

- [www.ga.k12.pa.us/academics/ls/5th/chinfolk/stinde00.htm](http://www.ga.k12.pa.us/academics/ls/5th/chinfolk/stinde00.htm)  
Germantown Academy, an independent school located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania has supplied twenty original stories authored by fifth graders and written in the style of a Chinese folktale.
- [www.mathforum.org/trscavo/tangrams/construct.html](http://www.mathforum.org/trscavo/tangrams/construct.html)  
This Web site from The Math Forum of Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania contains step-by-step instructions on how to create your own tangrams.
- [www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/mammals/panda](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/mammals/panda)  
Enchanted Learning has created a Web site full of information about pandas. This site contains printable panda word searches and printable coloring pages.
- [www.sandiegozoo.org/special/pandas/pandacam/](http://www.sandiegozoo.org/special/pandas/pandacam/)  
The world renowned San Diego Zoo has a panda cam! Visitors to this site can see live footage of the pandas in the San Diego Zoo.

### Suggested Print Resources

- Heinrichs, Ann. *China*. Scholastic Library Publishing, New York, NY; 1997.
- Mosel, Arlene and Blaire Lent. *Tikki Tikki Tembo*. Henry Holt & Company, New York, NY; 1989.
- Yep, Lawrence and David Wiesner. *The Rainbow People*. HarperCollins Children's Books, New York, NY; 1992.

#### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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#### Families Around The World Video Series

includes these 24 programs:

- MY FAMILY FROM BRAZIL
- MY FAMILY FROM GREENLAND
- MY FAMILY FROM ICELAND
- MY FAMILY FROM CHILE
- MY FAMILY FROM INDIA
- MY FAMILY FROM ISRAEL
- MY FAMILY FROM CHINA
- MY FAMILY FROM ITALY
- MY FAMILY FROM COSTA RICA
- MY FAMILY FROM JAPAN
- MY FAMILY FROM CUBA
- MY FAMILY FROM JORDAN
- MY FAMILY FROM ENGLAND
- MY FAMILY FROM LAPLAND
- MY FAMILY FROM FRANCE
- MY FAMILY FROM LOS ANGELES
- MY FAMILY FROM NEW YORK CITY
- MY FAMILY FROM SERBIA-MONTENEGRO
- MY FAMILY FROM SOUTH AFRICA
- MY FAMILY FROM SOUTH KOREA
- MY FAMILY FROM VIETNAM
- MY INUIT FAMILY FROM CANADA
- MY XHOSA FAMILY FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Teacher's Guides Included  
and Available Online at:

800-843-3620



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## My Family from China

Grades K–4

From Asia to Africa, city to suburb, or rural farm to tropical rain forest, the presence of the family is common to all people and present in every culture throughout the world. Studying families from different places helps us to learn and appreciate both the similarities and differences between ourselves and others. Also, through exposure to cultures that are unfamiliar to them, children can learn to be accepting of people, lifestyles and traditions that may be very different from their own. The family — that special group of adults and children who care for, love, protect, and help each other — is both explored and celebrated in *Families Around the World*.



## Program Summary

In *My Family from China*, students will meet 14-year-old Yao Yao and his cousins, parents and grandparents. Yao Yao visits a zoo with his young cousin to see the world's largest living panda. He competes in a badminton match and plays video games, and like many other children his age, he gets very distracted while trying to complete his nightly homework! Students will have an opportunity to see traditional Chinese foods and eating customs, hear Chinese folk songs and view a landscape dotted with pagodas. And during a traditional Sunday outing, they will accompany Yao Yao and his extended family on a leisurely cruise along the River Li.

## Geographical Information

The People's Republic of China, or China as it is more commonly called, is located on the continent of Asia. It has an area of roughly 9.6 million square kilometers and is predominantly mountainous. China's three principal mountain ranges are the Tien Shan, the Kunlun chain, and the Trans-Himalaya. The Gobi Desert lies in the northern part of the country. China's three great river systems are the Yellow River, the Yangtze River and the Pearl River. The country's largest city is Shanghai and its capital is Beijing. China is home to approximately 1.3 billion people. Although there are many different dialects of the Chinese language, the majority of the people speak Han.

The city of Guilin, where Yao Yao and his family live, is located in southern China and lies on the banks of the River Li. This primarily agricultural town of 400,000 inhabitants is named after the Cassia trees whose fragrant blooms waft through the town in autumn. The landscape of Guilin is considered to be one of the most beautiful sites in China and it attracts many tourists because of its uniqueness. The ancient limestone peaks, Elephant Trunk Mountain, Old Man Mountain, Pagoda Mountain and Hole Mountain have been a source of fascination for residents and visitors to Guilin for generations.

## Pre-viewing Discussion

Using a web, brainstorm with your students to determine who they consider to be members of their family. Share with your students that families come in all shapes and sizes and that a family is a group of adults and children who care for, love, protect and help each other. Use the following questions to help students access their thoughts and ideas about families.

- Who do you care for, love and help?
- Who cares for, loves and helps you?
- Does a family member have to be a person who lives with you?

After this discussion, ask students to draw a family portrait which includes all the people who they consider to be members of their family.

## Follow-up Discussion

After viewing the program with your class, discuss the similarities and differences between their families and Yao Yao's. Refer students back to the original definition of a family: *A group of adults and children who care for, love, protect, and help each other.* Ask them to provide examples from the video that demonstrate how this particular family expresses love, shows care and provides help for each other.

## Follow-up Activities

- Write a thank you letter to a family member which acknowledges and thanks him or her for the love, care and support he or she gives you.
- Using a Venn diagram, ask students to compare and contrast Yao Yao's family and social life with their own.
- Take a trip to a local Chinese restaurant to learn about different Chinese foods and how to eat with chopsticks.
- Prepare a presentation on pandas, focusing on the fragility of the panda and the steps conservationists have taken to protect them.
- Do an investigation on the unique geological features (the limestone peaks) which line the River Li. Create a map to scale of the river, including drawings of the more famous peaks and present it to the class.
- Research the history of the Tangram, an ancient Chinese moving puzzle. Make your own tangrams using paper, scissors and a ruler. Useful resources: *Grandfather Tang's Story* (Bantam Doubleday Dell Books for Young Readers, 1997) by Ann Tompert and Robert A. Parker; *The Warlord's Puzzle* (Pelican Publishing Company, 2000) by Virginia Walton Pilegard and Nicolas Debon.
- Research the history of pagodas. Create a model or drawing of a pagoda.
- Share the folktale *The Five Chinese Brothers* (The Putnam Publishing Group, reissue 1989) by Claire Huchet Bishop and Kurt Wiese which tells the story of five identical Chinese brothers who help each other out of a jam. Have your students illustrate their favorite parts or ask them to extend the selection by creating a sixth Chinese brother who has a special talent.
- Find out how the Chinese celebrate the New Year by researching the Chinese calendar, traditional foods and decorations and by learning about the year you were born.
- Conduct a study which answers the essential question: How do the lives of children differ in China depending on what region they live in? Divide your class into small cooperative groups assigning each group a different Chinese region. Based on what the students learn about their assigned region, they can draw conclusions regarding how the lives of the children differ from region to region.

## Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our Web site at [www.LibraryVideo.com](http://www.LibraryVideo.com)

- [www.noblenet.org/year/chinese.htm](http://www.noblenet.org/year/chinese.htm)  
NOBLE: North of Boston Library Exchange has created a Chinese New Year Web site which contains information regarding the history of the Chinese calendar and New Year, along with information about traditional customs, foods and decorations, and arts and crafts activities.
- [www.newton.mec.edu/Angier/DimSum/Chinese%20Folktales.html](http://www.newton.mec.edu/Angier/DimSum/Chinese%20Folktales.html)  
This Web site created by the Newton Public Schools in Maine supplies six printable Chinese folk and fairy tales along with suggested classroom activities.

*(Continued)*