

Unfinished Conquest: The Guatemalan Tragedy – Victor Perera (*Govt. ethnic cleansing of native Mayans*)  
 Dark Alliance: The CIA, the Contras, and the Crack Cocaine Explosion – Gary Webb (*1994 discovery*)  
 Art of Political Murder – Francisco Goldman (*Guatemala: 1998 murder of govt. critic Bishop Juan Gerardi*)  
 Enrique’s Journey – Sonia Nazario (*Honduran teen’s search for mother who left him for USA; graphic*) P  
 Nicaragua – Thomas W. Walker (*Concise history; especially of last 100 years and US involvement*)

### Grades 10–12: Biography

Sandinista: Carlos Fonseca and the Nicaraguan Revolution – Matilde Zimmerman (*Killed in 1976, bio*)  
 Disappeared: A Journalist Silenced – June Erlick (*Life, 1980 death of Guatemalan journalist Irma Flaquer*)

### Grades 10–12: Literature

Conquistador – Archibald MacLeish (*Narrative poem, about Cortes and the Central American conquest*) P

### Grades 10–12: Culture

My Car in Managua – Forrest D. Colburn (*Daily life in 1980s Nicaragua; humorous, witty, lyrical*)

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# China

## Resources for all ages

China: World Cultures through Time – Gisela Lee (*Primary Source Readers, gorgeous photos*)  
 China: People Place Culture History – DK Publishing (*Coffee table book; gorgeous photos; informative*)  
 Eyewitness Books: Ancient China – Arthur Cotterell (*History, inventions, culture, Silk Road, more*) S  
 Eyewitness Books: China – Hugh Sebag-Montefiore (*Modern country, geography, culture; museum in a book*)  
 Living in Peking – Wenlan Peng (*Living in Famous Cities Series; city, culture, people*) B  
 Living in Hong Kong – Nora Clarke (*Living in Famous Cities Series; city, culture, people*) B  
 The Seventy Wonders of China – Jonathan Fenby (*Natural, cultural, historical; amazing and insightful*)  
 The Great Wall – Michael Yamashita, William Lindesay (*Photographic journey and history; beautiful*)  
 Marco Polo: A Photographer’s Journey – Michael Yamashita (*NG photographer follows in Polo’s footsteps*)  
 Children of China: An Artist’s Journey – Song Nan Zhang (*Beautiful paintings tell story of China’s peoples*) G  
 Anno’s China – Mitsumasa Anno (*Beautiful, detailed illustrations open the country for children*) BF  
 Operation China – Paul Hattaway (*Minority, unreached peoples of China; brilliant photos, prayer calendar*)

## Grades 1–3: Overview of the region

Asia – Allan Fowler (*Excellent Rookie Read About Geography series for beginning readers*)  
 Help the Animals of Asia – Robert Sabuda (*Pop-up book by ingenious paper engineer*)  
 D is for Dancing Dragon: A China Alphabet – Carol Crane (*A to Z guided tour of ancient, modern China*)  
 China A to Z – Justine, Ron Fontes (*Excellent introduction to land, people, culture, animals of China*)

## Grades 1–3: Specific events

Giant Pandas: Gifts from China – Allan Fowler (*Rookie Read About Science series for beginning readers*)  
 We’re Riding on a Caravan: An Adventure on the Silk Road – Laurie Krebs (*Silk Road in rhyming verse*)  
 Marco Polo: A Journey Through China – Fiona Macdonald (*Expeditions series, 3rd grade reading level*) G  
 Forbidden City – Barbara Knox (*Emperor’s residence in Beijing; begun in Ming dynasty, 1406*)  
 The Great Voyages of Zheng He – Demi (*1405–31, Admiral of China’s navy and his diplomatic missions*)  
 Ms. Frizzle’s Adventures: Imperial China – Joanna Cole (*Teacher of Magic School Bus fame on China*)  
 This is Hong Kong – Miroslav Sasek (*Delightful picture book introduces the sights, culture of 1965 Hong Kong*)

## Grades 1–3: Biography

Marco Polo – Charles P. Graves (*1274–94 World Explorer series, 3rd–4th grade*) S  
 Marco Polo – Keren Gefen (*Great Explorers series; Italian European visited China, 1300–24*) VP

Marco Polo – Demi (*Masterful storyteller brings brave Italian explorer to life*)  
My Book About Hudson – Sheila Miller (*Hudson Taylor, missionary to China during Victorian era*) S  
Between Two Worlds – Barbara Mitchell (*Pearl S. Buck 1892–1973 winner of Pulitzer and Nobel prizes*)

### Grades 1–3: Historical fiction

Pi-Shu: The Little Panda – John Butler (*Panda facts woven in to tale of mother and baby panda*)  
Adventures in Ancient China – Linda Bailey, Bill Slavin (*Time travel story, ancient Chinese culture, 3rd–4th*)  
Story About Ping – Marjorie Flack (*Duck herding on the Yangtze River*) H  
Mei Mei Loves the Morning – Margaret Holloway Tsubakiyama (*Chinese girl and her grandfather; beautiful*)  
Granny Han’s Breakfast – Sheila Groves (*Wonderful story of God’s provision in China*) S  
Mei Li – Thomas Handforth (*Girl attends New Year’s Day fair in 1939 China, Caldecott Medal winner*)  
Year of the Panda – Miriam Schlein (*Boy finds orphaned baby panda; adventures, growth, friendship; 3rd–4th*)  
Ruby’s Wish – Shirin Yim Bridges (*Girl in China wishes to attend university just like the boys*) BF

### Grades 1–3: Literature

Tikki Tikki Tembo – Arlene Mosel (*Chinese legend; why Chinese children have short names*)  
No Year of the Cat – Wade and Mary Dodson (*Chinese folktale and the unique Chinese zodiac*)  
Yeh-Shen: A Cinderella Story from China – Ai-Ling Louie (*Evocative watercolors illustrate tale*)  
The Dragon Prince: A Chinese Beauty and the Beast Tale – Laurence Yep (*Lovely illustrations, 3rd–4th*)  
Liang and the Magic Paintbrush – Demi (*Lovely illustrations, classic folk tale from ancient China*)  
The Empty Pot – Demi (*Lovely illustrations; classic folk tale from China teaches importance of truthfulness*)  
The Greatest Power – Demi (*Sequel to above; lovely illustrations; classic tale teaches the importance of life*)  
The Shady Tree – Demi (*Masterful storyteller, lovely illustrations, classic Chinese folktale*)  
The Emperor and the Kite – Jane Yolen, Ed Young (*Classic folktale, emperor’s daughter and kite saves him*)  
The Seven Chinese Brothers – Margaret Mahy, Mou-Sien Tseng (*Beautiful retelling of classic folk tale*)  
The Seven Chinese Sisters – Kathy Tucker, Grace Lin (*Beautiful retelling of classic folk tale*) G  
Legend of Mu Lan: A Heroine of Ancient China – Wei, Cheng an Jiang (*5th–6th century legend, lovely*)  
Magic Horse of Han Gan – Chen Jiang Hong (*Beautiful Tang dynasty legend of 8th century, famous painter*) G

### Grades 1–3: Culture

China ABCs: A Book About the People and Places of China – Holly Schroeder (*Alphabet book introduction*)  
Growing Up in Ancient China – Ken Teague (*Daily life of children in ancient China*) G  
A Coloring Book of Ancient China – Bellerophon Books (*From ancient Chinese art, also emperors, empresses*)  
Chinese New Year – David F. Marx (*Excellent Rookie Read About Holidays series for beginning readers*)  
Happy New Year! – Demi (*Chinese New Year traditions, festivities; caution: Chinese zodiac, gods included*)  
Look What Came from China! – Miles Harvey (*Inventions, food, toys, tools; fascinating*)  
Dim Sum for Everyone! – Grace Lin (*Chinese cuisine, ingredients, “little dishes”, dining traditions*)

### Grades 4–6: Overview of the region

China: A History to 1949 – Valjean McLenighan (*Beautifully illustrated pre-Communist history*)

### Grades 4–6: Specific events

Pandas – Heather Angel (*Beautifully photographed; home, habitat, food, behavior; World Life Library*)  
Ancient China – Judith Simpson (*Nature Company Discoveries series; introduction to times*) G  
Great Wall of China – Leonard Everett Fisher (*Emperor Huang Ti and Mongol raiders, begun in 2nd cen. BC*) G  
Great Wall – Elizabeth Mann (*Begun in 2nd cen. BC, China and Mongol Empire, Wonders of the World series*)  
You Wouldn’t Want to Work on the Great Wall of China – Jacqueline Morley, David Salariva, David Antram  
G  
Silk Route: 7000 Miles of History – John S. Major (*Typical journey in 700 AD from China to Constantinople*) G  
Genghis Kahn and the Mongol Horde – Harold Lamb (*Asia and Mongolia: 1166–1227, conquered China*) L  
Marco Polo for Kids – Janis Herbert (*Illustrated story of Marco’s journey, time in China, Chinese culture*) G  
Adventures and Discoveries of Marco Polo – Richard J. Walsh (*1254–1324, Venice to China, Kublai Khan*) L  
You Wouldn’t Want to Be in the Forbidden City – Jacqueline Morley, David Antram (*Ming dynasty, 1400s*) G  
First Book of the China Clippers – Louise Dickinson Rich (*American clipper ships and Chinese trade, 1850s*)

God's Adventurer: Hudson Taylor - Phyllis Thompson (*Influential missionary to China during Victorian era*) S  
Man Who Changed China: The Story of Sun Yat-Sen - Pearl S. Buck (*Overthrew Manchu dynasty 1911*) L  
First Book of Communist China - William Kinmond (*One-party system established in 1949*)

### Grades 4-6: Biography

Su Dongpo - Demi (*Revered as China's greatest scholar and statesman, lived in 11th century*)  
Genghis Khan: Mongol Emperor - Judy Humphrey (*Asia and Mongolia, 1166-1227*) S  
Kubla Khan: The Emperor of Everything - Kathleen Krull (*Genghis' grandson, Mongolian emperor of China*)  
Marco Polo - Gian Paolo Ceserani (*1274-94, Venice to China, in service to Kublai Khan*) B  
Hudson Taylor, Founder, China Inland Mission - Vance Christie (*1832-1905, Heroes of the Faith series*)  
Eric Liddell - Catherine M. Swift (*1924 olympic champion, missionary to China*) S  
Eric Liddell: Something Greater Than Gold - Janet, Geoff Bengé (*1924 Olympic champion, missionary*) S  
Eric Liddell - Ellen W. Caughey (*Olympic champion, missionary to China killed in WWII, Heroes of the Faith*)  
Homesick - Jean Fritz (*Autobio, Americans living in 1920s China from child's point of view*) S  
Watchman Nee, Man of Suffering - Bob Laurent (*1903-72, Chinese Christian, author; imprisoned for his faith*)  
Gladys Alyward, Missionary in China - Sam Wellman (*1904-70, English parlormaid, pre-Communist China*)  
Gladys Aylward: Christian Heroes Then and Now - Janet, Geoff Bengé (*1937-1945 British missionary*) S  
Brother Yun: The Heavenly Man of China - Rebecca Davis (*Christian preacher during Cultural Revolution*)

### Grades 4-6: Historical fiction

Adventures in Ancient China - Linda Bailey (*Modern siblings time travel to Ancient China*) G  
Lady of Ch'iao Kuo: Warrior of the South, Southern China, A.D. 531 - Laurence Yep (*Royal Diaries series*)  
The Kite Rider - Geraldine McCaughrean (*Set in 13th century China, boy repurposes a kite to travel by air*) BF  
Mission to Cathay - Madeleine A. Polland (*Matteo Ricci, amazing Catholic ambassador to China, 1582-1610*) S  
Shanghaied to China - Dave and Neta Jackson (*Trailblazers, Hudson Taylor, China Inland Mission 1832-1905*)  
Abby: King's Ransom - Pamela Walls (*5th: 1848 South China Sea and Chinese pirates; God and self-sacrifice*)  
With the Allies to Peking: A Story of the Relief of the Legations - G. A. Henty (*1899-1900 Boxer Rebellion*) VF  
Little Pear - Eleanor Frances Lattimore (*Boy's adventures in pre-Communist China; 3rd-4th grades*) S  
Young Fu of the Upper Yangtze - Elizabeth Lewis (*China 1920s coppersmith's apprentice*) N  
Flight of the Fugitives - Dave and Neta Jackson (*Trailblazers, Gladys Aylward, missionary 1937-1945*) S  
House of Sixty Fathers - Meindert de Jong (*Young boy becomes separated from family during WWII*) NH  
Li Lun, Lad of Courage - Carolyn Treffinger (*Love, courage, adventure, hardship in China*) NH  
Chu Ju's House - Gloria Whelan (*Girl's courageous decision when one too many girls are born into her family*)

### Grades 4-6: Literature

Shen of the Sea: Chinese Stories for Children - Arthur Chrisman (*Anthology of fairy tales and folk tales*) N  
The Ch'i-lin Purse: A Collection of Ancient Chinese Stories - Linda Fang (*10 classics from 770-221 BC*)  
Tales of a Chinese Grandmother: 30 Traditional Tales from China - Frances Carpenter (*Lyrical tales*)  
The Weaving of a Dream - Marilee Heyer (*Sumptuously illustrated traditional tale of widow, three sons*)

### Grades 4-6: Culture

Made in China: Ideas and Inventions from Ancient China - Suzanne Williams (*Chinese contributions*)  
The Ancient Chinese - Virginia Schomp (*People of the Ancient World series; culture, timelines*)  
See Inside an Ancient Chinese Town - Penelope Hughes-Stanton (*Town life in ancient China*) B  
Ancient Chinese Art: Art in History - Jane Shuter (*Art museum in a book, suggested projects, excellent*)  
Moonbeams, Dumplings, and Dragon Boats - Nina Simonds, Leslie Swartz (*Holidays, activities, recipes*)

### Grades 7-9: Overview of the region

A Traveller's History of China - Stephen G. Haw (*Concise overview of Chinese history from earliest periods*)  
The Ancient Chinese World - Terry Kleeman (*To 589 AD, complete political and cultural history; text*)  
China - Robert K. Douglas (*Story of Nations narrative history; from time of Marco Polo to 1900*)  
The Asian World, 600-1500 - Roger V. Des Forges, John S. Major (*China, Japan, India, Korea; text*)  
Twentieth Century China: A History in Documents - R. Keith Schoppa (*Fast-paced narrative, excellent*)

## Grades 7–9: Specific events

A Traveller's History of Beijing – Stephen G. Haw (Concise overview of “the forbidden city” to modern day)  
On My Knees: True Stories of God's Faithfulness – Rosalind Goforth (Inspiring missionary in China) LL  
China's Long March: 6,000 Miles of Danger – Jean Fritz (Mao Tse-Tung, Communists; Nationalists 1934–35) S

## Grades 7–9: Biography

Messer Marco Polo – Donn Byrne (1274–94 Venice to China; in service to Kublai Khan) A  
Story of Marco Polo – Noah Brooks (1274–94 Venice to China; in service to Kulai Khan) A  
Secrets from the Rocks: Dinosaur Hunting with Roy Chapman Andrews – Albert Marrin (1920s Mongolia)  
My Several Worlds – Pearl S. Buck (Raised in pre-Communist China by missionary parents) A  
Flying Scotsman – Sally Magnusson (Eric Lidell, olympic champion, missionary to China) A  
Nothing Daunted – Gloria Repp (Isobel Kuhn, missionary to Lisu tribe of southwestern China) S  
Gladys Alyward, the Little Woman – Gladys Alyward, Christine Hunter (Life lived in faithfulness to God) BF  
Small Woman – Alan Burgess (Fascinating story of Gladys Alyward, missionary to China, 30s–40s) B  
Mao Tse-Tung and His China – Albert Marrin (History of Mao, China from 1911 to end of Cultural Revolution) G  
Chinese Cinderella: True Story of an Unwanted Daughter – Adeline Yen Mah (Growing up in post-war China)  
Red Scarf Girl – Ji-li Jiang (Powerful autobiography of young girl during Cultural Revolution, 1966–76) S  
China's Son – Da Chen (Growing up during Cultural Revolution, 1966–76, Colors of the Mountain for teens)  
Heavenly Man: The Remarkable True Story of Chinese Christian Brother Yun – Brother Yun, Paul Hattaway

## Grades 7–9: Historical fiction

Rebels of the Heavenly Kingdom – Katherine Paterson (Christianity, oppression of Manchus in 1851 China) A  
Ties That Bind, Ties That Break – Lensey Namioka (Girl, social stigmas with refusal to have her feet bound)  
Boy's War – David J. Michell (American boy in China during World War II against the Japanese) S  
Dragon Seed – Pearl S. Buck (Chinese peasants during WWII, poignant and heartwrenching) A  
Promise – Pearl S. Buck (Sequel; Chinese division rescues British soldiers trapped by Japanese in Burma)  
Little Tiger in the Chinese Night – Song Nan Zhang (Story of the Cultural Revolution, 1966–76) G  
Safely Home – Randy Alcorn (American businessman and Chinese Christian; persecution in China)

## Grades 7–9: Literature

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon – Grace Lin (Chinese folktale, beautifully told and illustrated) S  
Sweet and Sour: Tales from China – Carol Kendall, Yao-wen Li (From 480 BC to the modern era) S  
The Normal Christian Life – Watchman Nee (Chinese Christian, 1903–72, influential house churches founder)

## Grades 7–9: Culture

Science in Ancient China – George Beshore (Discoveries in science, medicine, astronomy, more)  
Travelers' Tales China: True Stories – Larry Habegger (Anthology of short stories, covering 6000 yrs history)  
Travelers' Tales Hong Kong: True Stories – Larry Habegger (Anthology of 52 short stories of Hong Kong)  
Travelers' Tales Tibet: True Stories – James O'Reilly (Anthology of short stories by wonderful writers)  
China Homecoming – Jean Fritz (1976 description and travel of Jean Fritz's homeland)  
Iron and Silk – Mark Salzman (1982 China by American teaching English; poignant and funny vignettes)  
Simple Chinese Cooking – Kylie Kwong (Easy to follow Chinese recipes demystified for American kitchens)  
The Chinese Kitchen – Eileen Yin-Fei Lo (Recipes, plus history, geography of Chinese cuisine)

## Grades 10–12: Overview of the region

Cambridge Illustrated History of China – Patricia Buckley Ebrely (Comprehensive, readable, balanced)  
Dynasties of China – Bamber Gascoigne (China's 8 greatest dynasties from 1600 BC; excellent intro; long ages)  
Ancient China – Captivating History (Overview from the Shang dynasty through the fall of the Han dynasty)  
The Search for Modern China – Jonathan D. Spence (History from 1600 to 1989 Tiananmen Square; readable)

## Grades 10–12: Specific events

Records of the Grand Historian – Sima Qian, Burton Watson (Historian for emperor Wu Qin, 108 BC)  
Travels of Marco Polo – Marco Polo (Dictated upon his return from China; some fabrications) A  
When China Ruled the Seas: The Treasure Fleet of the Dragon Throne 1405–1433 – Louise Levathes

A Vision Betrayed: The Jesuits in Japan and China 1542-1742 – Andrew C. Ross (*History of Catholic missions*)  
 Memoirs of Father Ripa – Matteo Ripa (*13 years in Peking in service to Emperor; early 18th cen.; fascinating*)  
 Hungry Ghosts: Mao’s Secret Famine - Jasper Becker (*Great Leap Forward, 1958-62*) A  
 Life and Death in Shanghai – Nien Cheng (*Ordeal surviving Cultural Revolution 1966-72*)  
 Across China – Peter Jenkins (*Late 70s trip across China by Walk Across America author*)  
 God’s Smuggler to China – Brother David (*Smuggling Bibles into communist China*)  
 Escape from China – Zhang Boli (*By the only surviving student leader of 1989 Tiananmen Square; gripping*)  
 Model Rebels – Bruce Gilley (*1980s economic reform, its effect on one village in northern China*)  
 Lost Daughters of China – Karin Evans (*China’s 1-child policy, abandoned infant girls, American adoption*)

### Grades 10-12: Biography

Marco Polo: From Venice to Xanadu – Laurence Bergreen (*Recreates journey; substantiates many claims*)  
 Emperor of China: Self-Portrait of K’ang-Hsi – Jonathan Spence (*Emperor 1661-1772, from source docs*)  
 Hudson Taylor’s Spiritual Secret – Howard Taylor (*Founder, China Inland Mission; life of trust in God*)  
 Hudson Taylor and the China Inland Mission: The Growth of a Work of God – Howard Taylor (*1860-1905*) E  
 Mao Zedong: A Life – Jonathan D. Spence (*Penguin Lives series, concise bio of China’s Communist dictator*)  
 Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China – Jung Chang (*20th century China seen via lives of 3 generations*)  
 Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution – Ji-Li Jiang (*1966 vivid autobiography*) BF  
 Colors of the Mountain – Da Chen (*Memoirs, growing up during Cultural Revolution in ostracized family*)  
 Sounds of the River – Da Chen (*Sequel to above, memoirs of university days in Communist China*)

### Grades 10-12: Historical fiction

Lieh Kuo Chih – Feng Meng-lung (*Set during the times of China’s feudal lords, 770-220 BC*) A  
 Three Kingdoms – Moss Roberts (*Chinese epic; Han dynasty fall ca. 200 AD, three kingdoms which replaced it*)  
 All Men Are Brothers – Pearl S. Buck (*Buck translated this epic Chinese novel set in 12th cen. into English*) A  
 The Scholars – Wu Ching-Tzu (*Chinese classic, Ming dynasty critique of Confucian civil service system*)  
 Dream of the Red Chamber – Tsao Heueh-Chin (*Set in Peking from 1729 to 1737, a family history*) A  
 Peony – Pearl S. Buck (*Late 19th cen. in Kaifang, China; Jewish family assimilating into Chinese culture*)  
 Imperial Woman – Pearl S. Buck (*Tzu Hsi, the last Empress of the Manchu dynasty, overthrown in 1911*)  
 East Wind: West Wind – Pearl S. Buck (*Traditional wife marries Western-educated man; culture clash*)  
 Good Earth – Pearl S. Buck (*Peasant family rises to riches in 1920s China; poignant and moving*) P  
 Sons – Pearl S. Buck (*Good Earth trilogy, vol. 2; the next generation, how riches change the family*)  
 A House Divided – Pearl S. Buck (*Good Earth trilogy vol. 3; the next generation; revolution, change in China*)  
 The Mother – Pearl S. Buck (*1950s China; peasant woman with ancient traditions must face communist era*)  
 Three Daughters of Madame Liang – Pearl S. Buck (*Cultural Revolution, 1966-72, how three daughters fare*)  
 Let One Hundred Flowers Bloom – Feng Jicai (*Chinese Cultural Revolution, 1966-72*) S  
 Brothers: A Novel – Da Chen (*Two brothers take different paths, climax in Tiananmen Square; grand saga*)  
 In the Pond – Ha Jin (*Set in modern Communist China; witty and insightful; captures poetic futility*)  
 The Last Chinese Chef: A Novel – Nicole Mones (*American writer in China; cultural importance of cuisine*)

### Grades 10-12: Literature

The Art of War – Sun Tzu (*Classic Chinese literature; unsurpassed military strategy*) BF

### Grades 10-12: Culture

China: A Cultural History – Stephen G. Haw (*Literature, poetry, philosophy, art through China’s history*)  
 God’s Promise to the Chinese – E. Nelson, R. Broadberry, G. Tongchock (*Genesis in Chinese language*) AG  
 Jesus in Beijing – David Aikman (*History of Christianity in China, especially of underground house churches*)  
 Under the Red Flag – Ha Jin (*Short stories of life under strict Communist rule, by Chinese emigrant*)  
 River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze – Peter Hessler (*1996-97, American teaching English in China; lovely*)  
 Oracle Bones: A Journey Through Time in China – Peter Hessler (*Varied life in modern China through stories*)

