

Chinese History and Geography (中国历史和地理)

Teacher: Jianren Li (李建仁) (Ph.D in Geology, MS in Geography, MS in Computer Science, currently working as a senior software engineer in RBS), keenly interested in geography and history of China and the world, extensively traveled in China (including Xinjiang, Qinghai, Inner Mongolia, and the Northeast), the US, and other countries as a geologist and tourist.

Class Summary: The class will present an overall picture of China on geography and history, covering major geographical areas, cities, mountain ranges and rivers, also covering major Chinese dynasties, and events. Students will be given an opportunity to present their personal experience on China.

中国历史介绍中华文明的起源, 封建社会各朝代的更替, 以及重要的历史事件。
中国地理介绍中国的地理概况, 主要的山川河流, 各大省市及旅游胜地。

There will be a total of 30 lessons.

1. Class introduction (Sept. 13, 2009)
2. Introduction to Chinese Geography (Sept. 20, 2009)
3. Introduction to Chinese History (Sept. 27, 2009)
4. Early Chinese history (Xia, Shang, Zhou) (Oct. 04, 2009)
5. Confucius (孔子) (Oct. 18, 2009)
6. Qin and Terracotta (Oct. 25, 2009)
7. Han and 司马迁与<<史记>> (Nov. 01, 2009)
8. Three kingdoms (三国鼎立) (Nov. 08, 2009)
9. Student presentation (Nov. 15, 2009)
10. Student presentation (Nov. 22, 2009)
11. Student presentation (Dec. 06, 2009)
12. Tang, 唐太宗, 大诗人李白, 杜甫, 白居易 (Dec. 13, 2009)
13. Yuan, Genghis Khan (成吉思汗) and Kublai Khan (忽必烈) (Dec. 20, 2009)
14. Ming, Zhu Yuanzhang (Jan. 10, 2010)
15. Qing, 康乾盛世, Opium War (鸦片战争) and First Sino-Japan war (中日甲午战争) (Jan. 24, 2010)
16. Guomindang Rule (国民党), Japanese Invasion and Nanking Massacre (Jan. 31, 2010)
17. Modern China (Cultural Revolution and Open-up) (Feb. 07, 2010)
18. Capital: Beijing (Forbidden city and Great Wall of China) (Feb. 21, 2010)
19. Mineral and Rocks (Feb. 28, 2010)
20. Mongolia, Tibet and Qinghai, Qinghai Lake, Mount Everest (Mar. 07, 2010)
21. Yangzi and Yellow River (Mar. 14, 2010)
22. Northeast (Manchuria) (Mar. 28, 2010)
23. Northwest and Xinjiang, Gobi and Desert (Apr. 11, 2010)

24. Yangzi Delta and Shanghai, Nanjing, and Hangzhou (Apr. 18, 2010)
25. Central China, Xian, Wuhan and Zhengzhou (Apr. 25, 2010)
26. South China , Guangzhou and Hongkong (May 02, 2010)
27. Southwest China (Kunming and Guilin), Li River and Karst Forest (May 16, 2010)
28. Yellow Mountain and Tai Shan Mountain (May 23, 2010)
29. Jiu Zhai Gou (九寨沟) (Jun. 06, 2010)
30. Taiwan and Hainan (Jun. 13, 2010)

Student Project:

Based on student's personal experience in China, students are required to prepare a presentation of their favorite subjects (a tourist site, parents' hometown, food, a story). Every student will be given a 10 minutes for his/her presentation (post board or MS PowerPoint). If a student has never been in China or is not of Chinese ancestry, he/she could pick up any subject about geography and history. The presentation will start at week of Nov. 15, 2009 (9th week), and will last for 3 weeks, and students will be notified of his/her specific presentation date. Parents are encouraged to provide necessary helps to students.

Reference Books:

1. 中国地理常识, 中国历史常识, 中国文化常识
2. China: A New History by John King Fairbank (费正清) and Merle Goldman, 2nd Edition
3. 上下五千年, 王辉