

## Ancient China Travel Journal Day 1

Last night we landed in Shanghai. This 2000-year-old city is in the northeastern part of China. It is actually considered one of the *youngest* cities in the country! It is very hot here now, 105 degrees. In the winter, though, the weather is near freezing, and sometimes it even snows.

Today I learned so much about China! We visited one of Shanghai's most famous temples. It is called the Jade Buddha Temple. A temple is a religious building, like a church. The Jade Buddha Temple is used by people who practice Buddhism. Buddhism is the largest religion in China, but not the oldest. Taoism (*dow-ism*) is the oldest.

The temple was built in 1918. However, the two jade Buddhas the temple was named after were brought here from Myanmar in 1882. Jade is the most popular stone in China. It is green and smooth, and when you hold it in your hand, it is cool. In street markets, you can find many things made out of jade, such as jewelry, statues, and chops. Chops are stamps that have a person's **signature**<sup>1</sup> on them.

Today, I bought a beautiful necklace made out of jade. It had a tiger carved on it. I got it because I was born in 1998, the year of the tiger. The tiger is one of the 12 animals that go with the 12-year Chinese calendar. I had to laugh because my mom found out she was born in the year of the rat!

At the market, I also bought a pink silk shirt. It was made in a silk factory right here in Shanghai. China is famous for its silk. The Chinese have been making silk for thousands of years.

The silk-making process is very interesting. Silk comes from the **cocoon**<sup>2</sup> that silkworms make when they are **transforming**<sup>3</sup> into butterflies. It takes a long time for people to make things out of silk. A three-foot by five-foot rug can take up to 11 months to make by hand.

I'm getting tired, so I'm going to sign off for today. Tomorrow we're taking a cruise down the Yangtze River. I can't wait!

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<sup>1</sup> **signature:** a person's name as written by that person

<sup>2</sup> **cocoon:** a special wrapping that many insects form around themselves

<sup>3</sup> **transforming:** changing from one thing into another

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Shanghai is one of the \_\_\_\_\_ cities in China.

- a. oldest
- b. youngest
- c. prettiest
- d. most interesting

2. Which of these happened first?

- a. Shanghai was founded.
- b. The Jade Buddha Temple was built.
- c. The jade Buddhas arrived from Myanmar.
- d. The narrator bought a silk shirt.

3. What might have helped cause China to become famous for its silk?

- a. There are many silkworms in China.
- b. It takes a long time for people to make things from silk.
- c. Jade is the most popular stone in China.
- d. The silkworm is part of the 12-year Chinese calendar.

4. Read the following sentences: “In street markets, you can find many things made out of jade, such as jewelry, statues, and chops. Chops are stamps that have a person’s signature on them.”

The word chop in this context means

- a. An object used to cut something in half
- b. An object used to eat food
- c. An object used to glue something together
- d. An object used to sign a document

5. This passage is mainly about

- a. the weather in Shanghai.
- b. visiting Shanghai.
- c. how silk is made.
- d. the Jade Buddha Temple.

6. The author notes that China is famous for its silk. Where does silk come from?

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7. Is Shanghai near the Yangtze River? Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.

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8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence:

\_\_\_\_\_ exploring and discovering much about China on the first day of the trip, the author intends to keep learning about China by taking a cruise down the Yangtze River.

- a. So
- b. Despite
- c. Which
- d. Before

9. Read the following sentence.

**Shanghai's Jade Buddha Temple was built in 1918 to serve as a place of worship for followers of Buddhism.**

Answer the questions below based on the information provided in the sentence you just read. One of the questions has already been answered for you.

1. What is the subject of the sentence? the Jade Buddha Temple
2. The Jade Buddha Temple was what? \_\_\_\_\_
3. When? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Where? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Why? \_\_\_\_\_

10. **Vocabulary Word:** factory: a building where machines are used to make things.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Teacher Guide and Answers

**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 640

**Featured Text Structure:** Descriptive – the writer explains, defines or illustrates a concept or topic

**Passage Summary:** The author tells the story of her first day visiting China, where she visited Shanghai's oldest temple, bought a necklace made of jade, and learned about the Chinese calendar system.

1. Shanghai is one of the \_\_\_\_\_ cities in China.
    - a. oldest
    - b. youngest**
    - c. prettiest
    - d. most interesting
  
  2. Which of these happened first?
    - a. Shanghai was founded.**
    - b. The Jade Buddha Temple was built.
    - c. The jade Buddhas arrived from Myanmar.
    - d. The narrator bought a silk shirt.
  
  3. What might have helped cause China to become famous for its silk?
    - a. There are many silkworms in China.**
    - b. It takes a long time for people to make things from silk.
    - c. Jade is the most popular stone in China.
    - d. The silkworm is part of the 12-year Chinese calendar.
  
  4. Read the following sentences: "In street markets, you can find many things made out of jade, such as jewelry, statues, and chops. Chops are stamps that have a person's signature on them."
- The word chop in this context means
- a. An object used to cut something in half
  - b. An object used to eat food
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5. This passage is mainly about

- a. the weather in Shanghai.
- b. visiting Shanghai.**
- c. how silk is made.
- d. the Jade Buddha Temple.

6. The author notes that China is famous for its silk. Where does silk come from?

**Suggested answer:** From the cocoon that silkworms make when they are transforming into butterflies.

7. Is Shanghai near the Yangtze River? Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.

**Suggested answer:** The author is in Shanghai, and states that tomorrow she will be taking a cruise down the Yangtze River, so the river cannot be more than a day away.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence:

\_\_\_\_\_ exploring and discovering much about China on the first day of the trip, the author intends to keep learning about China by taking a cruise down the Yangtze River.

- a. So
- b. Despite**
- c. Which
- d. Before

9. Read the following sentence.

**Shanghai's Jade Buddha Temple was built in 1918 to serve as a place of worship for followers of Buddhism.**

Answer the questions below based on the information provided in the sentence you just read. One of the questions has already been answered for you.

- 1. What is the subject of the sentence? the Jade Buddha Temple
- 2. The Jade Buddha Temple was what? **built**
- 3. When? **1918**

4. Where? **Shanghai**

5. Why? **to serve as a place of worship for followers of Buddhism**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** factory: a building where machines are used to make things.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.