

# Confucius Say . . . China Old

**Grade Level:** Grade 2  
**Presented by:** Martha Fleming and Cynthe McFarland, Elbert County Charter School, Elizabeth, CO  
**Length of Unit:** 4 Lessons (some may take more than one 45 minute period)

## I. ABSTRACT

The focus of this unit is the study of Ancient China as stated in the *Core Knowledge Sequence* for second grade. This unit will introduce the students to the following: the Yellow and Yangtze River, the invention of paper, the importance of silk, the teachings of Confucius, the Great Wall, and the Chinese New Year. It will utilize a variety of auditory, visual, and kinesthetic activities to explore the geographical, historical, and cultural aspects of the Ancient Chinese. Upon completion of this unit, the students will have a strong knowledge of Ancient China and how their philosophical ideas and major events have been powerful forces throughout history.

## II. OVERVIEW

- A. Concept Objectives
  1. Understand the significance of the relative location of a place.
  2. Understand that historical events usually have multiple causes and multiple effects, some of which are not recognized until long after the event occurs.
  3. Understand the complex nature of a given culture: its history, geography, literature, religion, and art.
- B. Content from the *Core Knowledge Sequence*
  1. China (*Core Knowledge Sequence* p.48)
- C. Skill Objectives
  1. The student will be able to identify and locate the continent of Asia, the country of China, and the Yellow and Yangtze Rivers.
  2. The student will know how to use and construct maps, globes, and other geographic tools to locate and derive information about people, places, and environments.
  3. The student will be able to demonstrate the knowledge of the construction of the Great Wall by building a model of a section of the wall.
  4. The student will know how to use and construct maps, globes, and other geographic tools to locate and derive information about people, places, and environments.
  5. The student will be able to sequence the steps of silk- making and illustrate them.
  6. The student will be able to duplicate the procedures used by the Chinese to make paper.
  7. The student will know how to use and construct maps, globes, and other geographic tools to locate and derive information about people, places, and environments.
  8. The student will list some activities that are included in the Chinese New Year festivities.
  9. The student will identify the major teachings of Confucius.
  10. The student will know that religious and philosophical ideas have been powerful forces throughout history.

## III. BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

- A. For Teachers
  1. *China, Our Global Village*, by Juliana Y. Yuan
  2. *China*, by Linda Scher and Mary Oates Johnson
  3. *China Activity Book*, by Linda Milliken

- B. For Students
  - 1. Seven continents (*from Core Knowledge Sequence Kindergarten and First Grade, reviewed in Second Grade*)

#### IV. RESOURCES

- A. Cotterell, Arthur. *Ancient. China*
- B. Fisher, Leonard Everett. *The Great Wall of China*
- C. Franco. Betsy. *China*
- D. Hirsch, Jr. E.D. *What Your Second Grader Needs to Know*
- E. Mahy, Margaret. *The Seven Chinese Brothers*
- F. Millikin, Linda. *Chinese Activity Book*
- G. Scher, Linda and Johnson, Mary Oates. *China*
- H. Tao, Wang. *Exploration into China*
- I. Yuan, Juliana Y. *China, Our Global Village*

#### V. LESSONS

##### Lesson One: Geography of China

- A. *Daily Objectives*
  - 1. Concept Objective(s)
    - a. Understand the significance of the relative location of a place.
  - 2. Lesson Content
    - a. Continent of Asia, largest with most populous countries in the world
    - b. Locate China
    - c. Yellow and Yangtze Rivers
  - 3. Skill Objective(s)
    - a. The student will be able to identify and locate the continent of Asia, China, and the Yellow and Yangtze Rivers on a map.
    - b. The student will know how to use and construct maps, globes, and other geographic tools to locate and derive information about people, places, and environments.
- B. *Materials*
  - 1. Post-it note chart paper for Vocabulary Chart
  - 2. Black marker
  - 3. World map or map of Asia
  - 4. Map of China – Appendix A
  - 5. Crayons or colored pencils
  - 6. Lined paper
  - 7. Pencil
  - 8. Appendix H
- C. *Key Vocabulary*
  - 1. Continent – a large land mass
  - 2. Asia – the largest of the seven continents
  - 3. China – a large country in Asia
  - 4. Yellow River – a major river that runs through the plains of Northern China
  - 5. Yangtze River – one of the world’s longest rivers that runs through Southern China
- D. *Procedures/Activities*
  - 1. Introduce the Key Vocabulary. Using post-it note chart paper make two column notes. Have the students copy the vocabulary words and definitions from the chart. Discuss the meaning of each word as it is being presented. See Appendix H for directions on using two column notes and Vocabulary Chart.

2. Using world map or map of Asia, discuss background knowledge (Appendix J) and locate China and the two major rivers (Yellow and Yangtze).
  3. Pass out Appendix A and have the students locate and color China and the rivers (Yellow and Yangtze) on the map using crayons or colored pencils.
- E. *Evaluation/Assessment*
1. The students will be evaluated by classroom participation and their finished worksheet (Appendix A).

**Note: Have children start collecting paper scraps for the papermaking in Lesson Three**

**Lesson Two: The Great Wall (lesson may take more than one day)**

- A. *Daily Objectives*
1. Concept Objective(s)
    - a. Understand that historical events usually have multiple causes and multiple effects, some of which are not recognized until long after the event occurs.
  2. Lesson Content
    - a. The Great Wall of China
  3. Skill Objective(s)
    - a. The student will be able to demonstrate the knowledge of the construction of the Great Wall by building a model of a section of the wall.
    - b. The student will know how to use and construct maps, globes, and other geographic tools to locate and derive information about people, places, and environments.
- B. *Materials*
1. Vocabulary Chart
  2. Black marker
  3. Pictures of the Great Wall
  4. Modeling clay (2 sticks per group minimum)
  5. Small stones (gravel size, i.e. fish tank or plant gravel available at pet stores and nurseries)
  6. One 9 x 12 piece of cardboard per group
  7. Copy of *The Seven Chinese Brothers*
- C. *Key Vocabulary*
1. Emperor – a ruler of a nation
  2. Perimeter – the distance around the outside of something
  3. Defense – protection from danger
  4. Great Wall – the longest structure ever built
- D. *Procedures/Activities*
1. Introduce and add Key Vocabulary to the Vocabulary Chart from Lesson One. Have the children copy new vocabulary to their two column notes.
  2. Introduce the background knowledge (Appendix J) for this lesson in lecture format.
  3. Read the story *The Seven Chinese Brothers* to the class.
  4. Divide class into cooperative groups of four.
  5. Provide each group with a block of modeling clay to represent earth and small pebbles for the stones.
  6. Each group will then use their materials to build a section of the Great Wall.
- E. *Evaluation/Assessment*
1. As an evaluation, have the groups put all of their individual parts of the wall together as one unit. Observe problem solving skills and knowledge of the historical events that resulted in the completed Great Wall.

### **Lesson Three: Chinese Inventions**

#### **A. *Daily Objectives***

1. Concept Objective(s)
  - a. Understand that historical events usually have multiple causes and multiple effects, some of which are not recognized until long after the event occurs.
2. Lesson Content
  - a. Invention of paper
  - b. Importance of silk
3. Skill Objective(s)
  - a. The student will be able to sequence the steps of silk making and illustrate them.
  - b. The students will be able to duplicate the procedures used by the Chinese to make paper.
  - c. The student will know how to use and construct maps, globes, and other geographic tools to locate and derive information about people, places, and environments.

#### **B. *Materials***

1. Vocabulary Chart
2. Black marker
3. Screen
4. Embroidery hoops
5. Paper scraps
6. Drier lint
7. Blender
8. Warm water
9. Plastic tub
10. Towels/absorbent cloth
11. Appendix B
12. Appendix C
13. Crayons or colored pencils
14. Appendix I

#### **C. *Key Vocabulary***

1. Silk – material made from the cocoon of a silk worm
2. Mulberry – a plant that provided food for silk worms
3. Cocoon – the third stage in the development of an insect
4. Silk Worm – the larva stage of a moth
5. Hemp – a fibrous plant that was used by the Chinese to make paper

#### **D. *Procedures/Activities***

1. Introduce and add Key Vocabulary to the Vocabulary Chart from Lessons One and Two. Have the students copy the vocabulary words and definitions onto their two column vocabulary notes.
2. Introduce the background knowledge (Appendix J) in lecture format.
3. Divide the class into two groups.
4. See Appendix B for papermaking activity.
5. See Appendix C for the silk making activity.
6. Have one group start with the paper activity and the other group start with the silk activity. Then, have the two groups switch.

#### **E. *Evaluation/Assessment***

1. The students will be evaluated on the completion of the two activities using a rubric. (Appendix I)

## **Lesson Four: Confucius and Chinese New Year**

### **A. Daily Objectives**

1. Concept Objective(s)
  - a. Understand the complex nature of a given culture: its history, geography, literature, religion, and art.
2. Lesson Content
  - a. Teachings of Confucius
  - b. Chinese New Year
3. Skill Objective(s)
  - a. The student will list some activities that are included in the Chinese New Year festivities.
  - b. The student will identify the major teachings of Confucius.
  - c. The student will know that religious and philosophical ideas have been powerful forces throughout history.

### **B. Materials**

1. Vocabulary Chart
2. Black Marker
3. Crayons, colored pencils, or markers
4. Glue
5. Construction paper
6. Scissors
7. Stapler and staples
8. Crepe paper streamers
9. Pencils

### **C. Key Vocabulary**

1. Confucius – an ancient Chinese philosopher
2. Chinese New Year – one of the main Chinese festivals

### **D. Procedures/Activities**

1. Introduce and add Key Vocabulary to Vocabulary Chart from previous lessons. Have the students copy vocabulary words and definitions onto their two column note vocabulary paper.
2. Present background knowledge (Appendix J) to the class in lecture format.
3. Using Appendix E make a dragon mask. The students will decorate masks with markers, crayons, or colored pencils.
4. Using Appendix D, make a paper lantern. The students will use crayons to decorate.

### **E. Evaluation/Assessment**

1. The students will be evaluated during class discussion and participation in the activities.

## **VI. CULMINATING ACTIVITY**

- A. The students will take a quiz over important facts of this unit. (Appendix G)
- B. The students will participate in a Chinese New Year Festival. This festival will include the following activities:
  1. The students will use Appendix F and red construction paper to make a red envelope for the festival. They will then take the paper that they made in Lesson Three and write a New Year's wish to their families.
  2. The students will then take their masks and lanterns; then the class will parade through the school visiting as many classrooms as possible. (Please arrange for the classroom visits prior to the parade.)
  3. The students will then learn to play rock, paper, scissors, or other Chinese games. (See resource list *China, Our Global Village*)

4. At the end of the festivities you may choose to serve refreshments such as fortune cookies and tea.

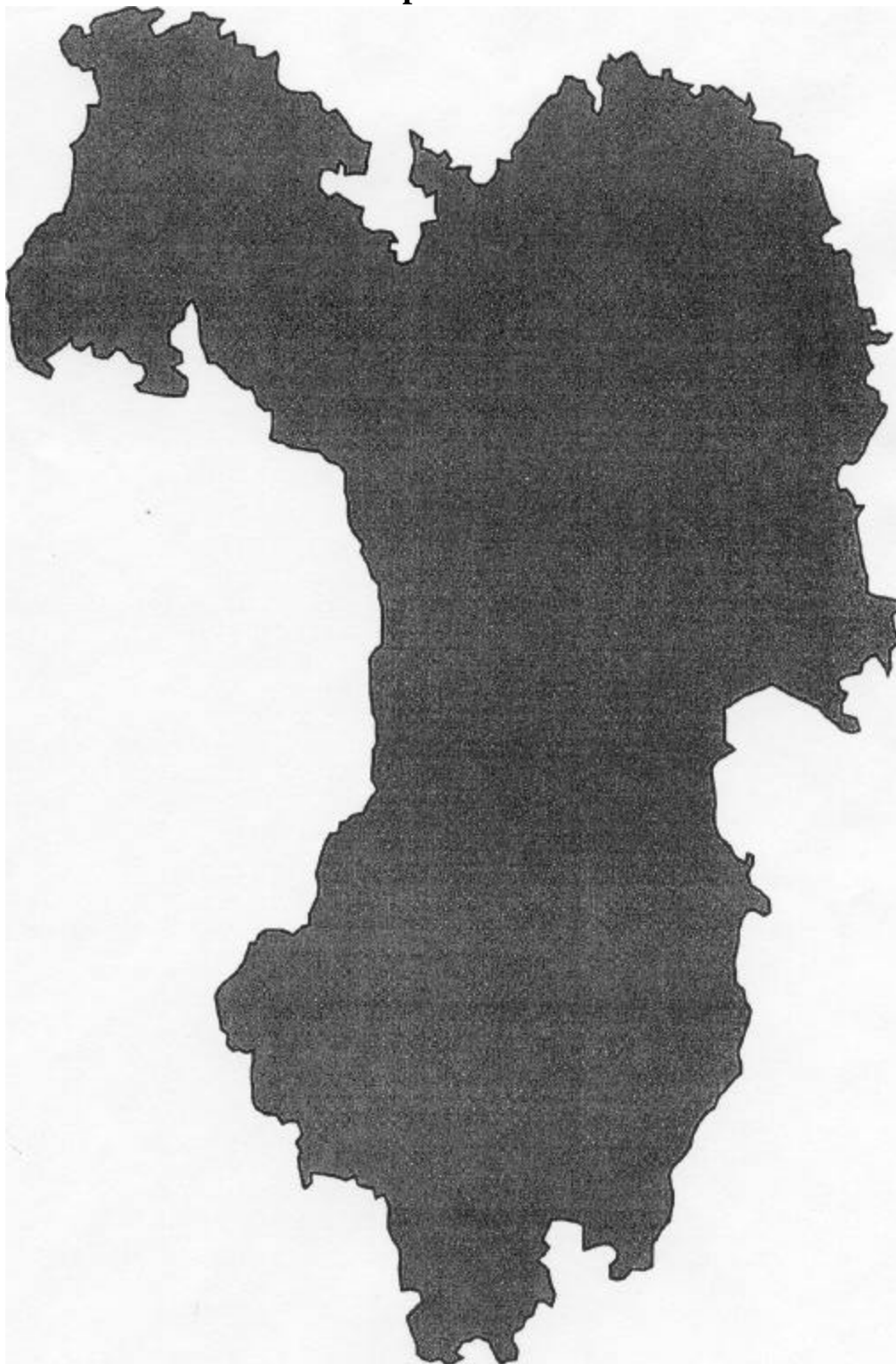
## **VII. HANDOUTS/WORKSHEETS**

- A. Appendix A: Map of China
- B. Appendix B: Directions for Papermaking
- C. Appendix C: Making Silk
- D. Appendix D: Directions for Making Chinese Lanterns
- E. Appendix E: Dragon Masks
- F. Appendix F: Lucky Money Envelopes
- G. Appendix G: Ancient China Test
- H. Appendix H: Example for Vocabulary Charts
- I. Appendix I: Grading Rubric
- J. Appendix J: Background Information for Lessons

## **VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- A. Cotterell, Arthur. *Ancient China*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1994. ISBN 06-786167-x.
- B. Fisher, Leonard Everett. *The Great Wall of China*, Hong Kong: Aladdin Paperbacks, 1995. ISBN 0689801785.
- C. Franco, Betsy. *China*, Monterey California: Evan-Moor Corp., 1993. ISBN 1557992703.
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- H. Tao, Wang. *Exploration into China*, Parsippany, New York: New Discovery, 1994. ISBN 0027180875.
- I. Yuan, Juliana Y. *China Our Global Village*, St Louis, MO: Milliken Publishing, 1992. ISBN 1558632662.

**Appendix A-Confucius Say...China Old  
Map of China**



## Appendix B-Confucius Say...China Old Directions for Papermaking

### Materials:

Screen (like screen used in a door)  
Embroidery hoops (the plastic ones work best)  
Paper scraps (about 1 inch pieces)  
Dryer lint  
Warm water  
Blender  
Towels

### PROCEDURES:

Things to do before making paper:

1. First, take paper scraps and put them in a stockpot. Cover the paper with water and simmer for two or three hours until the paper starts to lose its shape.
2. Drain the water and let the paper cool. Place paper in balls and seal the balls in a baggie. Keep refrigerated until ready to use.
3. Cover the embroidery hoops with screen and hook tightly.

Making paper:

1. Fill a plastic tub about half full with warm water
2. In blender mix 3 cups warm water, 2 tablespoons paper pulp, and a little dryer lint. Mix for approximately one minute.
3. Pour mixture into the tub of water.
4. Place hoops into water mixture and swish back and forth until covered with mixture.
5. Drain as much water as possible.
6. Place hoop on towel and pat gently to remove most of the moisture.
7. Either leave in hoop or gently remove paper from hoop and set in sun to dry. It should be dry in one hour.

Save the dried paper for the Culminating Activity.

**Appendix C-Confucius Say...China Old  
Making Silk**

**Directions: Draw a picture in each box to represent the eight steps below, making sure that the pictures are in the proper order.**

**Step 1**

The leaves are picked from the mulberry trees that have been cultivated

**Step 2**

The silkworms are stored in bamboo trays on shelves and fed as many mulberry leaves as they can eat.

**Step 3**

The silkworm spins a cocoon.

**Step 4**

The cocoon is dropped into boiling water so the silk fiber can be unwound.

**Step 5**

The thread is plucked from the hot water with chopsticks

**Step 6**

The thread is twisted into strands on a spinning machine.

**Step 7**

Silk strands are woven together on a handloom.

**Step 8**

The woven silk is dyed and hung to dry.

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8

**Appendix D-Confucius Say...China Old  
Directions for Making Chinese Lanterns**

Directions:

1. Fold a piece of 12" x 18" construction paper vertically.
2. Cut strips from the folded side stopping 2" from the open edge.
3. Open paper, bend in a circle and then staple.
4. Cut a paper strip and staple as a handle.

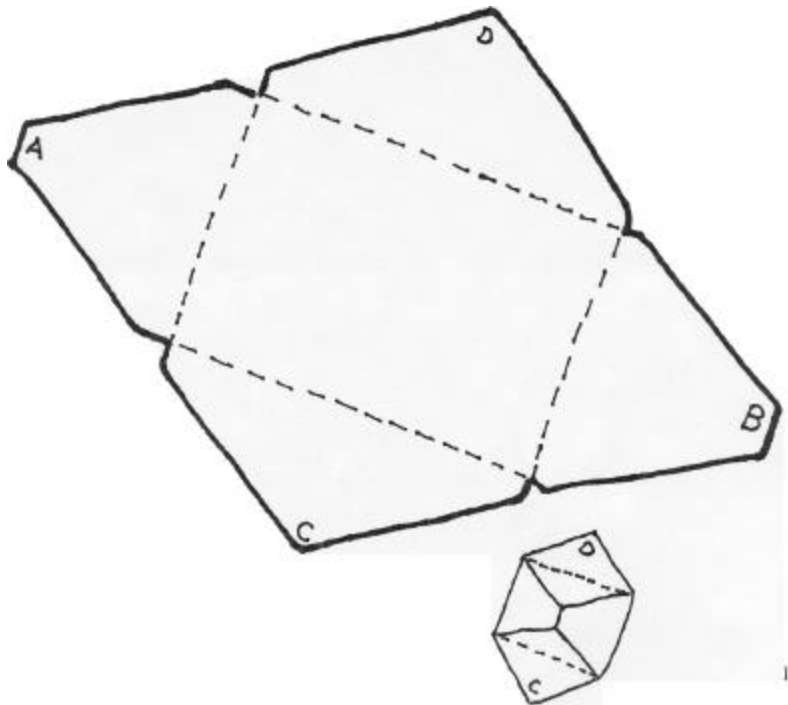
**Appendix E-Confucius Say...China Old  
Dragon Mask**



## Appendix F-Confucius Say...China Old Lucky Money Envelopes

Follow the directions to make your own Lucky Money envelope.

1. **Cut out the envelope pattern.**
2. **Color the envelope red or use red construction paper.**
3. **Fold A, B, and C along the dotted lines.**
4. **Glue A to B. Then glue C to A and B.**
5. **Write “Happy New Year” on the front of the envelope.**
6. **Write a special New Year’s wish on the paper you made and place it in the envelope. Fold the flap and give your envelope to your family.**



**Appendix G-Confucius Say...China Old**

**Ancient China Test**

1. Name one of the major rivers in China.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the longest structure in the world called?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Name two inventions of ancient China.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name two steps in the process of making silk cloth.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

5. On which continent will you find the country of China?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Name three things that are part of Chinese New Year.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

7. List one of Confucius's teachings.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

## **Appendix H-Confucius Say...China Old**

### **Example for Vocabulary Charts**

**The teacher will be modeling this procedure on a piece of chart paper for every lesson. First have the children fold a piece of notebook paper in half lengthwise (hotdog style). Next, write the first word on the left hand side of the fold. Have them write the meaning directly across the page from the word on the right hand side of the page. Continue in this fashion for all of the vocabulary for the unit. See the following example:**

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>1. continent</b>     | <b>a large land mass</b>  |
| <b>2. Asia</b>          | <b>the largest of seven continents</b>                              |
| <b>3. China</b>         | <b>a large country in Asia</b>                                      |
| <b>4. Yellow River</b>  | <b>a major river that runs through the plains of Northern China</b> |
| <b>5. Yangtze River</b> | <b>one of the longest rivers that runs through Southern China</b>   |

## Appendix I-Confucius Say...China Old

### Grading Rubric

#### Papermaking

Demonstrates knowledge of procedures for making paper.	5	4	3	2	1	0
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Final product resembles paper.	5	4	3	2	1	0
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#### Silk-making

Demonstrated understanding of process through pictures.	5	4	3	2	1	0
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Pictures show proper sequence.	5	4	3	2	1	0
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Total: \_\_\_\_\_/20

## **Appendix J-Confucius Say...China Old Background Information for Lessons**

### **Lesson One**

- I. China is located on the continent of Asia. It has very diverse geographical formations within its borders. There are two major deserts, the Gobi and Taklimakan. China also has several high mountain ranges including the Himalayan Mountains. China's location, landforms, rivers, and climate have had an important part in its history and growth. There are three major regions within the country. In the first region, North China, most of the people live in this region and the Yellow River flows through its plain. It is the most fertile area because of loess (a fine dust) that blows from the western deserts. This improves the quality of the northern soil. It is also the richest area for mineral resources, which has caused it to be a major center of industry in modern times. The second region, South China, is a subtropical region with lush green vegetation. This is a result of the flow of water from the Yangtze River, which is one of the world's longest rivers. The third region, Outer China, is a region that is mostly surrounded by high mountains, including the Himalayas. It looks like the Great Basin of the United States.

### **Lesson Two**

- I. The first emperor of China, Shihuangdi, built the Great Wall of China. He reigned from 221 to 210 BC. He ordered all literature to be burned and he had many scholars killed. This was to strengthen his rule. He built lavish palaces. Before his reign the country of China didn't have a central government. He used the people as slave laborers to build the Great Wall and imprisoned anyone who disagreed with him. The wall was built to be a permanent defensive system. The beginning of the wall was built in the northern part, and gradually over the next two centuries the wall was expanded, creating an extensive perimeter. The wall included existing river dikes, newly constructed bulwarks, and utilized impassible mountain terrain. It is really a series of separate walls. The main work on the wall was still going on in 25- 225 AD. It is one of the largest construction projects that has ever been carried out, running with all its branches, about 4,500 miles east to west.

### **Lesson Three**

- I. Paper was invented in China in the second century BC. People started to use plants such as hemp to make thin paper. Before the invention of paper people wrote on pottery, bones, stone, silk, wood, and bamboo. In AD105 an official of the Han court named Cai Lun improved the technology of papermaking. It was eight centuries before papermaking spread to the Arab worlds and then the world. Paper and printing are possibly the most important Chinese invention. The first paper was made from silk rags and later other fibers were used such as wood hemp and mulberry bark. There was a great demand for paper from the Han civil service. It was mass-produced in government factories. As printing was developed in the ninth century, the availability of reading materials was increased. By the end of the Tang Dynasty, there were bookshops trading books in every city. Chinese paper makers used paper molds made of fine bamboo screens set into a wood frame. The mold was dipped into a vat of mushy pulp and shaken gently to settle the fibers onto the screen. The screen was then taken out and pressed to remove the excess water before being left to dry.
- II. According to Chinese legend, silk was discovered about 2700 BC when Emperor Huang-Ti ordered his wife to find out what was damaging his mulberry trees. She found worms eating the leaves and when she dropped a cocoon into hot water a slender thread unwound. Silk became so valuable that revealing the method of silk making to a foreigner was punishable by death. They guarded their methods for about 3,000 years. Silk had many uses. Rich men and women wore long silk robes. Boots and shoes were also made of silk. Important documents were written on silk scrolls. Banners and flags were made from silk. Bolts of silks were valuable commodities for trading.

## Appendix J, continued-Confucius Say...China Old

### Lesson Four

- I. Confucius was born during the Zhou Dynasty. This was a very difficult time for the Chinese people. There was a great deal of warfare and the different states within China were continually fighting. He lived from 551-479 BC. Confucius resigned from his influential government position and became a wandering scholar and teacher. Confucius thought that the early years of the dynasty were golden years of social harmony. He thought that governmental institutions made people greedy and encouraged warfare. His system of ethics demanded strong moral principles. He believed that family relationships should be governed by mutual respect since strong family bonds formed the basis of a stable society. Confucius encouraged ancestor worship because it strengthened family loyalties.
- II. Chinese New Year is one of the most important festivals. It marks the beginning of the New Year on the Chinese lunar calendar and the beginning of spring. The date of the festival varies every year, but it always starts on the first day of the lunar month. It is usually held in late January or early February. Everyone becomes a year older during the festival. They count their age by the number of new years they have seen. In ancient times preparation began weeks in advance and festivities lasted a full month from the new moon to the full moon. Some of the traditions include the following: about 10 days before the New Year, families clean to sweep away the old year, artists paint new poems on red paper and they place them in their homes and shops, and large branches of plum blossoms are bought to decorate the homes. On New Year's Eve families gather together to feast and to welcome in the New Year. Firecrackers are lit to frighten away spirits and to celebrate joy and happiness. New Year's Day is a time for worshipping ancestors and for visiting close friends and relatives. The children eagerly wait to see who will come by and bring them red envelopes full of gifts and money. Lion dances are performed in the streets to bands of gong and drum players with more explosions of firecrackers. Lion dances are processional-like dances in which a person parades underneath a hand crafted lion or dragonhead and other people follow behind with its body made of streamers.