GUIDED READING  China Limits European Contacts

A. Analyzing Causes and Recognizing Effects  As you read this section, take notes to answer questions about the Ming and Qing dynasties.

The rulers of the Ming Dynasty drive out the Mongols and bring peace and prosperity to China.

1. How did Hongwu bring stability to China?

2. What were some of his agricultural reforms?

3. Why was only the government allowed to conduct foreign trade?

4. How did foreign trade affect Ming China?

The Manchus invade China and begin the Qing Dynasty.

5. How did Manchu rulers gain the respect of the Chinese people?

6. How were traditional styles reflected in Chinese culture?

7. What restrictions did the Manchus place on foreign trade?

8. Why did the Chinese accept the Dutch and reject the British as trading partners?

B. Evaluating Judgments  On the back of this paper, write a brief paragraph explaining what was so remarkable about the voyages of Zheng He.
1. What time period does this graph cover? ____________________________________________________

2. a. What is China's population in the year 2000? ______________________________________________

   b. What is the population projection for the year 2020? ________________________________________

3. Compare this graph with the line graph on page 540 of your textbook.
   a. What was the increase in China's population between 1700 and 1800?__________________________

   b. What was their population increase between 1950 and 1990? (Remember, 0.6 billion equals 600 million.)
      ______________________________________________________________________________________

   c. China added nearly four times more people between 1950 and 1990 than it did between
      1700 and 1800. Why do you think the line for 1700 to 1800 is steeper than the line
      for 1950 to 1990? ______________________________________________________________________

   d. Based on the information presented in the two graphs, what conclusions can you
      draw about population growth in China from 1650 to 2000? __________________________________

4. You are an adviser to the Chinese government in the year 2000. Government officials
   are trying to decide among three policies: trying to increase population growth, trying to increase food
   production, and trying to limit population growth.

   Which policy or policies would you recommend? Give reasons for your answer. ____________________
GEOGRAPHY APPLICATION: MOVEMENT

The Voyages of Zheng He

Directions: Read the paragraphs below and study the map carefully. Then answer the questions that follow.

An unusual stone pillar was discovered in the 1930s in the Chinese province of Fujian. It is inscribed with one of the only remaining records of the voyages of the Zheng He. Five hundred years earlier, around 1430, he erected that pillar to commemorate his trips.

The first emperor of the Ming Dynasty, after overthrowing the Mongols in 1368, wanted to trumpet Chinese power. He decided to build a navy and send Chinese ships around the world. However, it was not until after his successor, Yongle, took over in 1398 that this dream was realized. Yongle appointed Zheng He, a Muslim, as “Admiral of the Western Seas.” Zheng He set sail from Nanjing on his first voyage in 1405 with a fleet of hundreds of ships.

The Chinese viewed themselves as the center of the world and their fleet reflected that view. The larger ships in the fleet were ten times larger than their European counterparts and could carry 500 people. To feed all those people, they brought huge tubs of soil in order to grow fruits and vegetables.

The Chinese intended to show off their wealth, receive tribute, and explore new places. Zheng He brought porcelain vases, Chinese silk, and pearls to amaze the “barbarians.” On one of Zheng He’s stops, a local king did not show sufficient respect to the Ming emperor, so he was taken back to China for “instruction.” In Arabia, Zheng He made the pilgrimage to Mecca and visited Muhammad’s tomb in Medina. Another time, in Africa, animals such as “lions, gold-spotted leopards, and camel-birds [ostriches]” amazed Zheng He and his men.

In 1433, after traveling nearly 35,000 miles to thirty nations on seven voyages, Zheng He retired and soon died. The Ming emperor at that time then ended exploration because of the cost. He even had the written journals of Zheng He destroyed to emphasize his policy, and China soon fell back into isolation.
Interpreting Text and Visuals

1. The Strait of Malacca, through which Zheng He sailed, lies between the southern end of the Malay Peninsula and the island of Sumatra. According to the map, what two large bodies of water does this strait connect? ____________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________

2. According to the map, Zheng He sailed through three seas, a large bay, and an ocean. Name these bodies of water. ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________

3. Why did Zheng He sail to Mecca? ____________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________

4. What port city appears to be Zheng He’s major jumping-off point for destinations in Arabia and Africa? ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________

5. Columbus’s voyage from Spain to the Caribbean in 1492 covered about 5,000 miles. About how long was Zheng He’s trip from Nanjing to Mecca, measured along the most direct ship route? ________________________________________________________________________

6. Examine the map. Why do you think that it may have been important to Zheng He’s travels that he was a Muslim? ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________

7. Do you agree or disagree with the Ming emperor who ended the voyages of exploration? Why? ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________

An Age of Explorations and Isolation 71
Due to the great extent of this country north and south as well as east and west, it can be safely asserted that nowhere else in the world is found such a variety of plant and animal life within the confines of a single kingdom. The wide range of climatic conditions in China gives rise to great diversity of vegetable products, some of which are most readily grown in tropical countries, others in arctic, and others again in the temperate zones. The Chinese themselves, in their geographies, give us detailed accounts of the fertility of the various provinces and of the variety of their products. . . . Generally speaking, it may be said with truth that all of these writers are correct when they say that everything which the people used for their well-being and sustenance, whether it be for food or clothing or even delicacies and superfluities, is abundantly produced within the borders of the kingdom and not imported from foreign climes. I would even venture to say that practically everything which is grown in Europe is likewise found in China. If not, then what is missing here is abundantly supplied by various other products unknown to Europeans. To begin with, the soil of China supplies its people with every species of grain—barley, millet, winter wheat, and similar grains. Rice, which is the staple article of Chinese diet, is produced here in far greater abundance than in Europe. Vegetables, especially beans, and the like, all of which are used not only as food for the people but also as fodder for cattle and beasts of burden, are grown in unlimited variety. The Chinese harvest two and sometimes three crops of such plants every year, owing not only to the fertility of the soil and the mildness of the climate but in great measure to the industry of the people. With the exception of olives and almonds, all the principal fruits known in Europe grow also in China. . . . Much the same can be said of the variety and quality of table vegetables and the cultivation of garden herbs, all of which the Chinese use in far greater quantities than is common among the people of Europe. In fact, there are many among the common folk who live entirely upon a vegetable diet through the whole course of their lives, either because they are forced to do so by reason of poverty or because they embrace this course of life for some religious motive. . . . This country is so thoroughly covered by an intersecting network of rivers and canals that it is possible to travel almost anywhere by water. Hence, an almost incredible number of boats of every variety pass hither and thither. Indeed there are so many of them that one of the writers of our day does not hesitate to affirm that there are as many people living on the water as there are dwellers on land. This may sound like an exaggeration and yet it all but expresses the truth, as it would seem, if one were to travel here only by water. In my opinion it might be said with greater truth and without fear of exaggeration, that there are as many boats in this kingdom as can be counted up in all the rest of the world. This statement is true if we restrict our count to the number of boats sailing on fresh water. As to their ships that pass out into the sea, they are very few and not to be compared with ours either in number or in structure. . . . Two or three things are entirely unknown to Europeans of which I must give a brief account.
First, there is a certain bush from the leaves of which is decocted that celebrated drink, known to the Chinese, the Japanese, and to their neighbors as tea. Its use cannot be of long duration among the Chinese, as no ideography in their old books designates this particular drink and their writing characters are all ancient. Indeed it might be that this same plant can be found in our own fields. Here they gather its leaves in the springtime and place them in a shady place to dry, and from the dried leaves they brew a drink which they use at meals and which is served to friends when they come to visit. On such occasions it is served continually as long as they remain together engaged in conversation. This beverage is sipped rather than drunk and it is always taken hot. It is not unpleasant to the taste, being somewhat bitter, and it is usually considered to be wholesome even if taken frequently.

Finally we should say something about the salt-peter, which is quite plentiful but which is not used extensively in the preparation of gunpowder, because the Chinese are not expert in the use of guns and artillery and make but little use of these in warfare. Salt-peter, however, is used in lavish quantities in making fireworks for display at public games and on festival days. The Chinese take great pleasure in such exhibitions and make them the chief attraction of all their festivities. Their skill in the manufacture of fireworks is really extraordinary, and there is scarcely anything which they cannot cleverly imitate with them. They are especially adept in reproducing battles and in making rotating spheres of fire, fiery trees, fruit, and the like, and they seem to have no regard for expense where fireworks are concerned. When I was in Nankin I witnessed a pyrotechnic display for the celebration of the first month of the year, which is their great festival, and on this occasion I calculated that they consumed enough powder to carry on a sizable war for a number of years.

The art of printing was practiced in China at a date somewhat earlier than that assigned to the beginning of printing in Europe, which was about 1405. It is quite certain that the Chinese knew the art of printing at least five centuries ago, and some of them assert that printing was known to their people before the beginning of the Christian era, about 50 B.C. . . .

Their method of making printed books is quite ingenious. The text is written in ink, with a brush made of very fine hair, on a sheet of paper which is inverted and pasted on a wooden tablet. When the paper has become thoroughly dry, its surface is scraped off quickly and with great skill, until nothing but a fine tissue bearing the characters remains on the wooden tablet. Then, with a steel graver, the workman cuts away the surface following the outlines of the characters until these alone stand out in low relief. From such a block a skilled printer can make copies with incredible speed, turning out as many as fifteen hundred copies in a single day. Chinese printers are so skilled in engraving these blocks, that no more time is consumed in making one of them than would be required by one of our printers in setting up a form of type and making the necessary corrections. . . .


Discussion Questions

Determining Main Ideas

1. What information about Chinese culture during the Ming Dynasty—diet, modes of transportation, inventions, and so on—did Ricci include in this journal entry? List at least three facts.

2. Comparing In what ways did Ricci compare China to Europe?

3. Forming and Supporting Opinions Do you think Ricci’s observations of Ming China were accurate? Why or why not?
The work on the magnificent new pleasure grounds was completed, and one fine day Prince Chen came with his helpers and associates to invite Chia Cheng to view them.

"The work as a whole is finished," he told him, "and now we would like to have your verdict on it, and any suggestions for alterations which you may wish to express. But above all we want your suggestions for the inscriptions which have not yet been made and which are to embellish the principal places in the grounds."

"Hm, these inscriptions are going to offer difficulty," said Chia Cheng, thoughtfully. "Strictly speaking, according to the Book of Rites, we must leave to our noble guest the honor of deciding upon suitable titles and inscriptions; but without a personal impression of the landscape and the scenery the Imperial spouse will lack the necessary inspiration for this. If, on the other hand, we await the happy hour of her visit and refrain from putting up any inscription or any motto until then, the scenery, despite all its charms, will still lack something essential."

"Quite so," they replied. "And to surmount this difficulty it seems to us that the best we can do for the time being is to write, in three or four characters, only the basic theme of the various inscriptions and mottoes and to leave the final composition of the text to our illustrious visitor herself to decide at the happy hour of her arrival."

"I agree; let us, then, commence our tour of inspection, for which this lovely spring weather is ideal," decided Chia Cheng, leading the way. It just happened that, as the party approached, Pao Yu was in the new park, which he had been visiting frequently of late at his grandmother's wish, to seek distraction after the many weeks of mourning for his dead friend. Prince Chen, who had gone on ahead of the rest of the company, laughingly advised him to disappear as fast as he could because his stern old governor was coming that way. Much frightened, Pao Yu hurried towards the exit, but just as he got outside, he ran straight into the much-feared parent. There was no way of escape, so he stood shyly at the edge of the path waiting for the company to pass by.

"Come with us!" his father ordered tersely and abruptly. He had heard recently from old Tai Ju that his scion, while not overstudious in school, was showing a truly extraordinary talent for the composition of couplets and antitheses. So he wished to test him out a bit today.

Mr. Cheng stopped first in front of the covered gateway and let the impression of the view from outside work upon him. The roofs of the five-doored gateway, which were covered with copper tiles, stood out like the shimmering scaly backs of lizards or alligators.

The balustrades and steps of the marble bridge which led to the entrance were adorned with artistically wrought ornaments in the Western style. Neither the gateway nor the bridge had any whitewash or paint; both above and below everything glittered in the natural white of water-clear marble. White was also the color of the lime-washed wall enclosing the whole, which ran from left and right of the gateway. The wall rose from a base of natural
freestones which were ribbed like a tiger’s pelt, and cut and placed in such a way, one over the other, that they gave the wall a most pleasing appearance. The whole impression was that of an unusual setting for a beautiful jewel.

Well content, Mr. Cheng moved on. Just inside the gateway the eye was met by a green hill.

“What a beautiful hill!” they all exclaimed, enraptured.

“This hill, which at first shuts out the view, heightens expectation. If one were to see the whole park immediately upon entering, the effect would be monotonous,” remarked Chia Cheng.

“Quite so!” the others agreed. “One must have heights and depths to enliven the spirit.”

They walked on by a narrow path which wound upwards through a narrow gorge formed by mighty, gray rocks overgrown with moss and creepers. These rocks, with their grotesque shapes, lying this way and that, looked as fantastic as goblins or mighty, fabulous animals. Halfway up, in front of a single mirror-bright sheet of stone, they halted.

“It seems to me that this is the right place for an inscription. What name shall we give to this spot? Your suggestions, please, gentlemen!” urged Chia Cheng.

A dozen suggestions, such as “Stratified Kingfisher Green,” “Embroidered Crags,” and the like, were heard. Pao Yu was the last to be called upon to speak. He gave it frankly and freely as his opinion that an inscription would be somewhat premature here, where one had just taken the first step into the grounds, but if it were definitely desired to adorn this in itself unimportant spot with a motto, he would suggest the words, reminiscent of an ancient text: “On twisted paths through twilight shades.” There was general applause.

“This suggestion of our worthy nephew expresses true natural talent. Compared with him, we others are only clumsy duffers and dry pedants,” said the seniors, flatteringly.

“No exaggerated praise, if you please, or the boy will get notions about his bit of knowledge. Better laugh at him; it would be more beneficial to him,” objected Chia Cheng, smiling. “At any rate we have still got time to consider the matter.”

The path led on through dark grottoes into bright clearings over slopes, some covered with bushes, some with trees, and others, again, with flowers, along by a babbling brook which here wound sleepily through level land and there hopped in gay leaps down towards a valley, to disappear into a narrow fell, and finally to disperse in the form of a steep, foaming waterfall into a small, shimmering lake. A white marble balustrade encircled the shores of the lake, and over its narrow side the triple arch of a marble bridge stretched like the gaping jaws of a sea monster. The pavilion which stood on the bridge and overhung the water was chosen as the next halting place.


**Activity Options**

1. **Creating an Oral Presentation** With a small group of classmates, re-create Prince Chen’s tour of the park. Role-play the characters—Prince Chen, his helpers and associates, Chia Cheng, and Pao Yu—and perform the dialogue in the excerpt.

2. **Writing for a Specific Purpose** Compose your own inscription for an important site in the park and share it with the class.

3. **Describing Setting** Draw a sketch of an important spot in the park. Then display your sketch in the classroom.
RETEACHING ACTIVITY

China Limits

European Contacts

Reading Comprehension  Find the name or term in the second column that best matches the description in the first column. Then write the letter of your answer in the blank.

_____ 1. Ruled China from 1368 to 1644  A. Yonglo
_____ 2. Chinese leader of the rebel army that drove the Mongols out of China in 1368  B. isolationism
_____ 3. Chinese leader who moved the royal court to Beijing  C. Manchus
_____ 4. Chinese Muslim admiral who led seven voyages of exploration  D. Ming Dynasty
_____ 5. China’s official trade policy in the 1500s  E. Matteo Ricci
_____ 6. First missionary to have an impact in China  F. Qing Dynasty
_____ 7. People who invaded China in 1644 and brought about the collapse of the Ming Dynasty  G. kowtow
_____ 8. Dynasty established by the Manchus  H. Hongwu
_____ 9. First Manchu emperor who ruled for 60 years  I. Zheng He
_____ 10. Ritual kneeling to a Chinese emperor  J. Kangxi
_____ 11. Country known as China’s “little brother” during the Qing Dynasty  K. Korea
_____ 12. Situation brought about by improved food production during the Qing Dynasty  L. population explosion