

## **Continents and Cultures: Eastern Asia**

### **Continent Box Contents:**

- **spine book**
- **puzzle map of Asia**
- **outline map of Asia**
- **Montessori for Everyone Asia downloads**
- **animals of Asia figures ([Wild Republic Asian Animals Tube](#))**
- **fabric squares**
- **spices**
- **coins**
- **craft from that continent**

### **Focus on China: (2 Weeks)**

Spine:

DK Eyewitness China

D is for Dancing Dragon: A Chinese Alphabet

Folk Tales:

Five Chinese Brothers

Tikki-Tikki Tembo

Lon Po-Po

Liang and the Magic Paintbrush

The Real Story of Stone Soup

Cultural Stories:

Good Morning China

The Legend of the Kite: A Story of China

The Dancing Dragon

Ruby's Wish

The Empty Pot

The Story About Ping

Yeh-Shen

Daisy Comes Home

History:

Made in China: Ideas and Inventions from Ancient China

Stories of the Silk Road

The Adventures of Marco Polo

Marco Polo (Demi)

Marco Polo for Kids

### **Focus on Japan: (2 Weeks)**

Spine:

A to Zen: A Book of Japanese Culture

I Live in Tokyo

Folk Tales:

Under the Cherry Blossom Tree: An Old Japanese Tale

The Crane Wife

Three Samurai Cats: A Story from Japan

Issunboshi

Cultural Stories:

Wabi Sabi  
One Leaf Rides the Wind  
Grass Sandals: The Travels of Basho  
Cool Melons-Turn to Frogs  
Kamishibai Man  
Hachiko: The True Story of a Loyal Dog  
Hokusai: The Man Who Painted a Mountain

**Focus on Korea, Vietnam: (2 Weeks)**

Spine:

The Land of Morning Calm: Korean Culture Then and Now  
A Look At Vietnam  
Dk Eyewitness Vietnam War

Folk Tales:

The Legend of Hong Kil Dong: The Robin Hood of Korea  
The Green Frog: A Koren Folk Tale  
The Korean Cinderella  
How the Tiger Got His Stripes: A Folktale from Vietnam  
Toad is the Uncle of Heaven: A Vietnamese Folktale

Cultural Stories:

The Fire-Keeper's Son  
The Kite Fighters  
Sori's Harvest Moon Day: A Story of Korea  
Water Buffalo Days: Growing Up in Vietnam  
The Land I Lost  
Ten Mice for Tet  
Grandfather's Dream

**Focus Cambodia, Thailand: (2 Weeks)**

Spine:

Thailand (Countries of the World)  
Cambodia (Countries of the World)

Folk Tales:

A Tale of Two Rice Birds: A Folk Tale from Thailand  
The Girl Who Wore Too Much  
The Man Who Caught Fish  
Angkat: The Cambodian Cinderella  
Brother Rabbit: A Cambodian Tale

Cultural Stories:

An Elephant in the Backyard  
Hush! A Thai Lullaby  
Peek! A Thai Hide-and-Seek  
The Umbrella Queen  
Little Sap and Monsieur Rodin  
Silent Lotus  
Running Shoes

**Chapter books for Older Readers and Read Alouds:**

The Big Wave (Pearl Buck)  
Homesick (Jean Fritz)  
Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes  
The Samurai's Tale

**Science Reads:**

Animals Marco Polo Saw  
Animals of Asia Series

- Camels
- Elephants
- Tigers
- Orangutans
- Komodo Dragons

**Mary Around the World Lesson Book Pages:**

- Our Lady of La Vang (Vietnam)
- Our Lady of Akita (Japan)
- Our Lady of China (China)

**Missionary Lesson Book Pages:**

Map Work:

- Mark the places visited by St. Francis Xavier
- Mark the home of St. Paul Miki
- Mark the home St. Andrew Kim
- Mark the place of St. Andrew Dung Lac's martyrdom

Lives of the saints to read and narrate:

- St. Francis and the Seven Seas (Vision Book)

Encourage students to find a priest of Asian heritage in your area to interview. They should seek to find out about his family and culture, the Catholic faith in his culture, and how that influenced his vocation.

Many missionaries to Asia have become saints by being martyred for their faith. Have students create a page for their books by copying the definition of martyrdom from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (2473) onto a page and drawing or pasting images of these saints around it. Have the students remember the liturgical color that symbolizes martyrdom and use that color to create a border design for their page.

There are many areas of Asia where even today missionaries encounter hostility, laws prohibiting their work, and the possibility of martyrdom. Students should research and find at least one Asian country of which this is true. They should then compose a prayer for all Christians and missionaries in this area to include in their lesson book.

Students should research the Catholic explanations of the Church in China. They should then compose a written narration of their understanding of the subject. They could also compose a letter to the Chinese government expressing their opinion about this policy.

Many, many orphanages exist across Asia. Many missionaries work in these facilities. Have students write a reflection on how this work is imitating Christ. Relevant Scripture passages should be included.

### **Animals and their Habitats Lesson Book Pages:**

Students can use this list or generate their own from books or web sites. They should illustrate the animal and on the facing page, record any information they've been able to gather including the animal's common name, species classification, habitat, food, shelter, and predators or any other unique facts they'd like to record.

- A nice list of Asian animals and information pages here:  
<http://library.thinkquest.org/5053/Asia/asiainmain.html>

### **Archaeology Lesson Book Pages:**

Students can do a bit of book or internet research on each of the following topics and then create a main lesson book page that includes an artistic representation as well as a written narration of what they've discovered.

- China: Terra Cotta Warriors
- China: The Silk Road
- China: The Travels of Marco Polo
- China: This site (<http://www.china.org.cn/english/features/Archaeology/93062.htm>) gives students the opportunity to research top archaeological finds of recent years in China.
- Japan: Taiga Castle Ruins
- Japan: Imperial Castle
- Japan: Ancient Capitol of Nara

### **Folk Tale Lesson Book Pages:**

Little ones should narrate the stories while mom keyboards. Printed narrations can be pasted into the main lesson book and the facing page illustrated. These narrations make great reading practice for beginning readers.

### **Other Fun Asia Links and Ideas:**

- **asian crafts and art projects:** <http://www.artistshelpingchildren.org/chineseasianjapaneseartscraftsideaskids.html>
- **recipes for cooking Asian style with children:** <http://www.kids-cooking-activities.com/Asian-cooking.html>
- **Asian geography games:** [http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/Asian\\_Geography.htm](http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/Asian_Geography.htm)
- **Chinese art unit from Harmony Art Mom:** <http://www.squidoo.com/artofchina>
- **Origami for kids:** <http://www.tammyyee.com/origami.html>
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