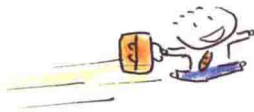
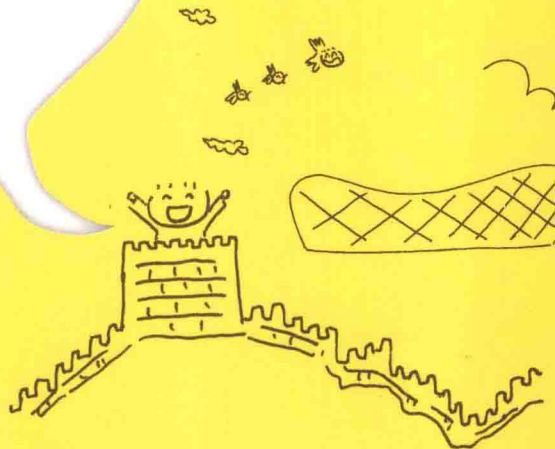


The BIG Book of CHINA



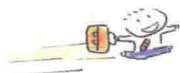
A Guided Tour
Through 5,000
Years of History and
Culture

Wang Qicheng



FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

看中国: 英文 / 王麒诚著; 外文出版社英文部译. — 北京: 外文出版社, 2009

ISBN 978-7-119-06029-3

I. 看 … II. ①王 … ②外 … III. 中国—概况—青少年读物—英文

IV. K92-49

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2009)第161329号

总策划: 周明伟 黄友义

执行主编: 徐明强

撰稿: 王麒诚 张雯等

绘图: 王麒诚

中文定稿: 萧师铃

英文翻译: 李磊 严晶 王玮 徐新歌 周晓刚 王琴 刘奎娟 徐汀汀

英文审定: May Yee 贺军

责任编辑: 蔡莉莉 文芳

装帧设计: 红色调文化·邓翔

看中国

王麒诚 著

©2010 外文出版社

出版发行: 外文出版社

地址: 中国北京西城区百万庄大街24号

邮政编码: 100037

网址: <http://www.flp.com.cn>

电话: (010) 68320579/68996067 (总编室)

(010) 68995844/68995852 (发行部)

(010) 68327750/68996164 (版权部)

制版: 北京红色调文化艺术有限公司

印制: 北京京都六环印刷厂

经销: 新华书店 / 外文书店

开本: 787mm×1092mm 1/16

印张: 14

装别: 平装

版次: 2010年第1版第1次印刷

书号: ISBN 978-7-119-06029-3

定价: 99.00元

First Edition 2010

Project developers: Zhou Mingwei and Huang Youyi

Executive chief editor: Xu Mingqiang

Writers: Wang Qicheng, Zhang Wen and others

Painter: Wang Qicheng

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Wang Qin, Liu Kuijuan and Xu Tingting

English editors: May Yee and He Jun

Executive editors: Cai Lili and Wen Fang



ISBN 978-7-119-06029-3

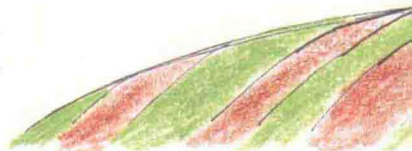
©Foreign Languages Press, Beijing, China, 2010

Published by Foreign Languages Press

24 Baiwanzhuang Road, Beijing 100037, China

<http://www.flp.com.cn>

Printed in the People's Republic of China

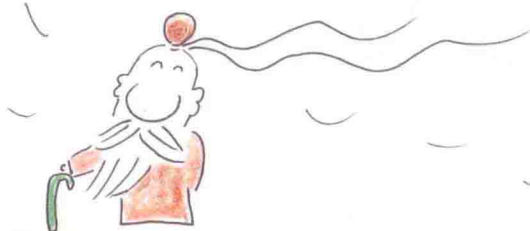



The BIG
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Isn't it great to meet friends from afar!

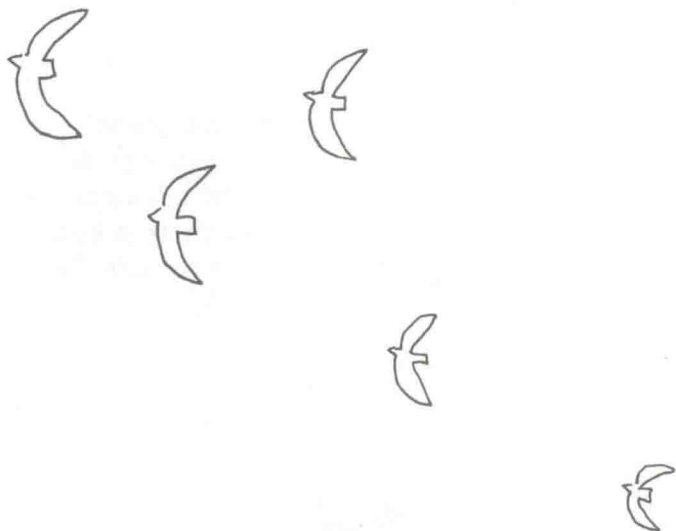




Hi everyone!
I'm your friend ǒi ǒi.
In this lovely and very different
illustrated book, you and I are going
on a wonderful journey to a faraway
place ...



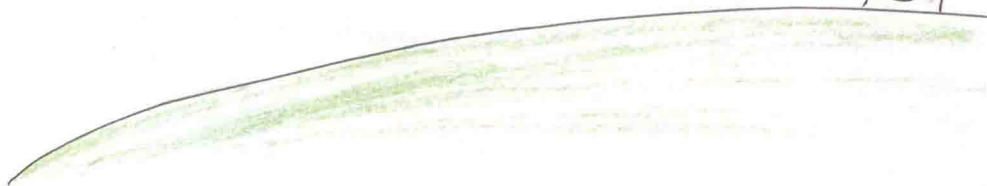
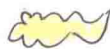
It's an ancient Eastern country ...

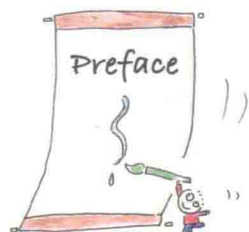


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China





Preface




On this beautiful planet where we live, there's a country with a 5,000-year history of civilization. Embracing a vast land of great diversity and beauty in the world's East, this ancient culture has developed at an amazing speed. This country's name is- China.

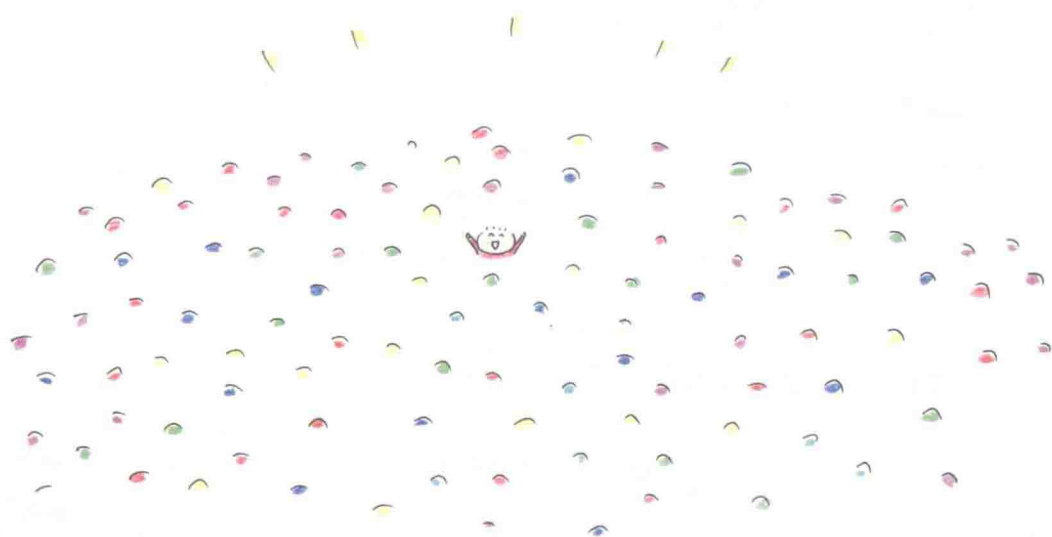
Through this lovely and very different book, I will be your young guide on a fun tour across China, along its long river of history, unveiling the mysteries of this ancient nation of Asia. During our journey across this land shaped like a rooster, let us take a joy-filled ride to appreciate the incredible beauty of its rivers and mountains, savor the glory and brilliance of its fascinating culture, take a glimpse into the lives of today's Chinese people and discover the secret potions for China's magically flowering economy.

"Isn't it a pleasure to meet friends from afar!" the ancient Chinese sage Confucius conveyed this greeting to the world 2,000 years ago. And today, with the sincerity of all the welcoming Chinese people, I extend to you my warmest invitation.





Welcome to China!



Your Friend,
Qi Qi

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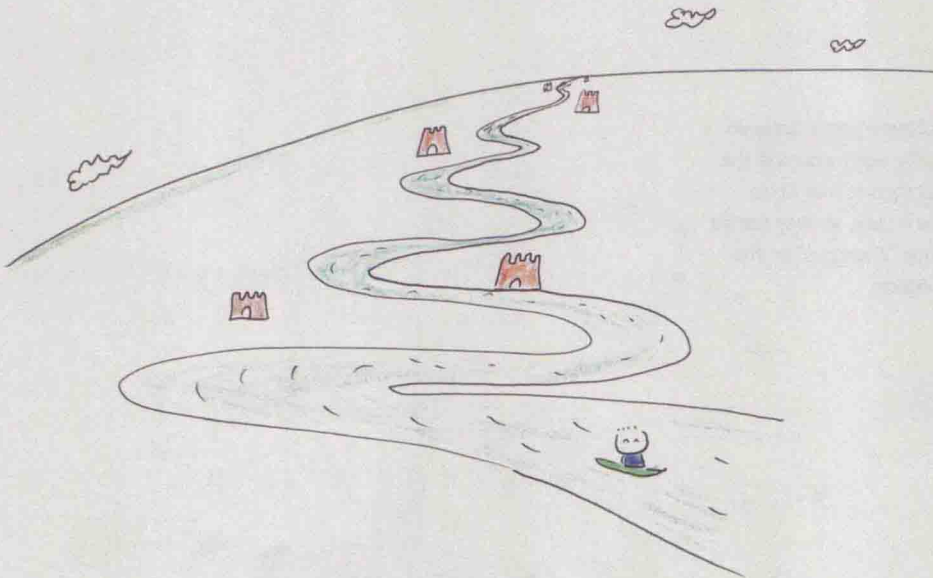


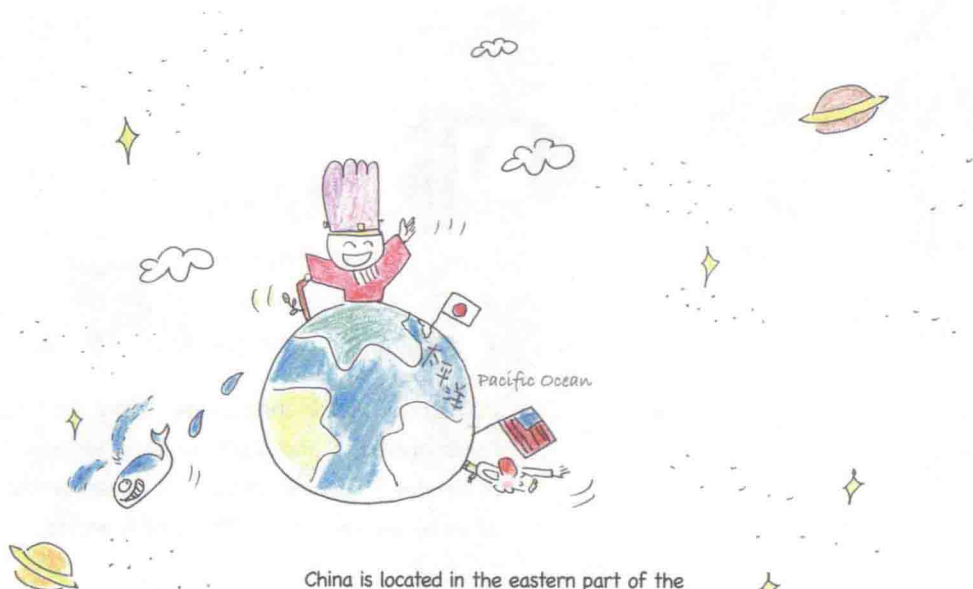
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01

A Vast Country with a Long History

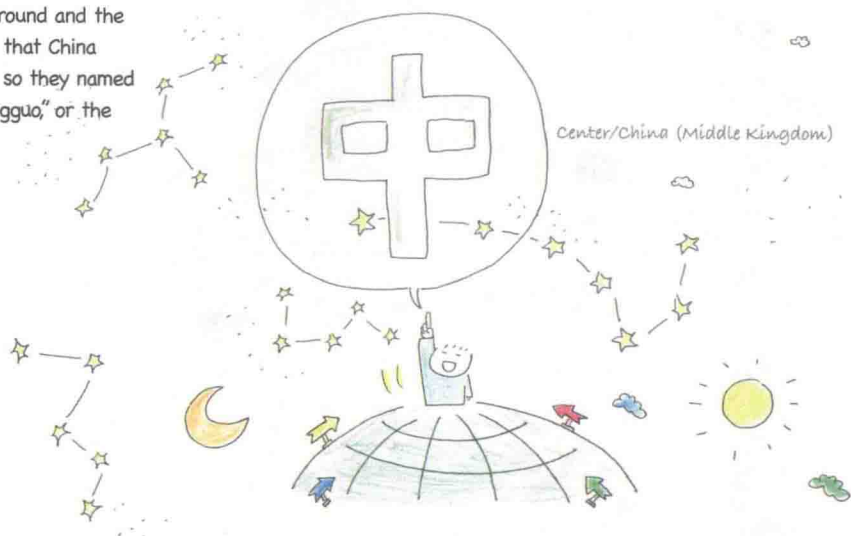
China is located in the eastern part of the Asian continent and on the western shores of the Pacific, far off across this ocean on the other side is the United States of America.





China is located in the eastern part of the Asian continent and on the western shores of the Pacific Ocean.

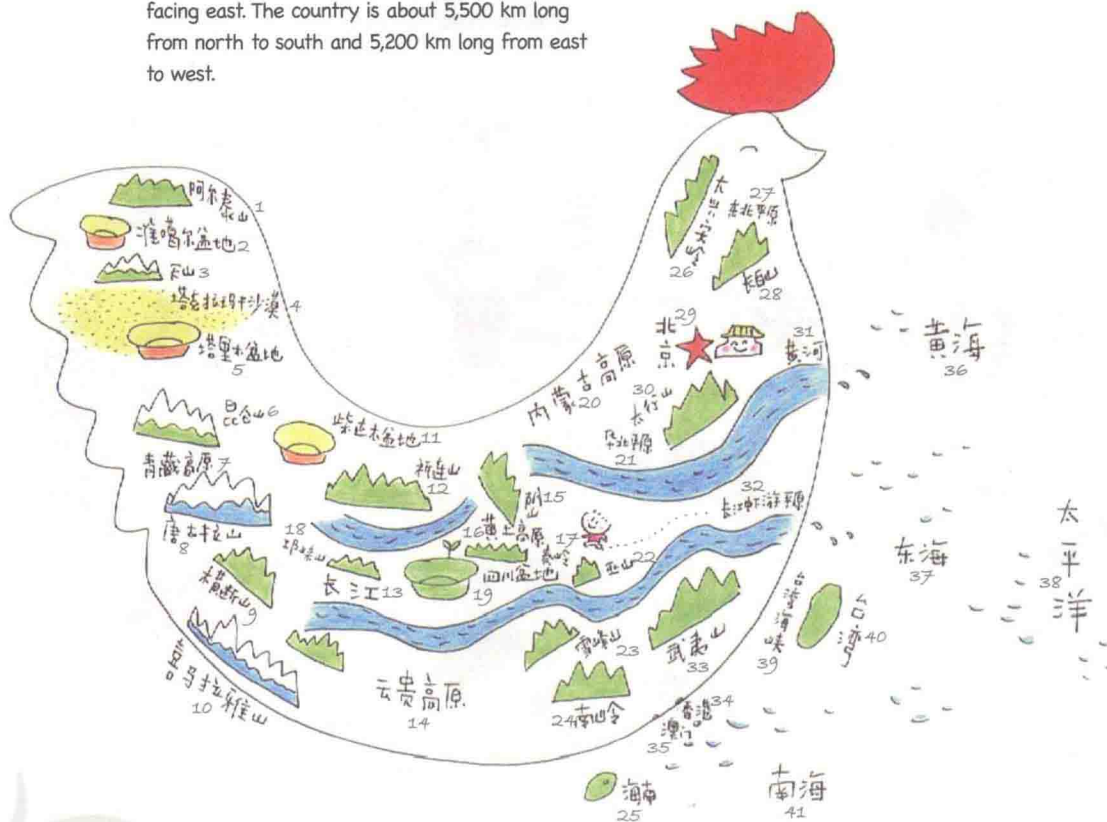
Ancient Chinese people believed that the sky was round and the earth was square, that China was in the middle, so they named the country "Zhongguo," or the Middle Kingdom.



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Vast Territory

The map of China looks like a rooster with its head facing east. The country is about 5,500 km long from north to south and 5,200 km long from east to west.



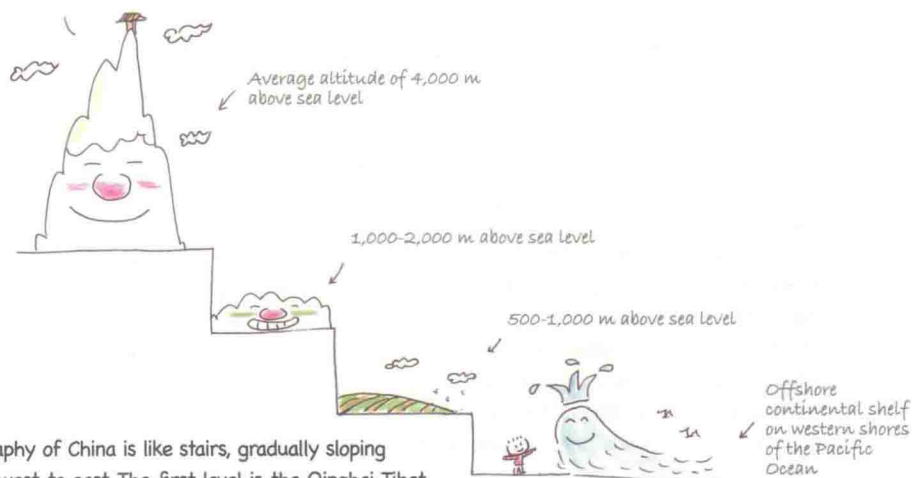
- 1 Altai Mountains
- 2 Junggar Basin
- 3 Tianshan Mountains
- 4 Taklimakan Desert
- 5 Tarim Basin
- 6 Kunlun Mountains
- 7 Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau
- 8 Dangqula Mountains
- 9 Hengduan Mountains
- 10 The Himalayas
- 11 Qaidam Basin
- 12 Qilian Mountains
- 13 Yangtze River
- 14 Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau

- 15 Yinshan Mountains
- 16 Loess Plateau
- 17 Qinling Mountains
- 18 Qionglai Mountains
- 19 Sichuan Basin
- 20 Inner Mongolia Plateau
- 21 North China Plain
- 22 Mount Wu
- 23 Xuefeng Mountains
- 24 Nanling Mountains
- 25 Hainan Island
- 26 Greater Xing'an Mountains
- 27 Northeast Plain
- 28 Changbai Mountains

- 29 Beijing
- 30 Taihang Mountains
- 31 Yellow River
- 32 Middle and Lower Yangtze Valley Plains
- 33 Wuyi Mountains
- 34 Hong Kong
- 35 Macao
- 36 Yellow Sea
- 37 East China Sea
- 38 Pacific Ocean
- 39 Taiwan Straits
- 40 Taiwan Island
- 41 South China Sea



The Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau- Roof of the World



The topography of China is like stairs, gradually sloping down from west to east. The first level is the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, averaging more than 4,000 m above sea level; the second level consists of the Inner Mongolia Plateau, the Loess Plateau and the Sichuan Basin, averaging 1,000 m to 2,000 m above sea level; the third level is made up of the Northeast Plain, the North China Plain and the Middle and Lower Yangtze Valley Plains, averaging 500 m to less than 1,000 m above sea level; and the fourth level is the offshore area of continental shelf on the western shores of Pacific Ocean, where the water depths are less than 200 m.

China has a land area of 9.6 million sq km, and is the third largest country in the world, next only to Russia and Canada. China is almost as big as the whole of Europe. About 70% of China's land consists of hills, plateau and hilly terrain, while the rest are basins and plains.

