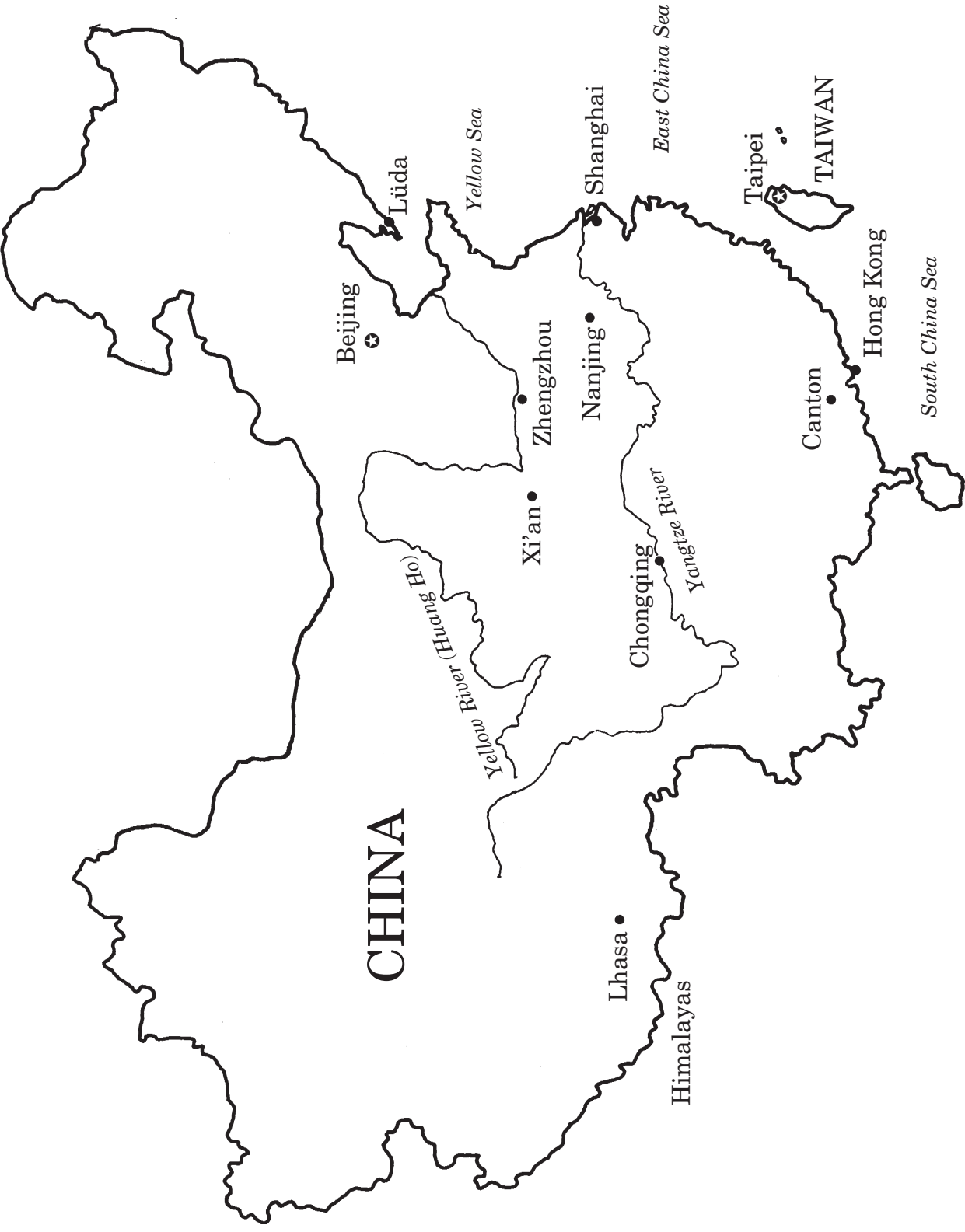


# Table of Contents

|                                  |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| China .....                      | 1  |
| A History of China .....         | 3  |
| Language .....                   | 5  |
| Daily Life .....                 | 7  |
| Foods .....                      | 9  |
| Creative Arts .....              | 12 |
| Festivals and Celebrations ..... | 16 |
| Toys and Games.....              | 21 |
| Additional Resources .....       | 23 |



CHINA

Beijing

Lüda

Yellow River (Huang Ho)

Xi'an

Zhengzhou

Nanjing

Chongqing

Yangtze River

Lhasa

Himalayas

Shanghai

East China Sea

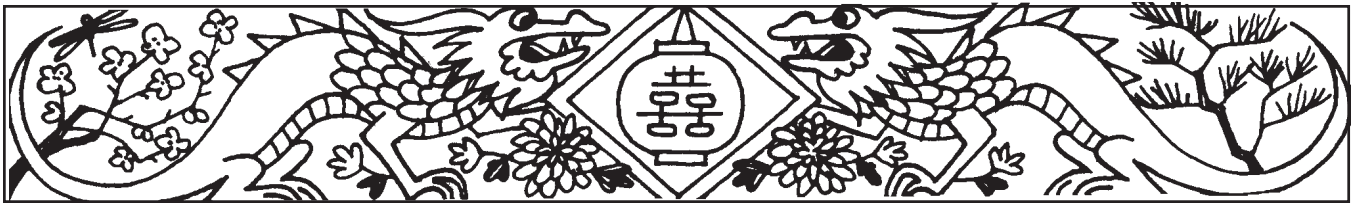
Taipei

Canton

TAIWAN

Hong Kong

South China Sea



# China

The western world has always been fascinated by China. China is not only the most populous country in the world, but it also has the longest continuous history of any culture in the world. It is through its long, rich, and carefully recorded history that we are able to cultivate an understanding of the country of China and its people.

**Name**—Zhong Guo 中国, the “middle kingdom”

**Population**—The population of China is over 1 billion. 94% of the population is known as HAN (ethnic Chinese), but there are also 55 “national minorities” recognized.

**Area**—The total area of China is 3,696,032 square miles (9,572,723 square kilometers). There are 21 provinces and 5 autonomous regions.

**Major Rivers**—The two major rivers in China are the Yellow River (Huang Ho) and the Yangtze River.

**Climate**—China’s climate is primarily temperate, but it varies from bitterly cold in the north to tropical in the south.

**Most Populous Cities**—China’s two most populous cities are Beijing, the capital of China, and Shanghai.

**Language**—Mandarin is the official dialect of the country, although there are many dialects which vary from region to region.

## Physical Features

The land mass of China ranges from the Himalayan Highlands to the Pacific Ocean. It is subject to a variety of climates; from desert in the west to coastal in the east, from subpolar in the north to subtropical in the south. Rainfall is sparse in the far west, low to moderate in the northeast, and heavy in the south.

A number of major river systems cut through the land mass, carrying the water and silt necessary for agriculture. However, due to an uneven rainfall distribution, the rivers have

also presented age-old problems in China such as the need to facilitate irrigation in the north and prevent floods in the south.

China is slightly larger in size than the United States. The two countries are located almost equally within the north–south range along the equator, but China has more land areas that are unproductive and uninhabitable, and its climate varies at greater extremes than the climate in the United States. Cultivated land area in China is about 70% of that in the United States.

## In Your Classroom

Bring a globe or a world map to the classroom and have the children locate China. Then have them locate the United States, and compare the two countries in terms of size.

Identify the equator and compare the two countries in terms of their locations along the equator. Locate the two major rivers in China and the Himalayan Mountain Range—the tallest mountain range in the world.

