

Ancient China Journal Day 2



Photograph by Rebekah Hanousek-Monge

Today we started a long journey down the Yangtze River. The Yangtze is the third longest river in the world. I was shocked when we got here because the water is brown. It **resembles**¹ chocolate milk! Our guide told me that it is only brown during the rainy season. The brown is actually just **sediment**² that comes up from the bottom of the river. During the rest of the year, the water runs clear.

The Yangtze is lined by tall mountains. The people who live in these mountains farm and fish. You'd be amazed to see these farms because the hillsides they sit on are practically cliffs. If you tripped, you'd probably roll right down into the river.

We have seen a lot of animals along the river. There are water buffalo, mountain goats, birds, bats, cattle, and even monkeys. My favorites are the monkeys because they swing from tree to tree. They are a little shy though. The water buffalo swim in the water. The only part of them you can see are their heads **bobbing**³ up and down.

So far, this trip has been amazing. I can't believe we have three more days to travel down the Yangtze. I wonder what we'll discover next.

¹ **resembles:** looks like

² **sediment:** layers of dirt and small rocks and dust

³ **bobbing:** moving or floating up and down in water

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. The Yangtze River is

- a. The longest river in the world.
- b. The second longest river in the world.
- c. The third longest river in the world.
- d. The most famous river in the world.

2. Why is the Yangtze's water only brown during the rainy season?

- a. because of the animals in the water
- b. because sediment stays at the bottom of the river
- c. because the rain stirs up sediment
- d. because of the farmers that live along the river

3. Read the following sentence: "The Yangtze is lined by tall mountains."

The word **lined** in the sentence most nearly means

- a. drawn on with pencil or pen
- b. wrinkled
- c. underneath
- d. having on both sides

4. Why does the author describe the areas around the river?

- a. to inform the reader about farming on a mountain.
- b. to give the reader a full picture of the river.
- c. to explain to the reader why the water was brown.
- d. to entertain the reader with descriptions of animals.

5. This passage is mainly about

- a. monkeys and water buffalo.
- b. why clear water becomes brown.
- c. the Yangtze river and its surroundings.
- d. the author's visit to China.

6. Is the author enjoying her trip? How can you tell?

7. What animal does the author enjoy watching the most and why?

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

The author has enjoyed her trip in China so far, _____ she remains excited by the thought of what she will discover next during her travels!

- a. because
- b. so
- c. until
- d. but

9. Read the following sentence.

Tomorrow, the author embarks on another adventure down the Yangtze River in the hope of discovering more about China.

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. Who is the subject of the sentence? the author
2. What will the author do? _____
3. When? _____
4. Where? _____
5. Why? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** shocked: being affected by sudden or violent commotion that startles you.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 630

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

Passage Summary: The author tells the tale of her first day travelling along the Yangtze River. During the adventure, she learns why the river's water is brown, observes the accompanying scenery, and enjoys watching the animals that live around China's famed river.

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- c. the Yangtze river and its surroundings.**
- d. the author's visit to China.

6. Is the author enjoying her trip? How can you tell?

Suggested answer: She is enjoying her trip, since she calls it amazing, and the tone of her journal is one of fun and wonder.

7. What animal does the author enjoy watching the most and why?

Suggested answer: The author enjoys watching the monkeys the most because they swing from tree to tree.

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

The author has enjoyed her trip in China so far, _____ she remains excited by the thought of what she will discover next during her travels!

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- b. so**
- c. until
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9. Read the following sentence.

Tomorrow, the author embarks on another adventure down the Yangtze River in the hope of discovering more about China.

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. Who is the subject of the sentence? the author
- 2. What will the author do? **Embark on another adventure**
- 3. When? **tomorrow**
- 4. Where? **down the Yangtze River**
- 5. Why? **in the hope of discovering more about China**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** shocked: being affected by sudden or violent commotion that startles you.

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