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国家地理
科学探索丛书

CIVILIZATIONS PAST TO PRESENT

文明的进程

CHINA

中国

KEVIN SUPPLES (美) 著

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外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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文明的进程

中国

KEVIN SUPPLES (美) 著

邵红香 注

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福風亭 INTRODUCTION 福引言

Imagine¹ living in the oldest civilization² in the world. You could have been the first person to walk along the Great Wall or to use paper money. You wouldn't get lost if you had the latest invention³, a compass⁴. And for good luck, you would be wearing red. These are just some of the things that you could have done in ancient⁵ China. The Chinese created many wonderful works of art. They invented⁶ many things that we still use.

Today, people have found art and writings that tell us about ancient China. They have even found a huge army that the Chinese

made from clay⁷. This clay army was buried⁸ underground for thousands of years!

Let's take a look at the Chinese people and their history. There is a lot to learn about them.

1. imagine	v.	想像; 设想
2. civilization	n.	文明
3. invention	n.	发明
4. compass	n.	指南针
5. ancient	adj.	古代的
6. invent	v.	发明
7. clay	n.	黏土
8. bury	v.	埋葬





福 CHINA: THEN AND NOW 亭

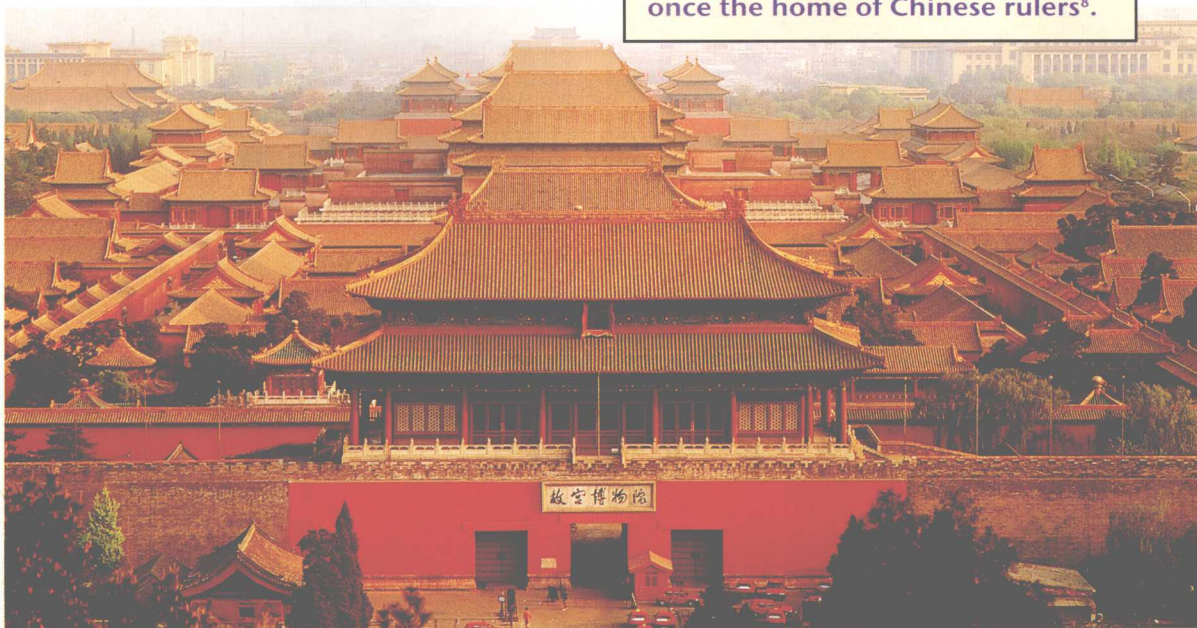
中国：历史与今天

China is in East Asia. The Chinese word for China is *Zhongguo*. This name means “middle country.” In English, the country’s official¹ name is the People’s Republic of China.

China’s capital is Beijing. The official language of the country is Mandarin². People in different parts of China speak different languages and dialects³. Putonghua, the common⁴ speech of Chinese language, is the standard⁵ Chinese pronunciation⁶.

1. official	<i>adj.</i>	官方的；正式的
2. Mandarin	<i>n.</i>	(中国)国语
3. dialect	<i>n.</i>	方言
4. common	<i>adj.</i>	普通的；共同的
5. standard	<i>adj.</i>	标准的
6. pronunciation	<i>n.</i>	发音；读法
7. Forbidden City		紫禁城
8. ruler	<i>n.</i>	统治者

The Forbidden City⁷, in Beijing, was once the home of Chinese rulers⁸.

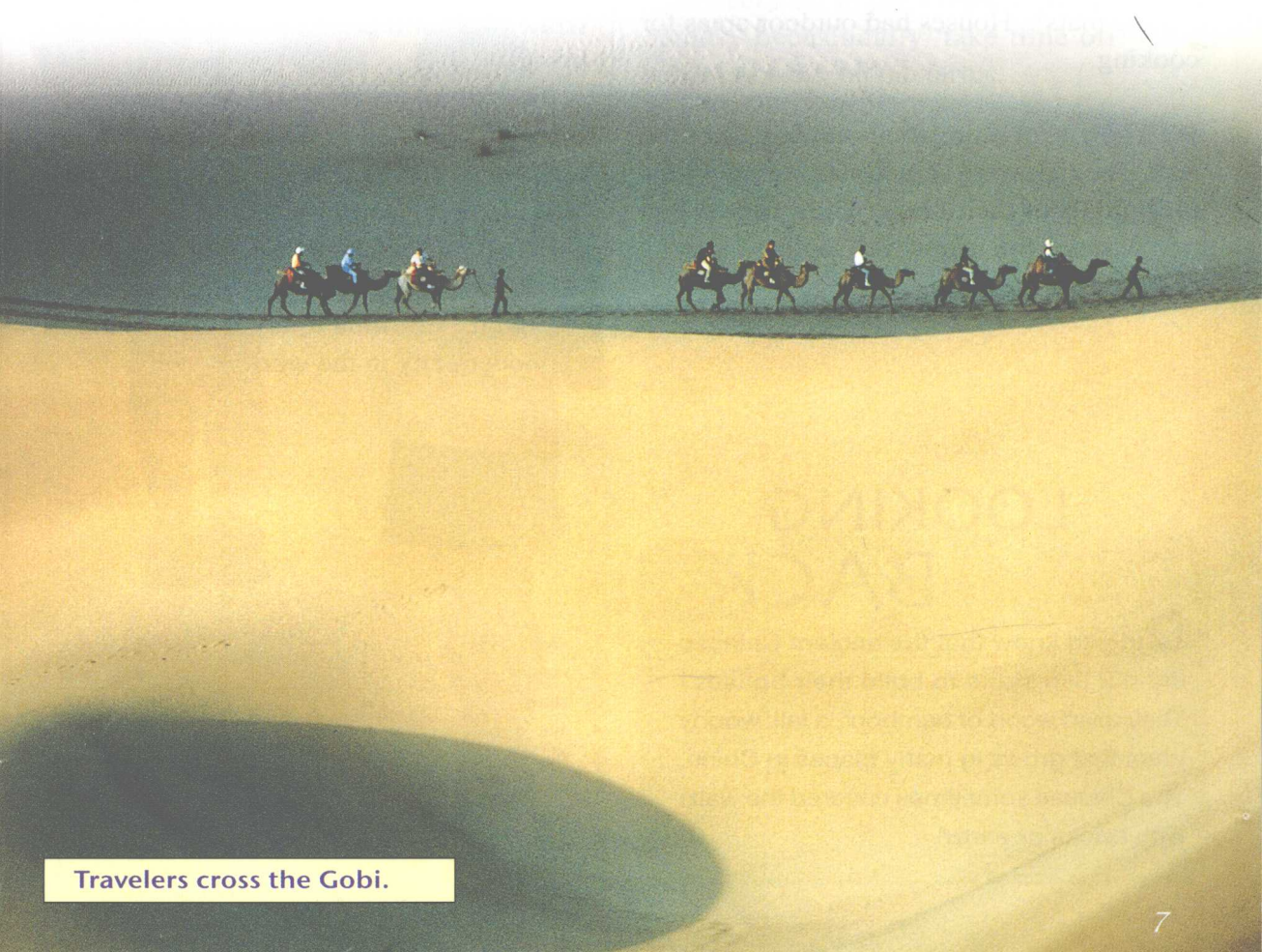


China has many kinds of landforms¹. In the west there are tall, snow-covered mountains. Among them is the tallest mountain in the world, Qomolangma Feng². It is over 8,848 meters (29,029 feet) tall. In the north there are large deserts³. The Gobi⁴ is the second largest desert in the world. In the east there are huge rivers and seas. Among them is the Yangtze River.

Today, China is still an important country. It is the third largest country in the world. More

people live there than in any other country. China has a population of over 1,200,000,000 people. China has about 660 cities with populations over 500,000,000. However, most of the people in China live in farm villages or small towns.

1. landform	<i>n.</i>	地貌
2. Qomolangma Feng		珠穆朗玛峰
3. desert	<i>n.</i>	沙漠
4. Gobi		戈壁沙漠



Travelers cross the Gobi.

HOUSES

In ancient China, three generations¹ of a family often lived together in one house. There were rules about how family members acted. Children were taught to obey their parents. The grandparents, as the oldest, were the most respected².

Most people in ancient China were farmers. Farmers lived in simple one-story houses. The roofs were made of straw³. Families slept on simple mats⁴. Houses had outdoor areas for cooking.

We know a lot more about the homes of the rich. The rich were sometimes buried with a clay model of their home. Their houses had two or more floors and tile⁵ roofs.



In China today, farmhouses have tile or straw roofs and are built of stone or clay bricks.

Today, the houses of Chinese farmers are much better than houses long ago. They have tile roofs and electricity. In the cities, most people live in apartments⁶. Cities, such as Beijing have large, new buildings. Living in the big city in China today is like living in any modern city in the world.

LOOKING BACK

Did you know that the ancient Chinese did not use stone to build their houses? They used wood or bamboo⁷, a tall, woody plant that grows in many places in China. The Chinese sometimes covered the walls with bricks or earth⁸.

1. generation	<i>n.</i>	代: 一代人
2. respect	<i>v.</i>	尊重; 尊敬
3. straw	<i>n.</i>	稻草
4. mat	<i>n.</i>	席子; 草席
5. tile	<i>n.</i>	瓦片
6. apartment	<i>n.</i>	公寓大楼
7. bamboo	<i>n.</i>	竹子
8. earth	<i>n.</i>	土; 泥

SCHOOL

Do you think you would like being a scholar¹? You would spend all your time studying and learning. Scholars were the most respected group in ancient times. Scholars could read and write. Most worked for the emperor², the ruler of the country.



In ancient China, only boys went to school. Some of them might become scholars and officials.

Girls learned to take care of the house. In areas where silkworms³ were raised, girls might also learn how to make silk.

Today, almost all children in China go to school. They start school at age six or seven. Children in the cities go to school for five full days each week. They have six weeks of vacation during the summer. They also have four weeks off in the winter. Children in the country occasionally⁴ take time off⁵ from school to work on the farms.

1. scholar	<i>n.</i>	学者; 有学问的人
2. emperor	<i>n.</i>	皇帝
3. silkworm	<i>n.</i>	蚕
4. occasionally	<i>adv.</i>	有时候; 偶尔
5. take time off		抽出一部分时间

FARMING

In ancient China, many people lived in the country. They were farmers. They lived in small villages. Farmers were well respected in China. Farmers worked from dawn to dusk¹.

In northern China, farmers grew ^{成本}beans and ^{谷物}grain, including wheat and barley². In the south, farmers grew rice in special fields called paddies³. They flooded⁴ these fields with water from nearby rivers. ^水

In early China, farmers used oxen⁵ to pull plows⁶. They also used ^铁iron tools. They invented the wheelbarrow⁷, which they called a “wooden ox.” These improvements⁸ helped people farm better.

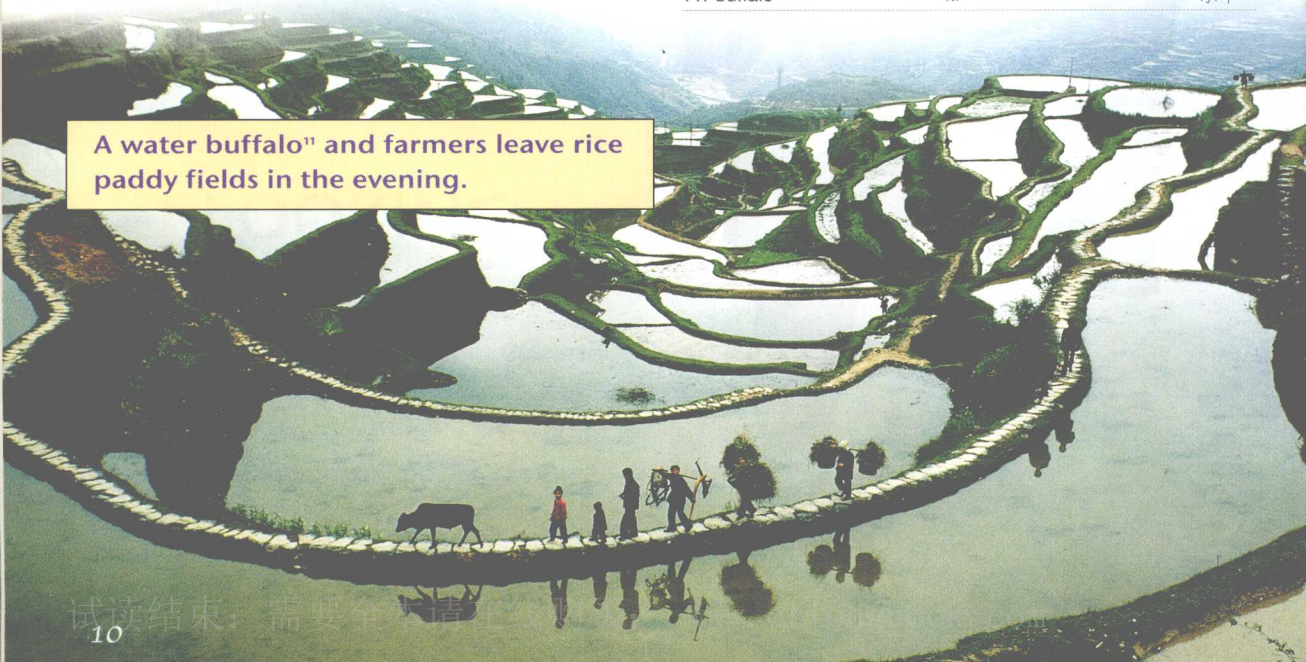
Today, farming is still important in China. More than 60 percent of the people in China are farmers or work on farms. China is the

LOOKING BACK

In ancient China, farmers often paid their taxes¹⁰ with rice. They could also pay by working for the government, digging canals, or building walls. Farmers had to join the army for a period of time.

largest producer⁹ of food in the world. It has to feed over one billion people. Grain, such as rice and wheat, is China’s most important crop. Large farms are run by the government. All the land is owned by the state.

1. from dawn to dusk		从早到晚
2. barley	n.	大麦
3. paddy	n.	稻田
4. flood	v.	灌溉
5. ox	n.	(pl. oxen)牛; 公牛
6. plow	n.	犁
7. wheelbarrow	n.	手推车; 独轮车
8. improvement	n.	改进; 改良
9. producer	n.	生产者
10. tax	n.	税; 赋税
11. buffalo	n.	水牛



A water buffalo¹¹ and farmers leave rice paddy fields in the evening.

FOOD

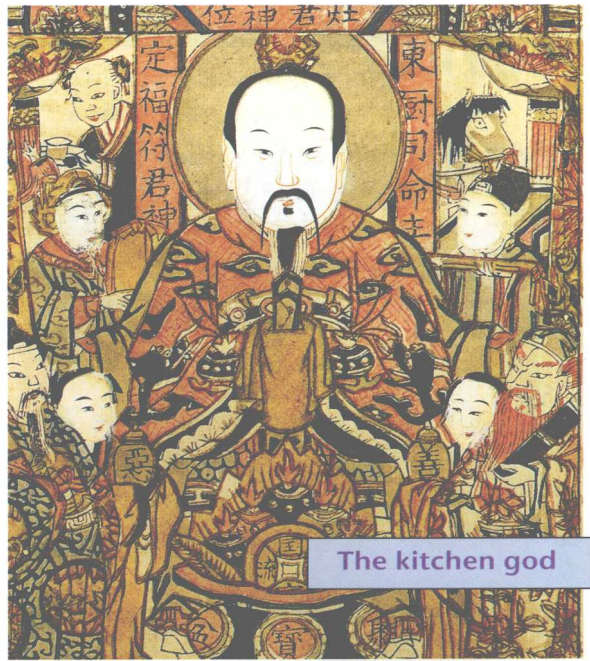
In ancient China, poor families ate beans, other vegetables, and grains. They did not usually eat meat. Sometimes they ate chicken, fish, or wild birds. To save fuel¹, they chopped² their food into small pieces. Then they cooked the pieces quickly in an iron frying pan, or wok³. Families also steamed⁴ their food.

Rich families ate many different foods. Noodles, fruits, and vegetables were popular. Honey, cinnamon⁵, peanuts, ginger⁶, and salt added flavor⁷ to food. The rich also ate meat, including pork, deer, duck, and lamb. They even enjoyed eating snake, dog, and bear paws!

Tea was the most important drink. Some people became experts⁸ on tea. There were tea-tasting contests⁹. Experts tried to tell which tea they were tasting.

Today, many Chinese eat some of the same foods that families ate long ago. Breakfast is often noodles, wheat bread, or rice porridge¹⁰.

1. fuel	<i>n.</i>	燃料
2. chop	<i>v.</i>	切; 剁
3. wok	<i>n.</i>	(中国式的)锅
4. steam	<i>v.</i>	蒸
5. cinnamon	<i>n.</i>	肉桂; 桂皮
6. ginger	<i>n.</i>	姜
7. flavor	<i>n.</i>	滋味; 味道
8. expert	<i>n.</i>	专家; 行家



The kitchen god

The Chinese eat with chopsticks and soup spoons. They use knives only in the kitchen, not at the table. Meals are either stir-fried¹¹ in woks or steamed.

LOOKING BACK

The kitchen god¹² was important in ancient China. The Chinese believed that the kitchen god reported how a family behaved¹³ during the year to the other gods. A bad report could mean bad luck for the next year.

9. contest	<i>n.</i>	比赛
10. porridge	<i>n.</i>	粥
11. stir-fried	<i>adj.</i>	用旺火炒的
12. kitchen god		灶王爷
13. behave	<i>v.</i>	行为; 表现

CLOTHES

In ancient China, you could tell who was rich and who was poor by the clothes they wore. The poor wore clothes made from hemp¹. Hemp is a rough² fabric³ woven from plant fibers. Clothes were loose with tunic-like⁴ tops and simple pants.

The rich wore robes⁵ made from silk. They also wore jewelry⁶ made of jade⁷, gold, and silver. Sometimes men wore hats. A hat showed the wearer's job and social⁸ class⁹.

The ancient Chinese thought that women should have very small feet. It was a sign¹⁰ of beauty. Girls had their feet bound¹¹ so that their feet would not grow. This painful practice¹² was stopped in new China.

1. hemp	<i>n.</i>	大麻纤维
2. rough	<i>adj.</i>	粗糙的
3. fabric	<i>n.</i>	织物
4. tunic-like	<i>adj.</i>	像束腰外衣的
5. robe	<i>n.</i>	长袍
6. jewelry	<i>n.</i>	珠宝
7. jade	<i>n.</i>	玉
8. social	<i>adj.</i>	社会的
9. class	<i>n.</i>	等级
10. sign	<i>n.</i>	标志; 象征
11. bind	<i>v.</i>	绑; 缚
12. practice	<i>n.</i>	惯常做法; 习俗
13. jeans	<i>n.</i>	牛仔裤
14. traditional	<i>adj.</i>	传统的
15. fashionable	<i>adj.</i>	时髦的

LOOKING BACK

The colors of cloth were important to the ancient Chinese. Cloth was colored with vegetable dyes. Each color meant something special. In the Qing Dynasty, yellow was a royal color. Only the emperor could wear it. Other people dressed in blue or black. White was for mourning. Children could not wear white while their parents were still alive. Red was the color of luck.

Today, many Chinese wear Western-style shirts and suits, and loosely fitting pants. They tend to wear more modern clothes, for example, jeans¹³. In the country, farmers wear clothes that are more traditional¹⁴ and less fashionable¹⁵ than people in the cities. Nowadays silk is still a kind of popular clothing material.



Chinese men carry a silk dragon in a New Year's parade.

FESTIVALS AND GAMES

In ancient China, festivals and games were important. The most important festival was held at the Lunar New Year. This holiday lasted 15 days. Families got together. Relatives came from far away. People visited each other bringing gifts. It was considered¹ bad luck to turn away² visitors. The holiday ended with³ a parade⁴ that included dragons and lanterns. The Chinese believed that the dragon would bring good luck for the New Year.

Another important festival was Qingming. During this festival people honored their dead relatives. People brought food to the graves⁵ and “talked” to their relatives. They wished them good lives in the afterworld⁶.

Children had little time for games. Most children worked on the farms. But during

festivals they flew kites and played chess and Chinese checkers⁷. They also had a toy that is like our modern yo-yo⁸.

Today, the Chinese New Year is still a popular holiday. Chinese around the world celebrate⁹ it. Chinese New Year starts no earlier than January 20 and no later than February 20. There are fireworks and parades with huge dragons made of paper, silk or other materials. Children receive red envelopes with money and sometimes oranges for good luck.

1. consider	v.	把……看作
2. turn away		把……拒之门外
3. end with		以……而结束
4. parade	n.	(庆祝)游行
5. grave	n.	墓
6. afterworld	n.	阴间
7. Chinese checkers		中国跳棋
8. yo-yo	n.	溜溜球
9. celebrate	v.	庆祝

INVENTIONS AND GREAT PROJECTS

发明与伟大工程

雨 林

rain

forest

人 囚

man

prisoner

女 母

woman

mother

父 子

father

child

The Chinese are famous for many inventions. In ancient China, they invented an instrument¹ for showing when and where an earthquake² was happening. They also invented the kite. Today, many people in China still fly brightly decorated³ kites.

Chinese writing is difficult to learn. It uses thousands of characters⁴. Each one stands for⁵ a thing or idea. Another famous Chinese invention is paper! Later, they used it for painting and writing. Before they invented paper, the Chinese wrote on bamboo strips⁶, jade, metal, and cloth.

1. instrument	<i>n.</i>	仪器
2. earthquake	<i>n.</i>	地震
3. decorate	<i>v.</i>	装饰
4. character	<i>n.</i>	(汉)字
5. stand for		代表
6. strip	<i>n.</i>	条
7. spice	<i>n.</i>	调料; 香料
8. blend	<i>n.</i>	混合物
9. ingredient	<i>n.</i>	成分; 配料
10. treat	<i>n.</i>	<口>极好的东西

LOOKING BACK

A Cold Invention

Do you like ice cream? Then you should thank the Chinese. They used rice, snow, milk, and spices⁷ to make a special blend⁸ of ices. Today, we use different ingredients⁹, but ice cream is still a wonderful, cold treat¹⁰!

THE GREAT WALL

Have you ever heard of the Great Wall of China? It was one of the most famous building projects in ancient China. During the Spring and Autumn Period, separate walls were built by different states to protect¹ themselves. The First Emperor of Qin decided to connect these walls to build the Great Wall, which would protect the northern border² of his country.

In 214 B.C., Chinese workers began joining together shorter walls built earlier. Prisoners³, slaves⁴, and members of the army helped. It took about ten years to complete the job. That's because the wall was more than 5,000 kilometers (3,107 miles) long!

Later emperors rebuilt⁵ the wall using bricks to make it stronger. They also added to the wall until it was about 7,300 kilometers (4,536 miles) long. Today, people from around the world visit the Great Wall of China.

Now the Chinese are working on another huge building project, the Three Gorges Dam⁶. This dam is over 2.4 kilometers (1½ miles) wide. It will control the flow of water, help prevent floods, and create electric power.

1. <u>protect</u>	v.	保护
2. <u>border</u>	n.	边境
3. <u>prisoner</u>	n.	囚犯
4. <u>slave</u>	n.	奴隶
5. <u>rebuild</u>	v.	重建
6. <u>Three Gorges Dam</u>		三峡大坝
7. <u>structure</u>	n.	建筑物



The Great Wall of China is the longest structure⁷ in the world.

TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION

贸易与交通

The Silk Road was one of the most important trade routes¹ in ancient China. Find the Silk Road on a map. It stretched² across Asia from China to the Mediterranean Sea³. Most traders traveled back and forth⁴ over a small part of the route. They stopped at trading centers along the way. There they bought or sold spices, gold, ivory⁵, jade, and other expensive goods.

This famous trade route is named after one of the most important items⁶ made at that time—silk. Silk is a special kind of cloth. It is strong but also light and soft.

Silk is woven from long threads that come from the cocoons⁷ of silkworms. The Chinese have been making silk for thousands of years. People outside China did not learn how to make this expensive cloth until the A.D. 800s.

1. route	<i>n.</i>	路线; 路径
2. stretch	<i>v.</i>	延伸; 伸展
3. Mediterranean Sea		地中海
4. back and forth		来回地
5. ivory	<i>n.</i>	象牙
6. item	<i>n.</i>	物品
7. cocoon	<i>n.</i>	茧
8. camel	<i>n.</i>	骆驼
9. distance	<i>n.</i>	距离

LOOKING BACK

How did the ancient Chinese traders carry all their goods? They used camels⁸ to carry heavy loads. Camels could also travel long distances⁹ across deserts without water.

The cocoons of silkworms are made into silk threads.

