Have You Had Your Rice, Today?

a book about China

by

Ms. G’s Second grade students
(Mrs. Glattfelder)

Stony Point School
May 2005
We dedicate this book to

Ms. G.
because she taught us all about China,

Mary Lou
because she taught us about the painting and wax and for typing our words, and

Stony Point School
for the good education they gave us.
The Process

In Virginia, the Standards of Learning require that second graders study China.

Ms. G told us that we would be doing a unit on China. We began by researching class reference books, library books and information on the internet. Ms. G gave us papers about China. We read them and underlined sentences. Every time we came to a period or comma, we drew the line up. We talked about coding. We made connections to ourselves (T-S), connections to other text (T-T), connections to the world (T-W), and connections to math (T-M). We wrote question marks when we wondered about something. We also made connections to other ancient civilizations that we had studied. We found a lot of similarities between China and Egypt and Native America. We wrote our names in calligraphy. We made a venn diagram about the American flag and the Chinese flag. We studied numbers and Chinese inventions. The Chinese invented the yo-yo, fireworks, paper and printing, the abacus, wheelbarrows and silk.

Silk comes from silk worms. Ms. G got some silk worms for our classroom. The worms got fat very quickly. They made cocoons in cardboard tubes. In China, they take the cocoon (silk) with the worm in it and put it in boiling hot water. They take the silk out, dye it and make it into shirts and rugs. Silk worms turn into silk moths if they’re not in China.

When we saw silk paintings, we thought it would be fun to try painting on silk. Everyone wanted a dragon so it was really hard. We looked at books and sometimes used post-it notes. We made a brainstorm list of possible topics. Everyone tried to choose something different. Gus found a book about a jade elephant and wanted to do that. We worked on our drawings. The final sketch was done in a circle the same size as the silk painting hoop. The next step was to draw the design on the silk. We used pencil for that. Wax resist was applied next. We just went over the pencil lines. We used real Chinese calligraphy brushes to paint on the fabric ink. The wax held the ink in and while it was still wet, we sprinkled salt on. The salt made really cool deigns. The silk paintings were hung in the windows. You’ll see them in the main office window, the library and the glass door to the Oriental garden. Visitors to our school said, “Did the 5th graders make those?”

We wrote about our silk paintings. We had already done research and lots of reading. Some of us used ideas from books but we didn’t copy the words. We thought about it and used our own words.
## Coding

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silk worms

silk worm

silk worm cocoons
The white tigers are never far from water. They eat wild boar, buffalo, fish and monkeys. The male tiger is the largest and most powerful tiger in the world. They live in the forest and are good swimmers.
Kites were first made of silk and bamboo and they were made in China. The Chinese invented kites more than 3,000 years ago. People in China still love to fly kites.
Rice

by Amber

People in China grew rice about 7,000 years ago. Rice is important to the Chinese people. They use chopsticks to eat their rice. Rice is grown in southern China.
The Dragon King

by Andrew

The Dragon King was the ruler of China. He was a great warrior. The bow and arrow is the Dragon King’s weapon. All the warriors have bows and arrows also.
The Serpent and The Tiger
by Ashley

The serpent and the tiger means heaven and earth or yin and yang. The male serpent has a pearl under his chin. The serpent and the tiger kept fighting cause the serpent wanted to be the king of the animals but the tiger also wanted to. The king made the serpent King of the Water and the tiger was King of the Earth. So what would you like to be king or queen of? I would want to be Queen of the Earth.
The Chinese flag was made in China. It is red and yellow. The Chinese flag has 5 yellow stars on it. The red stands for communism. The yellow stars stand for the yellow race of the Chinese people. Each star stands for the five different parts of China.
By Blake

China has the Himalayan Mountains. Mt. Everest is in the Himalayans. Mt. Everest is the biggest mountain but scientists found a mountain that might be a bit bigger. China has many types of geography. It has mountains, hills, rivers, desert, forest, Pacific coast land and a great variety of plant life.
This pear blossom is from China. They grow on trees. The flower is very pretty and looks like a dog wood. China is a very big country. It has the most people in one country in the world.
Chinese Leopard Gecko
by Devon

These geckos reach 7-10 inches in length. They have orange eyes. They eat crickets and roaches, and sometimes waxworms and mealworms. They hunt at night. They like cool temperatures and like Cypress mulch mixed with orchard bark.
Silk

by Devon

The Chinese have been making silk for 3,000 years. Silk is a smooth fabric. Silkworms make silk. Silkworm cocoons are made of silk. Silkworms eat mulberry leaves.
People in China have been making beautiful pots for a long time. One of the greatest pots was called porcelain. Nobody out of China knows how to make it. I wish that I could have one in my house.
Chinese Carp
by Ethan

In the Yellow River, carp can jump over the rapids. Carp paintings, in China, are popular because they are a symbol of getting ahead. Chinese believed that when carp are 100 years old, they can turn into dragons.
The flute was made in China. The oldest flute in China is 9,000 years old. It was made from a hollow bone of a bird. The Red Crowned Crane. It is one of the six flutes and 30 fragments archaeologists discovered. They are the oldest playable musical instruments.
Jade is a kind of stone. Jade is usually green. The elephant represents power and energy. It is the symbol for power. Elephants helped build the Great Wall of China.
In China, people had been growing and eating rice for 7,000 years. Rice is important to Chinese cooks. Most people in China were farmers. Rice was one of the main crops.
Water wells were important to the Chinese people. They used a bucket to get the water out of the well. There are 3 rivers in China. They are the Yellow River, Yangtze River and the Pearl River. There are hills in China. The capital is Beijing. The mountains in China are the Himalayan Mountains.
Chinese Clock
by Kara

This is a Chinese clock. 9 and 8 look like a cursive “r”. 10 looks like a “t”. My favorite number is 5. It was hard. I also like 4 and 8 and 9 and 5 and 6.
The yin and yang is very important to Chinese people. They believe it keeps a balance in nature. People are taught to be very careful not to disturb nature.
Calligraphy is the art of writing with a brush and ink. Each symbol stands for an object or an idea. Children in China learn calligraphy at around age six. This is the symbol for fire.
Pandas
by Kelley

Pandas can get 3 to 4 feet tall. That’s very big! Their weight is 250 pounds. That would be very, very heavy. They eat bamboo all day and leaves. They are not the same kind of bear as the brown bear! They have an extra finger on their hand that is a thumb!
Dragons do not exist. They would blow fire probably. And they would probably be able to fly. It is a sacred animal.
Porcelain Vases
by Kiarra

Thousands of years ago the Chinese loved flowers. They put flowers together in pretty porcelain vases. The flowers were very important and were used in temples and religious ceremonies.
The Chinese 5 cent piece is called jiao. The written language is called calligraphy. There is calligraphy on the coin. On the New Year, some kids would get a red envelope with money in it.
The gourd flute was made in China. Bi is the general name for wind instruments. Dai People called it a bilangdao. Dao means the material is gourd. I bet it doesn’t sound like our flute but it might sound pretty.
Dragons
by Mecalia

Dragons usually have horns, scales and sharp teeth. Dragons usually live in caves or mountains. They are important to the ancient Chinese and modern Chinese because they are sacred.
The Northern Chinese people live in the desert in yurts. The yurt can be easily put up and down. The girls stay home and cook while the men take care of their flocks of goats, sheep, cattle and yaks. They take down the yurt and follow the animals to green grass. In northern China, they still play chess, just like us.
In China, the crane means peace and long life. A legend says that if you make 1,000 paper cranes, your wishes will come true. In China, a lot of people are trying to save cranes. Cranes like to live near water, like the Yangtze or Xi Jiang Rivers.
Did you know that the Great Wall of China was built to keep nomadic invaders out? Parts of the Great Wall that are left, stretch for more than 2,100 miles.
Chairman Mao Tse-Tung

by Peyton

He was the ruler and commander of the military. He was a chairman. He lived to be about 85 years old. He was a good leader because he led China for 25 years. He was born in 1893 and died in 1976. The people of China loved him.
Pandas live in the Himalayan Mountains. Pandas like bamboo. They need shelter when a baby is born. It is as small as a mouse. When it is six weeks old, it can open his eyes. When the baby panda is three months old, it can walk. Pandas grow to 3 or 4 feet tall at the shoulders.
Temples are big, really quiet and gorgeous. They might be in the desert or in the forest or in the mountains. Most of the ancient Chinese spent time at the temples to worship the spirits of their parents, grandparents and great grandparents.
They flew kites in a grass field next to a temple. The Han army used them to frighten away enemies. They were made out of silk but when paper was invented, they made some out of paper.
The dragons in China mean strength and good luck. Dragons do not exist. The dragon has been important in China for thousands of years. They paint pictures of dragons on many things like kites, bowls and pots.