

Teacher's Guide for Calliope: *China's Forbidden City*

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Teacher's Guide prepared by Gail Skroback Hennessey

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Before reading the issue:

- Use a map of the world and locate the country of China.
- Brainstorm prior knowledge the students might have a China.
- Helpful resource:
- This site has lots of information on the Forbidden City
http://www.kinabaloo.com/forbidden_city.html

Intro:

- With over 9999 rooms, the Forbidden City took 14 years to build and was the home to 24 Emperors of China. It was penalty of death for all but a chosen few to enter until 1949 when, after 500 years, it was opened to the public. The huge bronze cauldrons were once filled with water in case there was a fire. Explain that the issue will cover the emperor families of ancient China and their homes, the Forbidden City and the Summer Palace.
- Discuss the saying of Lao Tzu: "A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step"
- Use a map of China and go over geographical questions such as the following: <http://www.factmonster.com/atlas/country/china.html> (political map)
 - A. What three large bodies of water touch China? (Yellow Sea, East China Sea, South China Sea)
 - B. Fourteen countries border China. Name them: Mongolia, Russia, North Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, India, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan
 - C. What is the main river of China? (Yangtze)
 - D. What is the desert to the northwest? (Gobi)
 - E. What mountain range is found in the southwestern section of China? (Himalayan)

F. What is the name for the northernmost river? (Yellow or Hwang Ho)

G. Where are the most fertile areas of China? (coast and southeast)

Forbidden City p. 2-9

- After reading the story, *The Forbidden City* on pages 2- 9, have small groups review the reading and develop 7 comprehension questions to give to another group to answer .

- Write a diary pretending to be a royal family member that lived in the Forbidden City. How did you like living there? What were your favorite sights to see inside the city? How did you feel when you saw other people looking at the city from the outside, etc. Include 4 facts learned from the reading.

- After reading the article, have groups of students make six true or false statements to exchange with another group. If the answer is false, provide the correct answer .

True or False: (If the answer is false, provide the correct answer:

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.
- E.
- F.

Regroup as a class and discuss the activities.

- Go to this site for a great virtual tour of the Forbidden City:

http://www.thebeijingguide.com/forbidden_city/forbidden_city_virtual_tour.html Another

site for a great virtual tour of the Forbidden City:

<http://www.chinavista.com/beijing/gugong/map.html>

Beijing's Beginnings p. 10- 13

- Have groups of students make 7 time events from the story and place each event on a strip of paper . Give their 7 strips to another group to place in proper sequence.

When Color and Direction Matter p. 14-15

- Before reading ask the students to name six colors. Ask the students to write the colors on a piece of paper and write the first thing that each color brings to mind. For example: white= purity or snow. Explain that in history, colors have had specific meaning. Perhaps, students will remember that the color purple was a sign of royalty and wealth.

- Explain that the reading discusses important colors for the Chinese and their meaning. After reading, discuss the significance of red, yellow, black and green to the ancient Chinese.

Life in the Forbidden City p. 16- 18

- Have students make a cluster map with 5 facts learned about Hongli's life in the Forbidden City.

- Have students review the reading for possible vocabulary words to define and create sentences. Possible vocabulary words may include: *artisans, exquisite, eunuchs, imperial, siblings, consorts, and villas.*

The Emperor’s Day p. 20- 21, The Emperor’s Bedroom p. 32-33, Imperial Shenyang p. 35-37, The Royal Wardrobe p. 28-31 and Summer Palaces p. 38-39

- Have small groups of students read one of the selections. Have them take notes of at least 7 facts to share with the rest of the class about their reading.
- Have students draw a picture of the Forbidden City, Imperial wardrobe and write four facts learned on the drawing paper.

The ‘Long March’ p. 40-42

- After reading the article, discuss cause and effect and do the following:

Cause and Effect: Which event is the cause and which is the effect?

- A. Puyi sold many treasures. Living in the Forbidden City.
- B. Many treasures were removed from the Palace Museum by train to Nanjing. War with Japan.
- C. Treasures were divided. Protecting treasures from Japan
- D. Curators at the museum in Nanjing use flashlights and poison. Insect infestation in the museum.
- E. Calligraphy was a favorite of the emperors. Special emissaries traveled the country collecting treasures.
- F. Treasures come to Beijing. Mongols come to power in 1279.

Have students review The Emperor’s Day p. 20- 21, The Emperor’s Bedroom p. 32-33, Imperial Shenyang p. 35-37, The Royal Wardrobe p. 28-31 and Summer Palaces p. 38-39 and make a listing of cause and effect events:

Cause	Effect
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- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Faces of Power p. 24- 27

- Have students skim the reading for possible vocabulary which need defining such as: *transformation, rigidly, monumental, naturalistic, sacrificial, medallions, attire, demeanor, cascading, sumptuously, and dynasty*. Have students make additional sentences for these vocabulary words.
- After reading, draw a picture of Zhu Di. Write four facts learned from the reading.

End of an Era p. 48- 49

- Pretend to be Puyi, the last emperor of China and tell how you felt as a child living in the Forbidden City and then as an adult when you lost your throne and visited as a ordinary citizen.

Trivia Hunt:

1. Name for a Chinese breed dog. (Shih Tzu). What does the term mean?(lion dog)
2. What fruit from China translates to mean "gold orange?(kumquat)
3. What is the name for the Chinese writing system which uses the Latin alphabet?(pinyin)
4. How do you say hello in Mandarin Chinese?(ni hao)
5. In which desert is the Dead Sea found?(Judean)
6. Which color can still be found on the Sphinx?(red) What two colors were once found on its headdress?(yellow and blue)
7. Soldiers from which country destroyed much of the Summer Palace in the 1800s?(French and British)
8. What was the symbol of the emperor?(five clawed dragons)
9. What was a palanquin?(transportation vehicle of the emperor , a litter)
10. What were bobos?(sweet cakes) What two liquid ingredients were used?(tea, milk)
11. Fabric of the emperors.(silk)
12. Which number represented infinity and symbolized heaven?(nine)

Post reading activity:

- Go to this site:
<http://www.timeforkids.com/TFK/teachers/aw/wr/main/0,28132,536982,00.html> to learn some words in Chinese and learn more about the country of China.