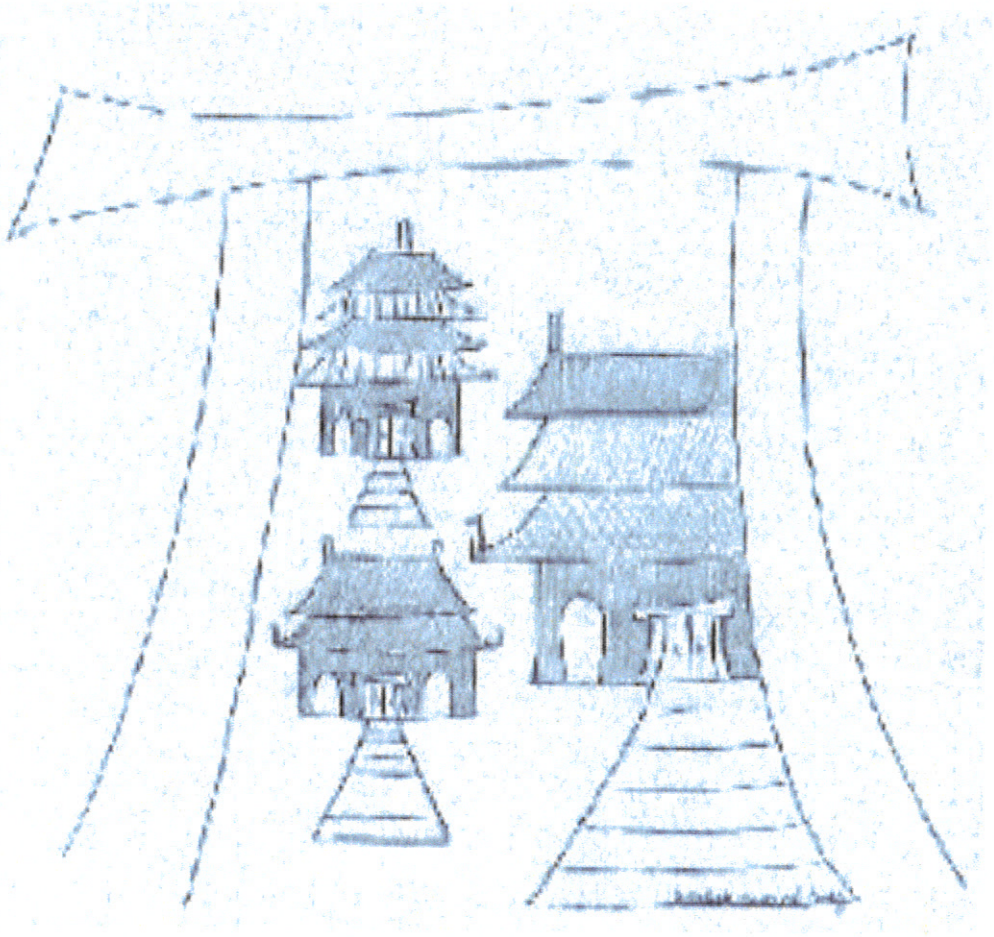

Illustration by Rebekah Hanousek-Monge

The Forbidden City

Today I visited the Forbidden City. How could a city be off-limits? Well, in China hundreds of years ago, common people were not allowed in the home of the emperor. In the capital city of Beijing, the emperor's home was so huge that it was the size of a small city.

I went to the Forbidden City, which was built in 1420 A.D. The city is shaped like a rectangle. Every time you walk through a building, you're amazed to find another one behind it. When you walk through that building, there's yet another one behind it. It seems never-ending.

There are 9,999 rooms in the Forbidden City. That's a lot for one emperor. If you spent one night in each room, it would take you over 27 years to sleep in each one! Twenty-four emperors lived in the Forbidden City before it was opened to the public. It is now a museum for anyone in the world to see. And it is truly an amazing sight!

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Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1. Why was it called "The Forbidden City"?

A. Because regular people were not allowed inside

B. Because no one was allowed inside

C. Because everyone was allowed inside

D. Because the emperor was not allowed inside

2. Who was most likely not allowed into The Forbidden City in the year 1420?

A. The emperor's wife

B. A nobleman

C. A Royal Guard

D. A shoemaker

3. Which of these is a fact about The Forbidden City?

A. It's too big for one emperor.

B. It has almost 10,000 rooms.

C. It seems never-ending.

D. It's an amazing sight.

4. The author seems

A. amazed by how many rooms there are.

B. tired from walking through so many rooms.

C. older than The Forbidden City.

D. mad that she is not allowed inside.

5. The passage is mostly about

A. a place you can visit in China.

B. a city with too many laws.

C. China's most famous emperors.

D. the limits to building cities.

6. Why does The Forbidden City seem never-ending?

7. Why would the Forbidden City be forbidden to regular people?

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8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

_____ the Forbidden City has thousands of rooms, it was closed to the public for many years.

A. And

B. Even

C. But

D. Although

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