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Introduction

Welcome! I am so glad you are here! Are you ready to discover some of the many regions of Asia and meet its people—and its animals—up close? Join me as we take an adventure from the east coast of Asia west to Europe, and back east across Asia through China and beyond. Most of the time, we'll be traveling on trade routes, or close to trade routes from history. Sometimes we'll take detours so I can show you more amazing places.

Trade routes have been very important to people throughout history. One of the most famous trade routes was called the Silk Road. This was a way that merchants moved goods from China to the West, including to places like Rome. The Silk Road stretched out more than 4,000 miles (6,437 km) and went through numerous countries.

Another famous trade route was called the Spice Route. Sometimes people refer to it as the Southern Silk Road or Maritime Silk Road, but it was mostly a sea route ships used to travel much of the world. Small parts of it crossed land. It reached more than 9,000 miles (nearly 15,000 km). The Incense Road was a trade route in the Middle East used to move frankincense, which was extremely valuable, from place to place.

There were many other trade routes in Asia. They connected with each other in various places and provided a way to move goods almost anywhere you needed to take them. It's important to realize, though, that these weren't roads like the interstates and highways we are used to today. Sometimes, the roads were moved! Two countries might go to war with each other, and you'd have to take a detour to get around the areas where there was fighting. Weather could also be a problem—roads might get washed out or covered in snow. And they weren't nice, smooth roads. They climbed through mountains, crossed deserts, navigated across bodies of water, and more.

Introduction

Of all the trade routes people have used throughout history, the Silk Road is probably the most famous. Parts of it were used in ancient times during the days of the Roman Empire or even before. Other parts were very important during medieval times and during the days of exploration and discovery.

One of the things that helped make it famous was that Marco Polo, a trader from Venice, Italy, traveled part of the Silk Road and told about his experiences in a book that was finished in A.D. 1298. The book introduced many people in Europe to China for the first time, though Marco Polo was not the first European to reach China. Another person who helped make the route famous was Baron Ferdinand von Richthofen. He was a German geographer who spent several years traveling in China. He is given credit for coming up with the name “Silk Road” in 1877 to describe the ancient trade routes to and from China.

It’s doubtful any one person ever traveled the entire way across Asia on the Silk Road. It was simply too long, too expensive, and too dangerous. But, one caravan would carry goods to one point, where another caravan would pick up the load and go farther.

As with any good trip, we’ll need a tour guide. I’d like to introduce you to Safari Saeed (to say the name Saeed, say “sa” as in “saw” and “eed” so it rhymes with “seed”). He’s about 12 years old and loves to share what he’s learned about Asia. He’ll help you meet the people (and blend in so they won’t notice you), tell you about the animals you encounter, and make sure you don’t get lost.

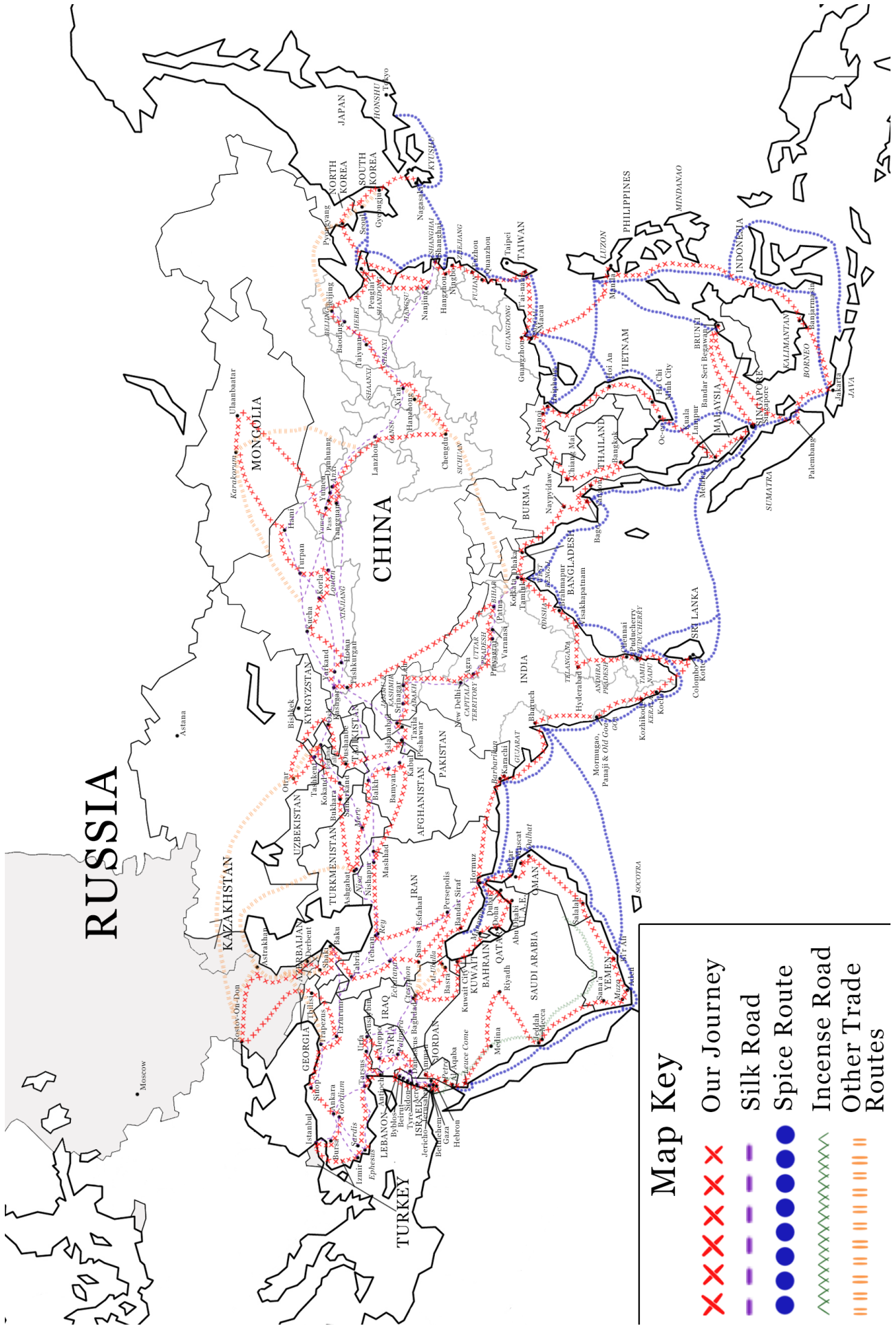
But above all, Saeed has a favorite verse in the Bible that reminds him why he travels all over Asia. You’ve probably read it before: “For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” It’s John 3:16, and it is also Saeed’s mission. “For God so loved the world . . .” The world: all of it—from the steaming hot jungles to the snowy Himalaya mountains—God sent Jesus to save every person in every land. As Saeed travels, he learns about the people in all the different countries who know about Jesus and those who don’t. He looks for ways he can help and ways he can pray.

Along with individual people, we’ll also talk about people groups. A people group is just a group of people who have things in common like a language, heritage, and sometimes location (where they live).

We’re going to need a map for this journey, so take a couple of minutes to get familiar with the map on the next page. It will help you see where we’re going and where we’ve been! One important thing to remember is that the map is based on what country borders look like today. Things were very different back in the days of the Silk Road! Borders changed a lot back then, and places often went by different names than what we call them today.

You’ll also see some words in bold. Those are vocabulary words. If you’re not sure what one means, you can look it up in the glossary at the end of the book.

Are you ready? Let’s get started!



A decorative banner with a double-line border and pointed ends, containing the text "Map Assembly Instructions" centered in a simple font.

Map Assembly Instructions

Print Map Pages 1-4.

Trim Map Page 1 across the bottom of the map on the solid light gray line and up the right side of the map (the side showing Russia and Kyrgyzstan) on the light gray line.

Trim Map Page 2 across the bottom of the map on the solid light gray line.

Now, overlap the trimmed Map Page 1 over the side of the trimmed Map Page 2, lining up the edge of Map Page 1 with the dotted line on Map Page 2. You will see that you are overlapping the names of the cities of Hotan, Yarkand, part of the name of Kyrgyzstan, etc.

All of the parts of the map should connect and line up correctly when the light gray line at the top of the pages is lined up straight across the top of the map and the left half of the map is lined up on the dotted line that is on the right side of the map.

Be sure the right side of the map is under the left side of the map and tape the map together on the back.

Trim Map Page 3 across the top of the map on the solid light gray line and up the side of the map (the side showing India) on the light gray line.

Trim Map Page 4 across the top of the map on the solid light gray line.

Now, overlap the trimmed Map Page 3 over the side of the trimmed Map Page 4, lining up the edge of Map Page 3 with the dotted line on Map Page 4. You will see that you are overlapping the names of the cities of Puducherry, Chennai, the name of India, etc.

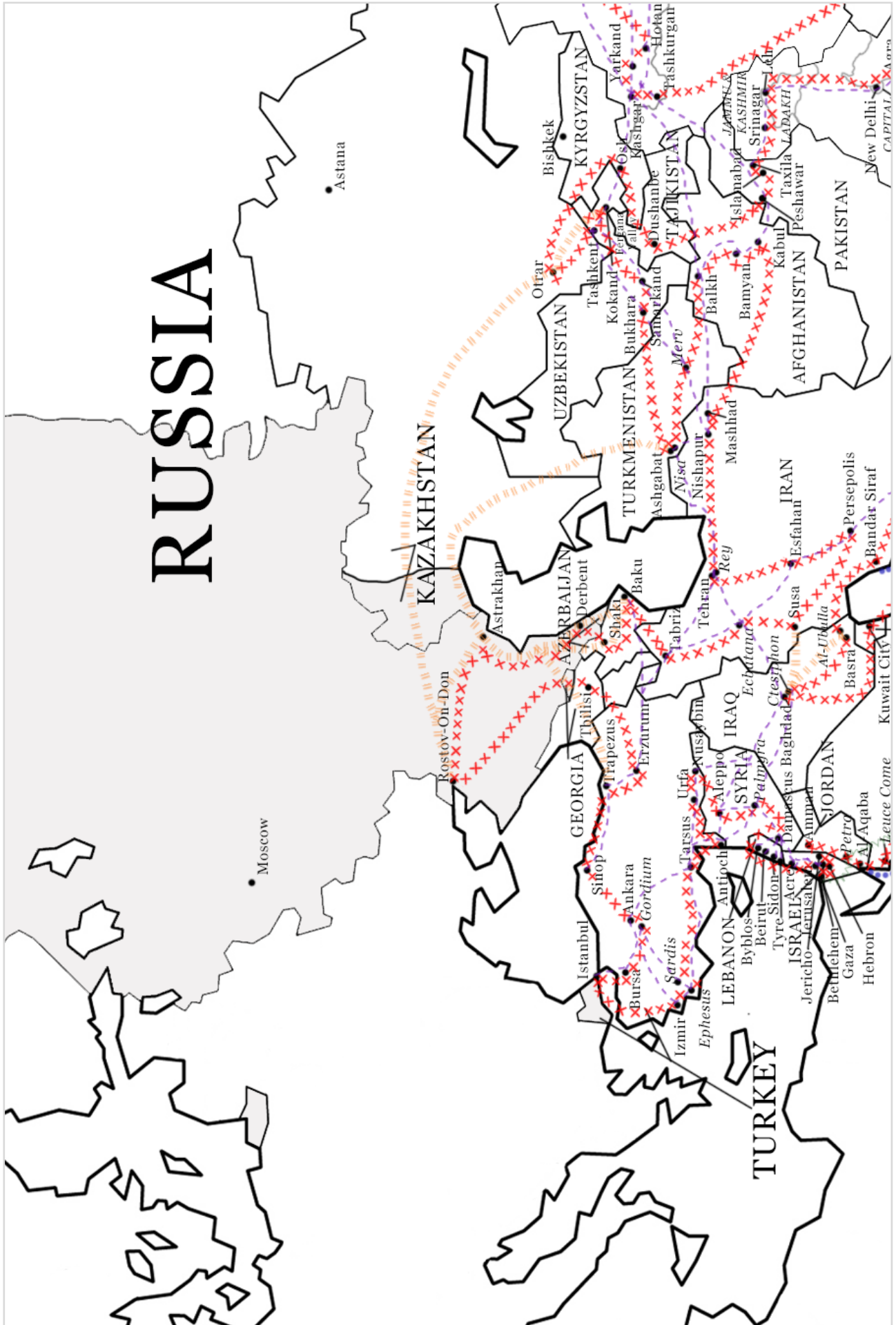
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Be sure the right side of the map is under the left side of the map and tape the map together on the back.

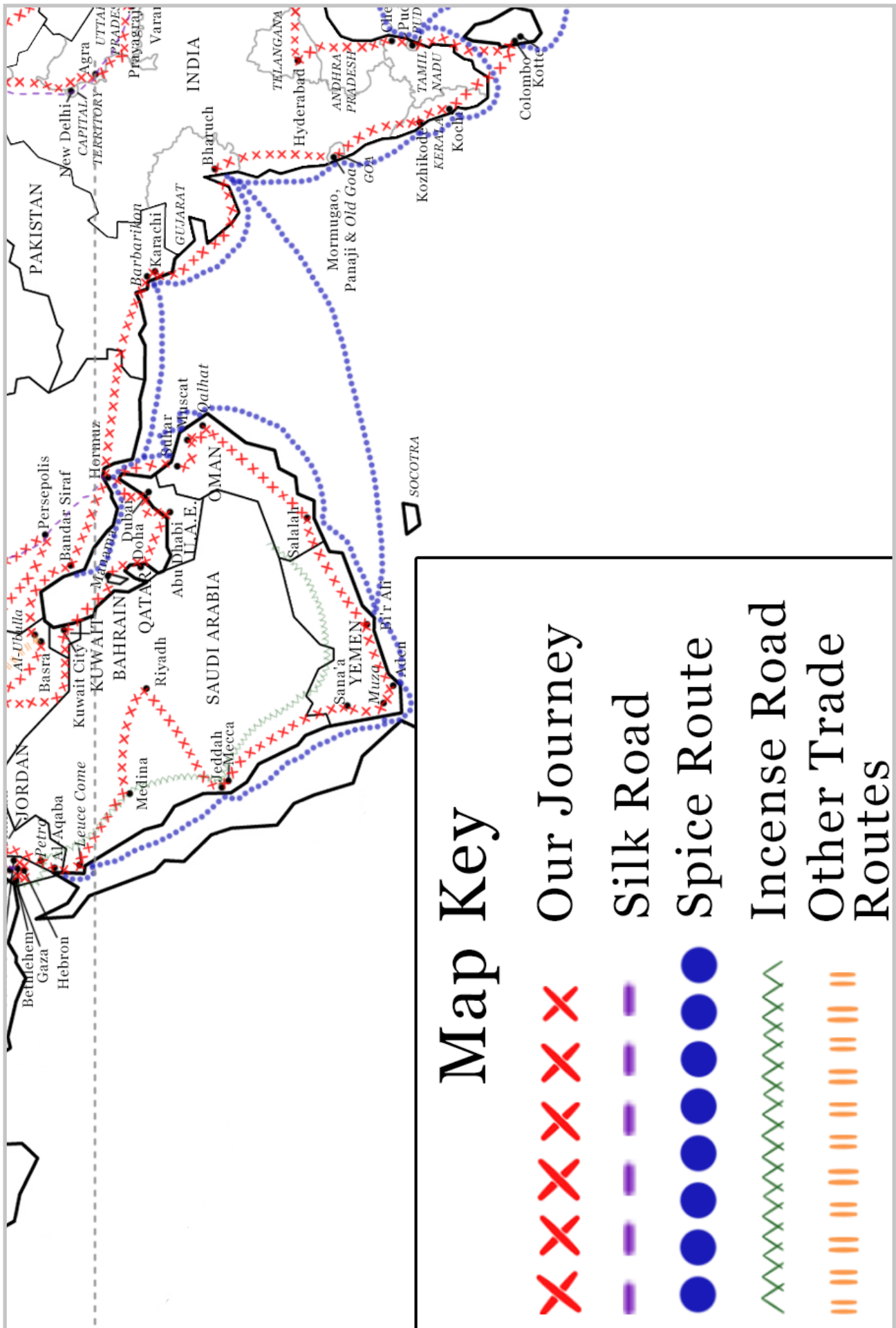
Now, bring the top of the map (Map Pages 1 and 2 that you taped together first) over the bottom of the map (Map Pages 3 and 4) and line the top of the map up with the dotted line on the bottom of the map. You will see that you are overlapping the names of Jordan, Pakistan, New Delhi, Chengdu, etc.

All of the parts of the map should connect and line up correctly when the light gray lines at the sides of the pages are lined up straight down each side of the map and the top half of the map is lined up on the dotted line that is on the bottom half of the map.

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Map Key

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Our Journey

Silk Road

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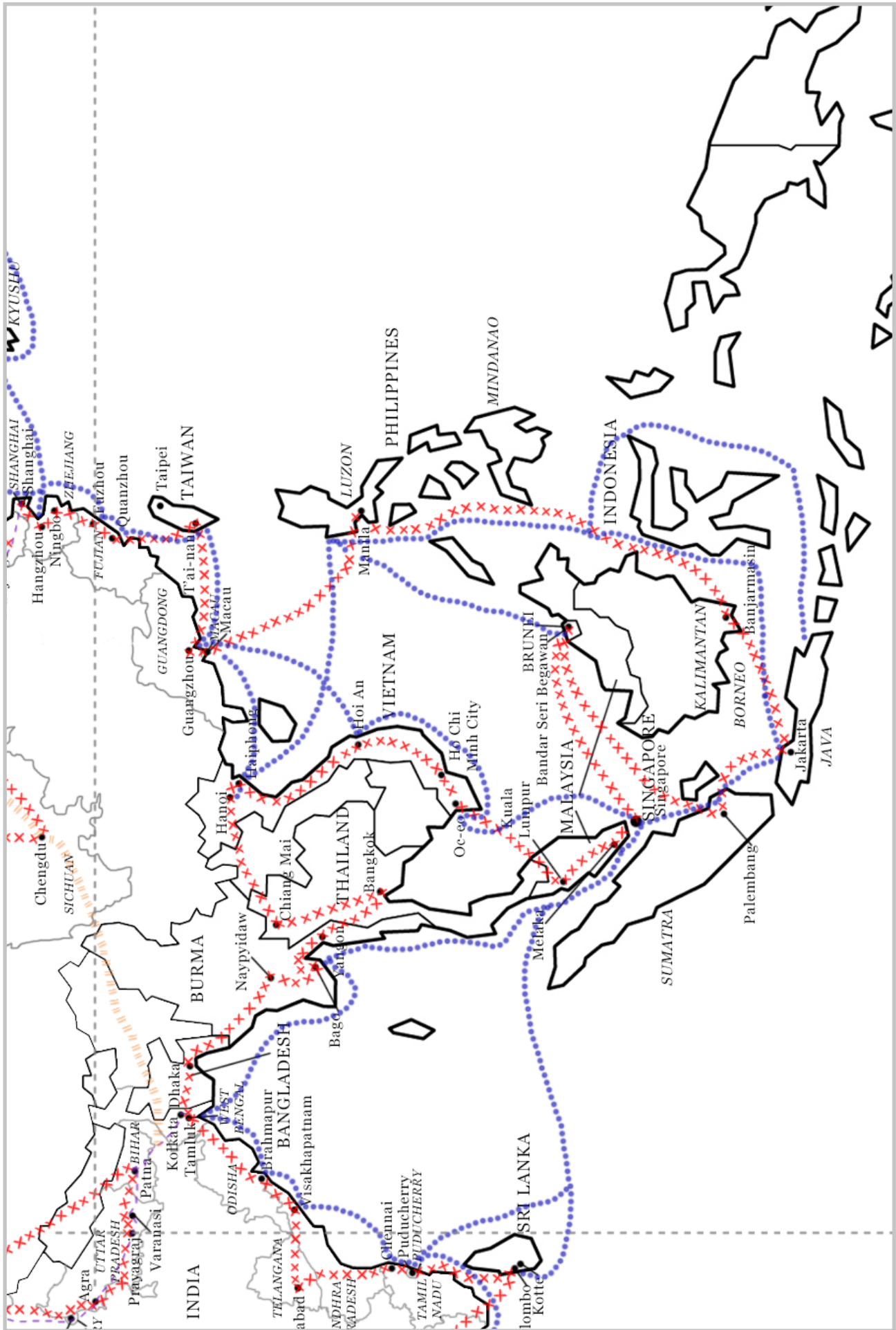
Spice Route

XXXXXXXXXX

Incense Road

|||||

Other Trade Routes






Lesson One: China Shanghai and Zhejiang

The Land and Its History

We're going to start our adventure in the city of **Shanghai** <sh AENG hh AY>, the largest city in China. It is home to more than 22 million people. Most countries are divided into smaller areas that make it easier to **govern** the entire nation. Some countries have states while other countries have territories, provinces, zones, and other types of smaller areas. On our adventure, to make it a little easier to keep track of everything, we're going to call most of the smaller areas regions, no matter what country we are in. The city of Shanghai is so large that the region it is in is also called Shanghai.

The city of Shanghai is one of the largest ports in the world, making it extremely important for transporting goods by ship. The city lies along the Huangpu River about 14 miles (23 km) from where the river meets the **Yangtze River** and then empties into the East China Sea. The Yangtze River is the longest river in China and the third longest river in the world. All this access to water has made the city very important for centuries. We know that as long ago as the Song dynasty, which ruled China from 960-1279, there was a small trading hub in Shanghai. During the Ming dynasty, which ruled China from 1368-1644, many people worked spinning silk. After a war with the United Kingdom in 1842, China opened the port to trade from many different nations, and Shanghai quickly became a key international trading center.

From Shanghai, we'll move south to the region of **Zhejiang** <ZHIIY jh AANG> and visit the cities of **Hangzhou** (which is also spelled Hangchow) <hahng joe> and **Ningbo** <ning bah>. Hangzhou has been an important trading center since the 500s. Emperors of the Song dynasty made the city their capital in the 1100s, and the city was one of the largest cities in the world by the 1200s when Marco Polo visited. The Grand Canal connects Hangzhou to Beijing <BAY jzhing>, which is much farther north, by water. The canal crosses approximately

A decorative banner with a double-line border and pointed ends, containing the lesson title.

Lesson One: China
Shanghai and Zhejiang

1,000 miles (1,600 km), and sections were finished at various times. The entire canal was finished around 1327. Like Shanghai, Hangzhou has been an important manufacturer of silk throughout history.

Ningbo is another large port in China, though the city is much smaller than Hangzhou. It lies across Hangzhou Bay from Shanghai. In the 400s, much trade with Korea passed through Ningbo. The city played an important part in trade for hundreds of years until the Ming dynasty slowed down the amount of trade that came through the area. Foreign traders again came in the 1500s, and since then, the city has had some busier times.

The People

China is a very complicated country in matters of religion. It is a Communist nation and is officially atheist. There have been times in the past when no expression of Christianity was allowed at all. In more recent times, some churches have been officially recognized by the government, but they are strictly controlled. Thanks to the work of God and the faithfulness of millions of Christians over the decades, an underground, or “hidden,” network of house churches exists throughout the country. China is now home to millions of Christians, but the country is home to more than one billion people. Many, many more still need to hear about Jesus and trust in Him as their Lord and Savior.

It is hard to be a Christian in China. As of 2010, there were more Christians in prison in China than in any other country in the world. Leaders of house churches have been especially persecuted. But the government knows that people will turn to Christianity no matter what they do, so they are trying other things in addition to arresting and imprisoning people. One strategy they are using is trying to rewrite the Bible so that people who might read it only read what the Communist government wants them to read. They are changing Bible stories completely so that what they write is nothing like what God wrote in His Word. In some places, they have forced churches to replace the Ten Commandments with quotes by government rulers. We need to pray that God will stop these lies and that He will help the people trying to rewrite the Bible read and understand the truth.

Hudson Taylor was a missionary who went to China. He traveled for six months to reach the country and arrived in Shanghai in 1854. He worked hard to learn Mandarin Chinese, and then he made a decision that was practically unheard of among Protestant missionaries at the time. He decided to dress like a Chinese man and wear his hair like they did. He knew that most Chinese thought of Christianity as a religion of foreigners that had nothing to do with the Chinese people or culture. He wanted to show that he respected their culture and that Jesus came for everyone.

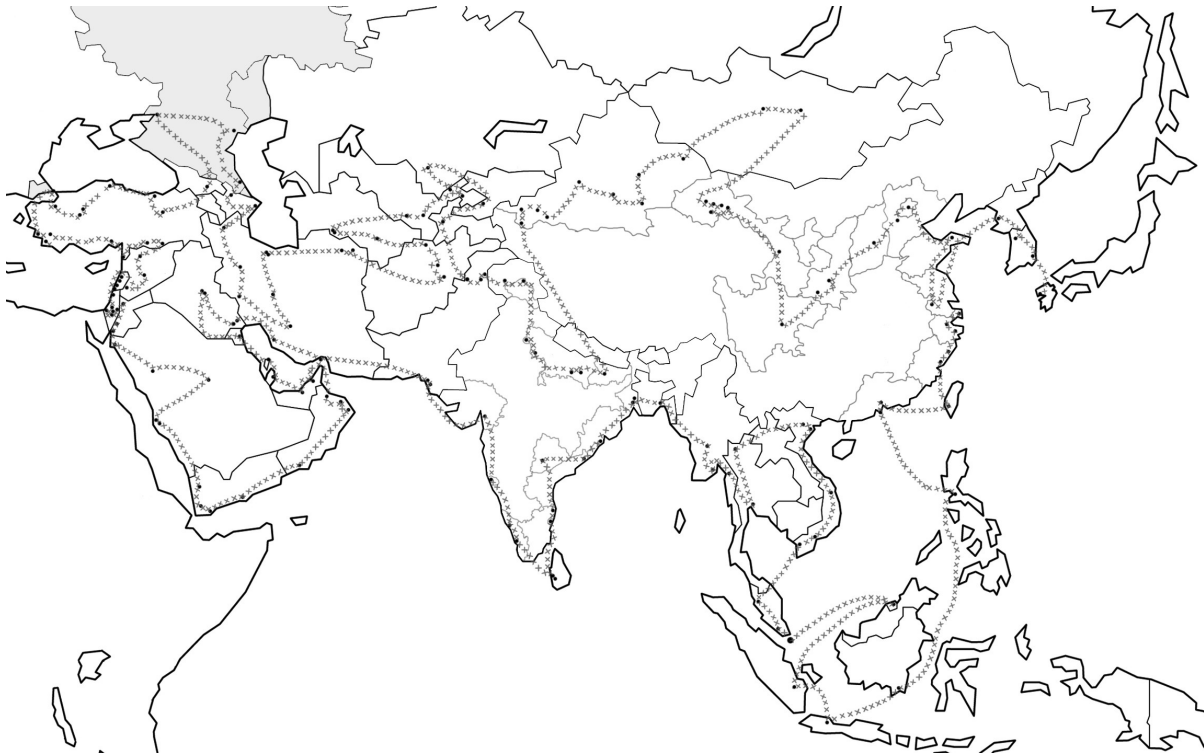
Most Protestant missionaries back then in China focused on preaching in the port cities and other places near the water, but Taylor knew there was a LOT of China that did not touch the water. In 1865, he founded the China Inland Mission to reach people who lived farther inland.

Wang Laiquan was one of the Chinese men who worked alongside Hudson Taylor in Ningbo. When Taylor went back home in 1860 because of medical issues, Wang helped take care of Taylor’s children and helped translate the New Testament into the specific dialect used in Ningbo. He later returned to China, became a pastor, led local churches, opened a chapel, and help take care of preachers who traveled from place to place.

Lesson One: China
Shanghai and Zhejiang

Zhejiang has been a focal point of attacks on Christian churches in recent years. In 2014, a massive push to destroy or remove crosses from on top of church buildings began. Many churches have also been completely torn down and destroyed by officials.

As we pray for God to stop the lies the Chinese government is trying to spread and to help the people trying to rewrite the Bible understand the truth, there are other things we can pray for, too. We need to pray for wisdom and courage for Christians who are facing threats and persecution. It is hard to know what to do and how to do it when you are dealing with persecution, and they want to make the decisions that will best honor and glorify God. Let's pray for God to help them do that.





Lesson One: China Shanghai and Zhejiang

Tufted Deer

I can't wait to show you some of the amazing animals that live in Asia! There are more species than we could count, and there are probably some that haven't been discovered yet. I want to show you as many as I can. The first one I want to show you is the tufted deer. It lives in China and Burma, and we're going to climb into the mountains in Zhejiang to see if we can spot one.

The best place to look for one is near the water. Look, there by the river. I thought we'd see one if we came here. It is eating the grass and leaves there by the water. Its tail might remind you of a white-tailed deer because both kinds of deer have tails with white on the underside. It lifts its tail whenever it runs, just like a white-tailed deer. The rest of the fur of most tufted deer is dark gray or brown. Both males and females have that little tuft of hair on their foreheads. For males, it can sometimes hide small antlers. The antlers aren't a major weapon for these deer like they are for some other deer. They use them, but they prefer to use their teeth. Some of their teeth grow extra long and come in handy when the deer is in trouble.

A female tufted deer usually has one or two fawns at a time each spring. When the fawns are born, they have two parallel rows of spots on them that fade as they grow older. The fawns stay very close to their mothers for the first six months. Uh oh. I think the deer got a whiff of us. Do you hear that barking sound? That's the sound it makes to warn others that there could be danger near by. We should head back before we scare them.

Animal Record

Draw a picture of a tufted deer in your Student Book.



Lesson Two: China

Fujian

The Land and Its History


Let's continue south along the coast to the region of **Fujian** <fuw JHIY ahn>. I want to show you the cities of **Fuzhou** (Foochow) <foo joe> and Quanzhou (Zaitun) <CHEN jo>. Fuzhou was an important trading center during the Song dynasty, and it was a major center of the tea trade in the early 1800s. However, when the market for tea from Fuzhou **declined**, the city lost much of its business.

Quanzhou was built in the 700s, and during the Tang dynasty, which ruled China from 618-907, it grew into a major center of trade. People from Iran and the Middle East moved there to do business. Even when the rulers of the government changed, Quanzhou stayed strong and kept growing until the 1400s. In 1292, when it was time for Marco Polo to sail back to Europe, he left from the port in Quanzhou.

One of the things that makes Fujian **unique** among all the regions of China is that a very large majority, about eighty percent, of the people of Taiwan can trace their roots to people from Fujian. We'll be exploring Taiwan next. It's not just people from Taiwan who can trace their roots back to Fujian, however. Many Chinese all over the world can. This has made Fujian more connected to other countries than some regions of China.

The People

Fujian was one of the first places in China to hear the Word of God as missionaries traveled along the coast. At times, people in Fujian have been much more free than those in other parts of China to worship God. At other times, the government has cracked down and made it much harder to live as a Christian.



Lesson Two: China
Fujian

Because so many people from Taiwan have family connections to Fujian, it has opened some doors to help spread the Gospel to Fujian. Because Taiwan is so much freer for people to learn about and worship God than China is, Christians in Taiwan can share the Gospel with their loved ones in Fujian. Sadly, there has also been a push in recent years for people to share other religions with the people of Fujian.

One of the people groups who live in Fujian is the She <SHUH>. Hundreds of thousands of them live in the region, but very few still speak their old language. They have become part of the other people groups around them. Missionaries taught in the area in the 1800s, and in the early 2000s, there were reports of a few thousand She trusting in Jesus. But there are hundreds of thousands of She who do not know about or trust in Jesus. One thing that is very important to the She is singing. Many sing as they work in their rice fields or tend to their cotton, tea, or grain crops. In Revelation 5:9, the apostle John says, “And they sung a new song, saying, ‘Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;’” We need to pray for more and more of the She to trust in Jesus so they can sing praise to Him!

The Ami <AH-mee>, Bunun <BOO-non>, and Paiwan <pie-WAH-n> are also people groups who live in Fujian. They are very small people groups in China, though many more live in Taiwan. In China, they are grouped together and called the Gaoshan. Many of their relatives in Taiwan trust in Jesus, but only the Bunun have any known Christians in **mainland** China. The Ami in Taiwan have the complete Bible in their language, but it is not available in China. They have sent missionaries to China, but they have not sent them to their own people there. A very few Bunun in China have trusted in Jesus, but they do not have access to a Bible they can read and truly understand. The Paiwan have a translated New Testament, but it is only available in Taiwan, not in China.

So far, I’ve told you about Hudson Taylor and Wang Laiquan. Another Chinese Christian I want to tell you about is Yu Cidu (Dora Yu), a girl born in 1873 who went on to speak at **revivals** across China. She firmly believed that the Chinese church should grow and support itself rather than have to depend on missionaries and money from Christians outside the country. That doesn’t mean she didn’t appreciate it—she did, very much. But she knew that the church had to keep growing so it could be strong. One of the places she taught was at a revival meeting in Fuzhou. A man named Watchman Nee heard her teach, and it helped lead him to put his faith in Jesus. He went on to become a famous Chinese Christian. He helped start around four hundred house churches in China that were independent of help from other countries, plus about thirty house churches in other countries. This became extremely important when the Communists later forced foreign Christians out of the country. The Communists arrested Watchman Nee in 1952 and kept him in prison for twenty years until he passed away in 1972.

Let’s pray for the She, Ami, Bunun, Paiwan, and all the people of Fujian to hear about Jesus, to have His Word in their language, and to put their trust in Him.



Lesson Two: China
Fujian

Eurasian Hoopoe

The next animal I want you to see is one of the most colorful and unique-looking birds you'll ever see. It's the Eurasian hoopoe <HOO poo>, which is sometimes called the common hoopoe. The hoopoe is the only member of the Upupidae family. There are several subspecies of hoopoes that live in Europe, Asia, and Africa. The Eurasian hoopoe is the most common of the types of hoopoes.

It is a beautiful orange bird with black and white zebra stripes on its wings and tail. It has a crest of feathers on its head that it sometimes raises right after it lands. It has a long, curved bill designed for digging insects out of the ground.

The Eurasian hoopoe can live almost anywhere there is plant-covered ground where insects can live in and something like a tree, nestbox, or other tall place with a space in it where it can build its nest. If we listen, we should hear one almost any time now. Wait—there it is. Do you hear it? It sounds like, “hoopoopoo—hoopoopoo.” Let's check those trees up ahead at the edge of this clearing.

Yes—there it is! Do you see it? Isn't it beautiful?

Animal Record

Draw a picture of an Eurasian hoopoe in your Student Book.



Lesson Three: Taiwan

The Land and Its History

Now we're going to cross the Taiwan **Strait** to the island of Taiwan. The island, which the Portuguese used to call **Formosa**, is about 90 miles (140 km) from China. The people ruled themselves prior to the 1600s. Then the Netherlands ruled the island for a time before it became independent again. China took control after that and ruled for around 200 years. Japan took control of the island in 1895 and returned it to China in 1945. But in 1949, a group of people in China broke away from the Chinese Communist government that was in charge. They **established** a new, free country in Taiwan. Since then, the Chinese Communist government has insisted that Taiwan belongs to China, but the people of Taiwan insist they are still free. Governments around the world continue to argue over this, and China continues to **threaten** Taiwan. As of today, Taiwan remains free.

The capital of Taiwan is Taipei <ty pay or ty bay> in the northern part of the island. The city of T'ai-nan <TAY naen> in southern Taiwan, which is the next stop on our journey, is one of the country's oldest cities. **Historians** aren't sure exactly when people first lived in T'ai-nan, but they think it was by 1590 or earlier. The city grew over the next several hundred years and became an important city for business. It served as the island's capital for more than 200 years. Ships came to trade, and today, the city is still an important port that ships sugarcane, rice, fruit, and peanuts that are grown in the southern part of the island.

The People

Do you remember the Gaoshan people I told you about in Fujian? When the Dutch ruled Taiwan, they shared the Gospel with the Paiwan <pie WAHN> people. In only a few years, more than 5,000 Paiwan trusted in Jesus. But in 1661, they were all killed. Their churches were destroyed, and the missionaries were killed or forced to



Lesson Three:
Taiwan

leave. But God wasn't done with the Paiwan people! In the 1940s and 1950s, thousands trusted in Him, including entire villages! There is still a strong group of Paiwanese Christians in Taiwan.

There are tens of thousands of Ami <AH mee> in Taiwan who believe in Jesus. They have even started sending missionaries to other countries such as Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea.

Between 1946 and 1959, the number of Bunun <Boo non> believers in Taiwan went from zero to more than 8,000, and it grew to more than 12,000 by 1969! There are many Bunun Christians today. A believer named Hu Wen-chih translated the Bible into Bunun in 1973, which helped the believers grow and share Jesus with others.

There are many wonderful people who have served God in Taiwan over the centuries. One of them was George Mackay, a Canadian man of Scottish **ancestry** who had skills as a dentist. You might wonder how God used a Canadian dentist in Taiwan, but God always prepares His people for where He has designed for them to serve. George didn't know being a dentist would turn out to be so helpful, but God did.

George arrived in Taiwan in 1872. It was a very difficult and dangerous place to live and work, especially in the northern part of the island, which is where George traveled to. People from various groups lived there, including some who hated each other. There were also settlements of Chinese who had moved to the island from the mainland. Mackay first lived with the Chinese, and several put their faith in Jesus.

Together with these Chinese believers, Mackay headed out to the wild countryside, which is where he discovered why God had arranged for him to know a lot about dentistry. The people there had a terrible habit of chewing on a particular kind of plant that was absolutely awful for their teeth. Because of this, huge numbers of them had teeth that were rotting and had terrible toothaches. The local leaders had always taught the people that only their gods could save them, but now a Christian missionary had come who was able to relieve their pain. This made some of them pay attention to what he had to say.

Mackay trained the believers who had gone with him in dentistry, and soon, they could treat hundreds of people at a time. People began trusting in Jesus, which made other people very angry. They captured and imprisoned some of the Christians, killing some of them. In spite of the persecution, many people came to follow Jesus in Taiwan while Mackay was serving there.

The Church in Taiwan went through several decades when it seemed to grow very little, but today, it is strong and growing. It is sending missionaries to other countries, and it is serving both the Taiwanese people as well as the people who are working in Taiwan who have come from other countries. Many groups are working together in unity, just like Jesus called us to.

Jesus said our love for each other and our unity would show other people that He is real. There are many people in Taiwan who don't believe in Jesus, and many who work very hard to keep faith in Jesus from spreading. Taiwan is open to missionaries coming from other countries to spread the Gospel, but not many missionaries are going. Other religions are sending their own missionaries to the island and leading people away from trusting in Jesus. We need to keep praying that more and more people in Taiwan hear about Jesus and trust in Him by faith. We can pray that they not listen to the lies others try to tell them, and we can pray for Christians to stay united in Jesus and to grow even more united than they are!



Lesson Three: Taiwan

Taiwan Serow

Have you ever heard of a serow <sah ROW>? No? Not too many people outside Asia have. A serow looks a little bit like a goat or antelope. They live in Japan, Bangladesh, Burma, China, Indonesia, and a few other places in Asia including Taiwan. There are several different kinds of serows, but since we're in Taiwan, I want to show you a Taiwan serow. Make sure you have good walking and climbing shoes on, because we're going to cover some rough ground.

The Taiwan serow lives in the mountains. Some live at lower altitudes while others live at higher altitudes. In places where they have to live at lower altitudes, they really like spending their time near ridges and cliffs because they help protect them from predators. They have cloven hooves and can jump as high as 6.5 feet (2 m). Let's see if we can get a look at one. Right now is our best chance since sunset is just a few hours away.

There, do you see that animal munching on the grass off to your left? The Taiwan serow eats grass, shrubs, small twigs, fruits, and other parts of trees. It usually grows to about 31-45 inches (80-114 cm) long and only weighs around 55-77 pounds (25-35 kg). That's less than some large dogs. Both males and females have those two small horns that you can see, and they never shed them.

Animal Record

Draw a picture of a Taiwan serow in your Student Book.