

Title: Discovering China: New Places, New Ideas, New Experiences

Grade Level: 6-8; 9-12 Curriculum Focus: Social Studies, Science/Technology

Video Segments:

[The Great Wall](#) (02:35)

[The Forbidden City](#) (02:40)

[The History of Kung Fu](#) (03:00)

[Important Inventions](#) (02:40)

Program Description: These video chapters explore the amazing contributions by the Chinese and their ancient culture. From the Great Wall, built by Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi of the Qin (Ch'in) Dynasty and called by the ancient Chinese *Wan-Li Qang-Qeng*,” meaning long wall, to the architectural wonder of the Forbidden City, to their many other inventions, we find that the West has learned and benefited from this culture into the present. In so many ways, the West and the East are inextricably connected.

Learning Objectives:

After viewing this video students will be able to:

- Compare and analyze societal patterns for preserving and transmitting culture while adapting to environmental or social change
- Explain how language, art, music, belief systems, and other cultural elements can facilitate global understanding or cause misunderstanding
- Understand that science and technology are essential social enterprises involving human decisions about the use of knowledge.

Classroom Connections:

A: Today, we really do not remember a time when technology did not play a central role in our everyday lives. In fact, technology is *so* interwoven into our everyday lives that we do not think about it as a separate entity anymore.

The video chapter on the technological advances made by the Chinese so very long ago does give us a moment to reflect on and think about a few words that have become an integral part of us and our world view—*global, globalization, world community*.

Review the many accomplishments and technological innovations the Chinese first discovered, including communication, steel, and “flying money.” As you review them, compare and contrast how we today continue to use these innovations and more. Also, discuss how these innovations have literally melded and transformed into the “global technology” of the world.

B: With a history dating back to the 6th century, the Shaolin philosophically follows the teachings of Buddha and pacifism. The art of Kung Fu that grew out of this philosophy

was a method of meditation, based on the movements of animals. The term itself means “learned skill or great achievement.”

Explore what you understood about Kung Fu before this video chapter and compare/contrast that knowledge to what you have now learned. You may include what you have read, seen on television or film, or personally experienced.

C:Writing Prompts:

Remembrance (link to <http://tools.discoveryeducation.com/writingPrompt/viewWritingPrompt.cfm?guidAssetId=CD67DF15-B5FE-40F3-81A2-4B5348D14327&blnFromSearch=1&productcode=US&blnFromSearch=1&strEditCopy=Copy>)

Chinese emperor Qin Shi Huangdi, ca. 259–210 B.C., wanted to be remembered as a great and powerful leader and to be protected for eternity. We would all like to be remembered. Write an essay explaining how you like for your friends to remember you and why.

Target Vocabulary:

Mongol: a member of any of a group of traditionally pastoral peoples of Mongolia

Buddhist: a religion of eastern and central Asia growing out of the teaching of Gautama Buddha that suffering is inherent in life and that one can be liberated from it by mental and moral self-purification

Great Wall of China: **built over 2,000 years ago during the 15th century for military protection; considered one of mankind’s greatest achievements. The Great wall is more than 35,000 miles in length and would wrap more than one and a half times around the planet

Forbidden City:** built 600 yrs ago in 14 yrs; called the Forbidden City because the Chinese believed their country was at center of the world—thereby, calling the city the Middle Kingdom; no ordinary mortal could enter; architecturally, the palace itself is symbolic: yellow represents the supreme power of the emperor; red, prosperity and good luck; the library was painted black corresponding to water; the palace has 9,999 rooms because 9 represents the ultimate masculine and thereby the emperor

*All definitions from *Merriam Webster Dictionary Online* (link to <http://www.merriam-webster.com/>)

** Definitions are from video

Academic Standards:

National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) has developed national standards to provide guidance for teaching social studies. To view the standards online, go to <http://www.socialstudies.org>

- Understand the significance of studying culture and cultural diversity
- Understand global connections and interdependence

National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) has adopted The National Academies Press national standards to provide guidance for teaching science. To view the standards online, go to <http://books.nap.edu/openbook.php?isbn=0309053269>

- Understand science and technology in local, national, and global challenges