

# Activity Guide



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To be used with  
**Look What I See! Where Can I Be?  
Visiting China**

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ISBN: 1-930775-15-6  
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## "Where am I?" the Baby wonders.

This time Baby is on an enchanting trip to China with her family. Each day she wakes from her nap to see extraordinary things as the family travels from place to place exploring Chinese history, culture and heritage.



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## Pre-Reading

Prepare the listeners to hear a factual story. This type of story will not have animals talking; it is not pretend... it is REAL things happening to Baby and her family. Predict from the title what the story is going to be about. What does the title tell us? Who are the people in the picture? Ask who has ever gone on a family trip. What kinds of things did you see along the way?

Review background information about China: China is located in Southeast Asia on the Pacific Ocean. China is about the same size as Europe. It is the third largest country in the world. China is the most populated country in the world, with more than one billion people – about 4 times as many people as the United States on the same amount of land. China is famous for many, many things, such as acrobatics, Kungfu, ping-pong or table tennis, songs, dances, Peking opera, local operas, symphonies, cuisine.

## Vocabulary Development

The author has hidden an apple and a doll in each large photograph in all the stories in the *Look What I See!* series.

Explore each page of the text and name each item that you see in the picture. Build vocabulary lists. Do we see any of the same items on more than one page?



## First Reading/ Let's Talk About It

Read the book prior to reading with the children so that you are aware of what happens next and can have a better idea how to steer the discussion. Enjoy the text with the children at the first reading. Do not rush...browse through and answer any questions they might have. You will need to prompt the children as they attempt to determine what it is that Baby might be seeing. What do the pictures tell us about where Baby is that the words do not tell us? Who else is with Baby? Is she being carried or riding? Encourage children to locate the doll and apple on each page. The doll will be wearing a different hat on each page. This opens up more areas for discussion.

## Follow-Up/ After Reading Activities

At the beginning of the story Baby finds herself on an airplane. Her family surrounds her. Look at each person's face. How are they feeling about traveling together to a new place? Where have you gone with your family? Invite children to bring in pictures to show places they have visited with their families. Post photos at the children's eye level to offer opportunities for student-to-student interaction and discussion about places families go together. This could include far-away places, vacations, trips to grandparents or a day trip to the zoo.

Taking a real trip is a wonderful thing to do. Taking a pretend trip can be just as exciting. Let's go to China just like Baby did.

- What preparations would the family need to make in order to get ready to take a trip to a far-away place like China? Would you need a passport? Would you need a road map?

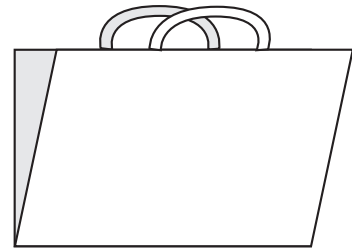
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## Pre-Reading *continued from p. 2*

- Would you pack a suitcase? List things you would need to pack into a suitcase.

Cut a 12"x18" piece of construction paper into the shape of a suitcase.

1. Fold in half
2. Cut handles on the side opposite the fold. Label and decorate the suitcase. Inside illustrate things you would need (clothes, toothbrush, books, camera, pajamas, money, etc). Younger children might cut and paste pictures from magazines to show what to put in a suitcase.



Discuss where China is located and how we can get there.

- Locate China on a world map. Name the continent China is located on. How far away is it? Look at the size of the country compared to other countries.
- Use map vocabulary — east, west, north, south, continent, ocean. Give children a copy of the world map. Work together to find the United States and color it. The United States is on the continent of North America. Find China and color the country. China is on the continent of Asia. Follow the map to show how you would get to China.
- Could we walk to China? Could we take our bikes to China? Could we drive to China? Could we take a train to China? Bus? Boat? Airplane? On a globe you can show getting to China in more than one direction.

People need passports to travel to another country. Use the format in Appendix A or one of your own to **make a passport** for a pretend journey onto the continent of Asia. The inside of the passport can be used for additional information learned about China. Draw pictures of the Chinese flag (See Appendix A). Use stickers to document places visited and things learned or questions students could answer.

Once suitcase and passport are complete you are ready to travel to China.

- Set up chairs in rows to simulate airplane seats, pass out tickets, plan an on board snack and maybe a movie due to the length of time it would take to actually get to China.
- Use a guided imagery lesson ... close your eyes and pretend. ...visualize taking off in the plane...fastening seat belts, etc ... call attention to things you might be flying over ... pretend to look out the plane window and see a whale jumping up in the ocean...or a monkey in the rain forest (but talk about whether you could really see a whale or a monkey from the airplane). Culminate the trip by landing at the airport in Beijing. Then begin a day-by-day trip around China ... just like Baby.
- Create a postcard to send to someone telling about someplace you visited on your imaginary trip to China. Cut a 4" x 6" piece of paper. On one side draw a picture of something from China—a panda, the Great Wall. On the other side write a message. Add an address and put your postcard in the mail. Use real stamps and mail the postcards to friends or family members OR create stamps that might be used in China and "send" the cards to fellow classmates or family members.

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## Monday — Beijing

On Monday Baby wakes up to see bright red fringe. She is in the town of Beijing. Beijing is the capital city of China.

### Red

Baby sees the bright red fringe on the side of the trishaw (TRI-shaw). The color RED has many meanings to the Chinese people. Its brightness is said to scare off bad luck. New clothes worn during the New Year are often red in color. How does the color red make you feel?

Red envelopes filled with money are given to children to shower them with luck and joy. Use red construction paper and make envelopes. Cut, fold, glue or tape together. Fill with plastic coins. Use for practice in recognizing and counting combinations of coins.



### Velvet and silk

In the trishaw, Baby fell asleep on a velvet cushion. Velvet is a very soft plush fabric. Place different types of fabric into a box or bag. Have children reach inside to find the velvet.... include easily distinguishable fabrics like silk, corduroy, canvas, brocade, or fur. Silk is an additional fabric that is easily distinguishable. Silk was first made in China about 4,000 years ago. Silk thread is made from the cocoon of the silkworm. The silkworm is a small moth that eats the leaves of the mulberry tree. It is part of a Chinese legend that the first silk thread was made when an empress was sitting under a mulberry tree having a cup of tea; a cocoon fell from the tree into her teacup. She saw the silky threads and started the production of silk. Compare silk and velvet. How are they the same and different?

### Trishaw is an unusual word.

Baby is riding in it. Explore the picture. What characteristics does a trishaw have? What do we ride that has the same number of wheels that starts with the same tri sound? (Tricycle) How are a trishaw and a tricycle the same and different? Use a Venn diagram to compare. Do we know any other words that start with tri...(triangle, triceps, triathlon, tripod, trio, triple etc.)

### Baby is in Beijing.

Beijing is a large city in the country of China. If Baby is listening carefully she may hear, “Gung Hay Fat Choy!” for “Happy New Year”! This is the traditional greeting heard during the Chinese New Year celebration. During Chinese New Year families and friends all over China get together to share food, gifts, and best wishes. We celebrate our New Year on January 1st. How do you celebrate? The Chinese New Year is at a different time of the year than our New Year. Chinese New Year falls on the first new moon between January 21 and February 19. This “Spring Festival” is the most important holiday in China. The Chinese people celebrate a new beginning. Chinese New Year is on one day, but the holiday season is usually observed for a month (so there’s time for all the eating and visiting) and school kids are off from school for FOUR WEEKS! Houses are cleaned, new clothes are bought, and everyone gets a new haircut — it is out

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## Monday — Beijing *continued from p. 4*

with the old and in with the new. The celebration can last for many days. It is during the celebration you might see fireworks exploding, paper lanterns being hung, and dragon parades.

### Why fireworks?

Gunpowder was invented in China during the 1000's. From the gunpowder the Chinese people developed the first fireworks. Most of the fireworks we see in the United States come from China. Fireworks should only be lit by adults in places where they are legal. The little explosions from fireworks are caused from the gunpowder. To make your own fireworks drop splats of paint on a black sheet of construction paper. When the paint dries, add drops of glue. Then sprinkle with various colors of glitter. Add words like...POP...BOOM...

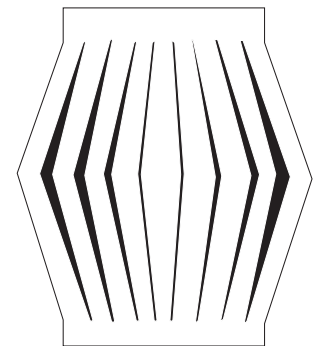
### Why paper lanterns?

Colorfully decorated paper lanterns are hung in homes and carried by children through the streets during the Chinese New year celebration.

*Make your own paper lantern.* (See template Appendix B) Use a 9" x 12" piece of colored construction paper. Fold in half lengthwise.

Draw a line 1 inch from the edge. Cut even slits to the line. Open paper and overlap uncut edges. Staple at the top and bottom. Squeeze down to form the lantern shape.

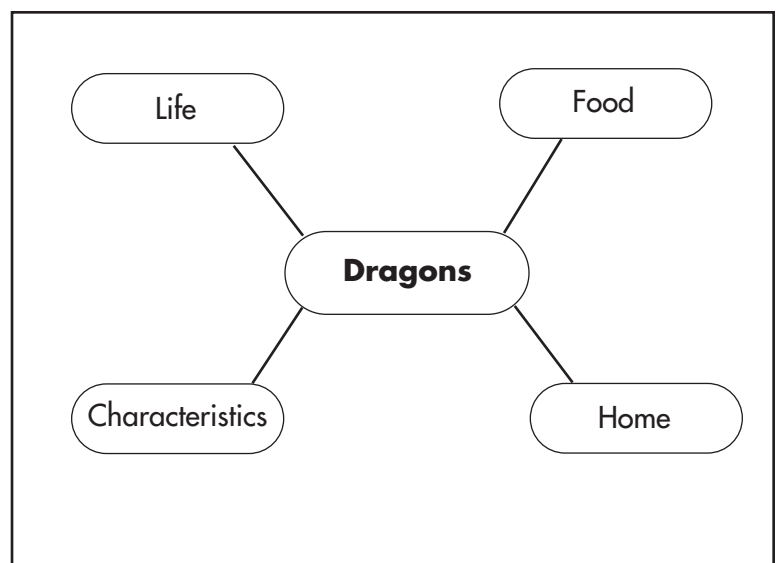
Tissue paper strips can be added to the bottom and a yarn string for carrying.



### Why dragons?

The Chinese people believe the dragon is a symbol of strength and goodness. Dragons are mythical creatures that play a big part in Chinese legends. History tells us that there are different types of Asian dragons, and each one is special in its own way.

- The Horned Dragon is considered the mightiest.
- The Celestial Dragon supports the heavens and protects the Gods.
- The Earth Dragon ruled all of the earth.
- The Spiritual Dragon controls the wind and rain.
- The Treasure Dragon is the keeper of precious metals and gems.
- The Winged Dragon is the only dragon with wings.
- The Coiling Dragon dwells in the ocean.
- The Yellow Dragon is a hornless dragon known for his scholarly knowledge.
- The Chinese dragons each have exactly 117 scales with 5 claws on each hand and foot. They are depicted as blue, black, white, red or yellow. Often they are seen with a pearl in their mouth or under their chin. Use this opportunity to build on



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## Monday — Beijing *continued from p. 5*

young children's fascination with these mythical creatures. Provide black paper to draw the shape of a dragon; include claws, horns and wings. Encourage children to use their imaginations in creating their dragon shape. Cut carefully around the body parts to make a dragon silhouette. The Chinese people are famous for their beautiful watercolor silhouettes and paper cuttings. Challenge children to create a habitat (environment, background) for their silhouette dragon with watercolors on large sheets of paper. Add the dragon silhouette to the picture once it is dry. Use this "child-created" **watercolor silhouette** as a basis for writing a **mythical story** about the dragon that dwells, say, in the ocean. What is its job? Is it male or female? Who does he/she watch out for? Where in the ocean does he/she live? What does it eat? Is there only one dragon or do lots of dragons live together like a family. Discussions using these types of questions get children thinking and ready to write. A story web made by the class using these questions can serve as a guide to keep the children on topic when they begin writing.

Younger students may only generate a few letters and then dictate the story to an adult. Older students are able to generate several sentences on their own. When asking children to write stories, be sure to offer them opportunities to share with an audience... a few classmates, parents or another class. This creates a purpose for writing.

## The Chinese Calendar

Our calendar has 12 months from January to December. It is the same every year. We celebrate our New Year on the first day of January. The Chinese calendar is a different kind of calendar. It is made of a cycle of 12 animals: the rat, ox, tiger, hare, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig. One animal represents each year. The Chinese people associate a person's personality with that of the animal of the year that person was born. For example, if you were born in the year of the dog, you would be considered to be faithful; and the year of the ox, hardworking!

As is true of most anything ancient, the origin of the **Chinese animal signs** is a mix of legend and folklore. It is said that at the dawn of civilization, the Emperor of Heaven summoned all animals to compete for 12 representatives of the Earthly Branches. The rat and the cat, a pair of good friends, planned to go together the next morning. Since the cat was an insatiable sleeper, the rat promised to wake him up. Yet the rat broke his promise. He rose early and went to see the Emperor of Heaven alone. Arriving at the heavenly court, the rat found a line of 11 other animals, with the ox in the lead. Without hesitation, the rat jumped ahead and sat on ox's back. When the Emperor of Heaven appeared, the rat slipped from the ox's back and took the first position. Such treacherous success aroused public indignation, so from that moment on the wily rat has been forced to live in murky underground corners. And, of course, it must endure much grief from the cat.

Check the chart to see what year you were born.

Rat	Ox	Tiger	Rabbit	Dragon	Snake	Horse	Sheep	Monkey	Rooster	Dog	Boar
1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007

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## Monday — Beijing *continued from p. 6*

Read this riddle. Can you figure out the year Baby was born?

I love to hop.

I have two ears.

I like to eat carrots.

I am a mammal.

I was born in the year of the \_\_\_\_\_

Write **riddles** about your animal.

Fold paper in half. Write riddle on the outside. Lift the flap and write answer on the inside along with an illustration. Encourage children to use a similar riddle format to write a riddle to go with the year they were born. Share reading one clue at a time. How many clues are needed to figure out the riddle?

# Tuesday — The Marketplace

On Tuesday Baby falls asleep in her bike seat and wakes up to see a mountain of spices.

## Spices

**What are spices?** Do we eat spices?

- Prepare smelling jars for the children to experience the various scents of distinct spices such as cinnamon, cloves, sage, cardamom, pepper. What do you think of when you hear the word spicy? Brainstorm a list of foods you think are spicy. What spices must be in each food to give it that spicy flavor?



## The Marketplace

Baby awakened to find herself in the marketplace. The marketplace would be similar to our grocery store. Do you see any foods that you recognize in the picture? The Chinese people shop everyday because they like to buy all their foods fresh. Each food in the marketplace has its own shape. What **shapes** do you see? How would you decide how much of each food you would need to buy? Baby's mother might **measure or weigh** the spices into a box or bag.

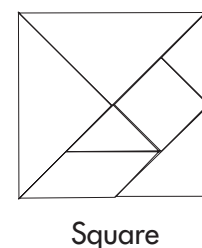
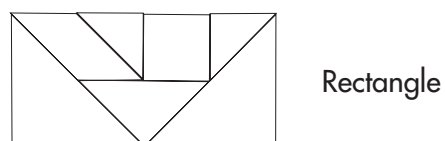
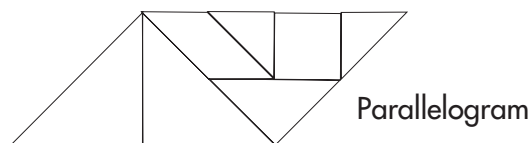
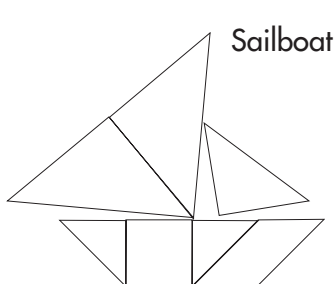
- Practice weighing and measuring. How many scoops of rice does it take to weigh the same as an apple? Use a scale to experiment. What weighs more? Noodles or rice? Can you measure 1 cup of rice? 1/2 cup? 1/4 cup? Which is more?

## Baby saw a spice mountain.

The mountain was shaped almost like a triangle.

## Tangram

Experiment with the Chinese **tangram** puzzle (see template Appendix C) and make your own spice mountain. The Chinese invented this special puzzle. It has seven pieces. How many pieces do you need to make your mountain? What shapes did you use? Can you make more than one mountain? Look carefully at each piece in a tangram puzzle. What shapes do you see? Do you know the names of each shape? Try to make only triangles using the pieces. Use three, four, five, six and all seven pieces. Draw your triangles on paper. Make a chart to show all the possible ways of making a triangle. Can you make a sailboat with your tangram shapes? Tangrams can be used to make all kinds of things. Work with a friend and see what things you can make together.





## Wednesday — The Opera

On Wednesday Baby woke up to see the decorated face of the monkey king. She was at the opera with her family.



### The Monkey King

The Monkey King is a character from a Chinese Story. He is prankish and very mischievous. Do you know any other stories where the characters are similar? (Maybe Curious George or Anansi the Spider.) The characters of a story are the people or animals that the story is about. Who are the characters in this *Look What I See? Where Can I Be?* story. Are they real characters or make believe? How can we tell? Do you think the Monkey King was a real character or make believe? Does the picture tell us? What about his name "Monkey King"? Would that give us a clue to the type of character he is? In the picture Monkey King is holding a long pole in his hand. Baby's doll is sliding down the pole. What do you think the Monkey King is up to? Look closely at the Monkey King's face. Do you think he resembles a monkey? Why or why not?

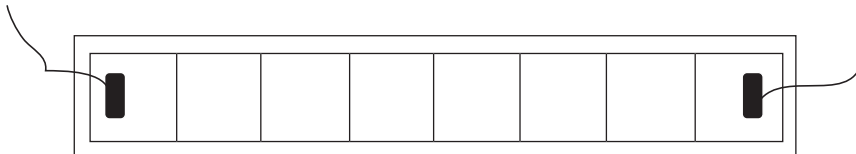
If you were to become a character in a Chinese Opera...what character would you want to be? What colors would you need to create your face?

### Design a Mask

Design a mask to show how you would look. Use a paper plate, paint, markers, glue, yarn, glitter and whatever else you need. Cut holes for your eyes, decorate however you want. Then tape a stick to the back of the plate so you can hold it like a mask. Play music and dance around. What would opera music sound like? Have you ever heard opera music? Try to make up a story to go with your character.

### Design a Story Belt

Design a story belt to wear with your mask. Fold a 3-inch by 24-inch piece of paper in half and in half again. In each section illustrate part of your story (Older children can write as well as draw). Punch holes in each end, loop a piece of yarn through each hole, wrap around your waist and tie the yarn. Wear your belt. Carry your mask...Act out your story for an audience.



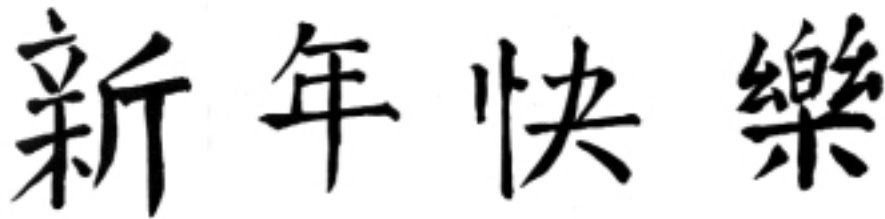
## Wednesday — The Opera *continued from p. 9*

### Calligraphy and Paper

Many things in China are ornately decorated, like the screen we see in the background and the costumes the characters are wearing. Many years ago the Chinese people started a special writing called calligraphy. Calligraphy is a very fancy way to write letters. It was thought that learning to write calligraphy would instill patience and courage. Use special calligraphy brushes and ink ... or a calligraphy marker, or just plain black watercolors. Look at pictures of letters written in calligraphy. Try writing your name in fancy calligraphy. Remember discipline and patience. Would you like to write like this all the time?



Try writing Happy New Year in Chinese. Here's what it looks like:



- **Paper has to be made.** We write on paper all the time and do not even think about where paper came from. The process of making paper was originally used in China about 2000 years ago.

### Try making your own paper.

1. Place pieces of newspaper into a blender with just enough water to create a pulp.
2. Scoop out 1 cup of pulp onto a piece of screen.
3. Press with a sponge to remove excess water.
4. Carefully remove pulp from screen and lay it out to dry.
5. Once your paper is dry, try writing on your paper using the fancy handwriting known as calligraphy.

## Learning Chinese

- While English has 26 different letters in the alphabet, modern Chinese has more than 400 basic syllables and 216 symbols.
- There are more than 50,000 Chinese characters. Looking at a character may give you an indication of the general meaning of the word or the general sound of a word, but not necessarily.
- You can't figure out the meaning of a character. You have to learn and memorize it. Chinese education relies on intense memorization because there are no phonics in Chinese. While American children study phonics in the first years of elementary school and master reading while still relatively young,
- Chinese people are still learning how to write and read words all the way into college.
- Chinese newspaper reading requires people to know about 4,000 characters. Each character can have a number of different meanings depending on the speaker's tone of voice. For instance, the words that are pronounced MA are all written differently, but sound the same — except for the inflection. It can mean Mother, horse, question, or curse depending on how you say it.

## Movable Type

The Chinese invented movable type.

- Use potato or other material to make numbers or letters and print with them using temporary paint or ink, moving them and rearranging them into different combinations. Example: make the letters C, H, I, N, A then print the words that can be made:

CHINA

CHIN — a common Chinese surname

CHAN — Another Chinese surname

CHA — the Chinese word for "tea"

## Thursday — An Outing in the Countryside

On Thursday Baby fell asleep in a bamboo cart and woke up to see tied bundles. She was on an outing in the countryside.

China has big cities like Beijing that Baby saw on Monday and also the countryside like Baby is seeing today. The bundles happen to be corn that Baby sees. Why do think the family has corn hanging outside? Discuss (The family may be using the corn as food for cows or pigs. Maybe they will grind the corn so that they can make corn bread or pancakes.) Do you like to eat corn? What is your favorite way to eat corn?



### Bamboo and pandas

Baby is riding in a bamboo cart. It looks almost like a shopping cart, but it is not made of metal. What is bamboo? Where and how does it grow? Can you think of an animal that likes to eat bamboo? The panda eats only bamboo. In China he is sometimes called the Bamboo Bear. 99% of the pandas diet is bamboo. It eats fast, it eats a lot and it spends 12 hours a day eating. What food would you want to eat for 12 hours every day? Ask some friends what they think. Use the Internet to learn more about this *Da xiong mao* "giant bear cat." Maybe you can find out why the panda is considered the symbol of peace for China. Make a poster to show facts that you learned. Try to draw your own panda. How is the panda different from other bears? Why are they on the verge of extinction? Share what you learned.

- **Look at bamboo.** It has a stem and leaves just like many other plants. It is special in that it only grows in certain places. It is sometimes called the **good luck plant**. Why do you think it is called that? Who would it bring good luck to? When have you experienced good luck? Do you carry anything special for good luck (coin, stone, necklace)?

### Hats

The Chinese boy in the picture is wearing a hat. His grandmother is also wearing a type of hat. She is wearing a scarf. Baby's doll is wearing a hat too. The boy's hat is shaped like a triangle. Use paper and make your own hat to wear. Cut a circle a little bigger than your head. Cut out a small V shape ... (like a thin pizza slice) ... overlap the paper and glue or staple. What do you know about hats? Different people for wear different hats for different jobs. In the United States, firefighters, police officers, clowns, etc. ... all wear different kinds of hats. Go back and look for Baby's doll on each page. Notice the hat she is wearing. Do any of the other characters in the book have hats?

### City versus Country

In the country Baby and her family saw different things. What types of things do you see in the country? What kinds of things do we see in a city? What do we see in both the city and the country? Make a Venn diagram to compare the city and the country. In the US, most people live in cities. In China, more people live in the countryside.

## Friday — Great Wall of China

On Friday Baby woke up to see a stone snake. She was at the Great Wall of China with her family.

Construction of the **Great Wall of China** began more than 2000 years ago (in 221 BCE). It was designed as a defense against invaders from the north. It is so large that it can be seen from outer space. In the picture you can see that it stretches on and on. The wall moves through China like a stone snake. It is made from rocks.



- Use small flat stones and **make your own wall**. How many stones can you stack before your wall falls over? If it takes 12 stones to make a wall 5 inches long, how many stones would it take to make a wall 10 inches long? 15 inches? 20 inches? How many miles long do you think the Great Wall of China really is? The Great Wall of China is approximately 4000 miles long (6400 km). That's farther than the distance between Los Angeles and New York City (2790 miles). Use building blocks and try making a wall. Is building with blocks harder or easier than building with stones? Why?

### Shadows

Notice the shadow on the Great Wall. Who is making the shadow? It looks like Baby's sister. She is standing between the sun and the wall. Her body is blocking the sunlight. If she moves closer to the wall, her shadow will be smaller. If she moves farther away her shadow will be larger.

- Experiment making shadows on a wall. Stand between the wall and a lamp. What can you make your shadow do? The Chinese people are known for thinking of a way to divide the day into 12 periods using the sun to help them. They made an instrument called a **sundial**. This sundial was the beginning of how we tell time today. A sundial has no numbers like our clock. But we can use it to tell how times passes.

To see how a sundial works go outside on a sunny day. Take a paper plate and an unsharpened pencil. Stick the pencil through the center of the plate so that it will stand by itself. Place plate on the ground in the sunshine, with the pencil standing straight up. You now have a sundial. Notice where the shadow from the pencil falls across the plate – mark the shadows placement and write in the time of day. Continue checking your sundial each hour all day long. Discuss what the shadows showed us about what time it was. When was the shadow the longest? The shortest? What did the shadow look like at noon? Is this a good way to tell time? What problems could you see with using a sundial to tell time?

*continued on p. 13*

## Friday — Great Wall of China *continued from p. 12*

### Kites

At the Great Wall of China Baby and her brother and sister might have seen something flying in the air. They could have seen kites flying. Kites were invented about 2,500 years ago in China. The first kites were thought to be just big leaves attached to a string. Now kites come in all shapes and sizes. What does a kite need to fly? Blow fast across the top of a thin strip of paper and you can see the paper lift up. The top of the paper has more pressure than the bottom causing it to rise up. Both kites and airplanes fly because of this difference in pressure called lift. Go outside on a windy day and fly a kite or pretend to be a kite yourself and move around like a kite might move — dip, soar, bend, float, collide, dive or climb. After experimenting with how kites move, sing this song putting in words to fit your experience.

#### **(Sing to “Are You Sleeping”)**

Kites are flying, Kites are flying

In the sky, In the sky

Watch them as they twirl around

Watch them as they twirl around

(Sing the same verse using words like “float” and “soar” instead of fly.)

Provide real kites to look at and lots of paper, string, craft sticks and tissue paper and allow opportunities for creative kite making.

Write a simple poem to accompany the kite. Have a “Kite Sharing Time” and enjoy a piece of **High Flying Cinnamon Toast** for a snack.

1. Cut corners off bread to create a diamond shape.
2. Coat with butter, cinnamon and sugar.
3. Toast lightly.
4. Add a twist of licorice for a tail and enjoy.

## Saturday — The Forbidden City

On Saturday Baby fell asleep in her stroller. When she woke up she was exploring the Forbidden City with her family.



### Yellow

The Forbidden City was originally called the Chinese Imperial Palace. It was home to Chinese emperors for hundreds and hundreds of years, from 1368 to 1911. It is sometimes called The Forbidden City because no Chinese citizen was allowed to set foot inside the complex except for the royal family and their staff. The roofs of the Forbidden City were made out of yellow tiles. It was forbidden for any other building to use yellow. Yellow was the exclusive color of the Imperial family. Yellow became a color of importance to the Chinese people.

- Did you ever wonder how yellow **pencils** came to be? It was in the late 19th century when European stockpiles of graphite were running low. A very high-grade graphite was found in China. The pencils made with this Chinese graphite were yellow to signify the highest quality pencil. What color is your pencil? Are most pencils you see yellow? Do you like the color yellow? What does yellow remind you of? Taste and smell yellow things — jello, banana, lemon, squash. Do all yellow foods have the same flavor? Brainstorm a list of yellow things. Use this list to create a sensory color poem that tells about your feelings.

#### YELLOW

Yellow is \_\_\_\_\_.

Yellow smells like \_\_\_\_\_.

Yellow tastes like \_\_\_\_\_.

Yellow feels like \_\_\_\_\_.

Yellow sounds like \_\_\_\_\_.

Yellow looks like \_\_\_\_\_.

I think yellow \_\_\_\_\_.

### Forbidden

What does “forbidden” mean? Use a dictionary to look and see the definition. What are you forbidden to do? Why? What are laws? How do they help us? Is being forbidden to do something a bad thing? Or a good thing? If you could make a law forbidding something what would you want to stop?

## Parade

When Baby woke up she saw an animal parade. Why do you think Baby thought these animals were in a parade? In a parade people, animals, cars, etc all line up one behind another and go by for everyone to see.

- Line up your toys, stuffed animals or friends. Who will be first? Second? Third? How can you tell where the middle of the parade is? Will someone have to the end of the parade? Have you ever been to a parade? Were there animals in the parade? What kind? Have a parade of your own. What kind of parade will it be?

## Exploring

Baby and her family are **exploring** a new place. They are someplace they have never been before. Think of places you explored for the first time. Coming to school, riding a roller coaster, a day at the beach, looking into a microscope.... these are all explorations. Each time you do something new you are exploring the world around you. What would you like to explore? Discuss! Draw a picture to show why.



## Sunday — Chinese Dinner with Family

On Sunday Baby fell asleep on her Daddy's lap. When she woke up she was safe in his arms and having a special Chinese dinner with her family.

Think about **Chinese food**. What makes it Chinese? How is it cooked? Not in the oven: almost no Chinese kitchens have ovens! Chinese food is generally cooked in either a wok, which is a shallow, very thin steel pan, or in an aluminum pot over a very hot fire.



### Chopsticks

Baby saw two sticks when she woke up on Daddy's lap. The people in the picture are eating with them. Do you know what they are called? They are **chopsticks**. Chopsticks are made of everything from bamboo, copper, plastic, jade and ivory to cloisonné, a type of enamel work. Have you ever tried to eat this way? These sticks are like spoons and forks at a Chinese dinner table. The sticks are called chopsticks and they are both held in one hand and moved up and down to pick up the pieces of food on the plate. Order a Chinese meal with your family and try to eat with chopsticks. Is it easy or hard? Why? Try using a rubber band to hold the two chopsticks together at the upper end. Restaurants may provide a set of chopsticks for a class. Here are some instructions:

- 1) Rest the end of one chopstick in between your thumb and forefinger. Support the chopstick on your ring finger.
- 2) Hold the upper chopstick as if it were a pencil, between your middle finger and index finger, and anchored with your thumb.
- 3) Keep the tips of the chopsticks even with each other.
- 4) When picking up food, only the upper chopstick — the one you are holding like a pencil — should move. The lower chopstick remains still.
- 5) Wet the tip of the chopsticks a little before eating — this makes it easier to hold food.
- 6) Don't stand your chopsticks up in the rice like a dagger.
- 7) Don't wave your chopsticks around when you are talking.

### Rice

One food that you always find at a Chinese dinner table is **rice**. Rice is grown in China. Look at a package of rice. Each piece is called a grain. Are they big or small? Think! A rice grain is smaller than a \_\_\_\_\_, but larger than a \_\_\_\_\_.

**Use rice grains to make a picture.** To make the rice grains different colors you can dye them with food coloring.

1. Place 1 cup of rice in a closeable plastic bag along with 2 T of alcohol.
2. Add a few drops of food coloring.
3. Leave your rice grains in the bag for 10 minutes. Move them around to make sure the color gets on all the grains.
4. Pour onto a paper towel or newspaper and let dry.
5. Make as many different colors as you can.
6. Once your rice is dry, use glue and a paper plate. Make a rice mosaic.

Can you think of something Chinese that you saw in this book that you could create using the rice grains? (Maybe the mask of the Monkey King?)

## Fans

The napkin on Baby's table is folded like a **fan**. Throughout the ages fans have been found in China. Sometimes they are functional and sometimes they are just a decoration. Why would we ever use a fan? Make a paper fan. Color or decorate a piece of paper. Fold using an accordion fold. Fold a piece of paper over about an inch...crease it so it will stay. Turn the paper over and fold again. Keep going...back and forth... until the entire paper has been folded. Pull the folds together at the bottom and staple. Open up the top part and you have a Chinese folding fan. Will your fan be decorative or functional?

## Baby and her family had fun exploring a new culture.

She learned many interesting things about the country of China. China is a very old nation. The United States is a newer nation. Many of the things we use today started a very long time ago in China. Make a timeline to show how time passes. Begin with pictures of your grandparents. Talk to them about things they remember doing when they were young. Ask if they had video games or cell phones. What kinds of things did they have? Do they have pictures of the time when they were your age? Then ask your parents. Did they have video games and cell phones? What kinds of things did they have? Then look at yourself and how you have grown and changed. Has anything new been invented since you were born? Time passes and things change. What do you think life will be like when you are older?



## About The Author: Dia Michels

Dia lives with her family in Washington, D.C. She first discovered the wonders of China in 1993 when she visited her friends Michael and Rachel Connelly who had been living there for a year. She and her husband returned to China several years later with their three children, Akaela, Zaydek and Miralah, along with photographer Michael Bowles. Michael Connelly aptly arranged for most of the shots (which often took fairly extensive negotiations in Chinese!). "Having a project to work on while we were there made the trip a lot of fun," remembers Dia. "It was nice to bop around Beijing scouting out locations and buying props. I feel this book has made me an ambassador for Chinese culture. I'd like to think that books like this help bring the world just a little bit closer."



## About the Illustrator: Michael J.N. Bowles

Michael grew up in Harare, Zimbabwe (can you find Zimbabwe on a map of Africa?) and in Madison, Virginia. He taught himself to be a photographer and his pictures have been published in national magazines like *People*, *Forbes*, *Business Week*, and *Time*. His special interest is pictures of people, called portraiture. His photographs have been shown at galleries in New York and London. Michael loves to travel and he has been on every continent, including Antarctica—but home is New York City.

## About The Activity Guide Writer: Kathy Leggett

Kathy Leggett has been creating exciting schooldays for little people for more than twenty years. Right now she is a first grade teacher at Springwoods Elementary School in Prince William County, Virginia. She incorporates ideas that have worked in real classrooms into our Platypus Media Activity Guides. Kathy earned her teaching degree from Fairmont State University and her masters in gifted and talent education from West Virginia University. The mother of two boys, Kathy was also an active Cub Scout pack and den leader.

## Expert Consultant: Chen D. Yang

Chen D. Yang is the President of US-China New Epoch Company (NEPOC), which arranges professional training at American universities and corporations for Chinese business and government executives. Dr. Yang has been an adjunct professor of USDA Graduate School, School of Advanced International Studies at The Johns Hopkins University, The Evergreen State College, and U.S. Department of Commerce. Dr. Yang has taught Chinese studies and Chinese business culture at several American universities and government agencies. He has also co-authored four books and published numerous articles on American and Chinese governments and politics.

## Expert Consultant: Michael Connelly

Michael Connelly is a journalist who now helps raise four boys, builds wooden boats, speaks fluent Mandarin, and enjoys venturing back and forth between his homes in America and Beijing. Michael loves visiting and revisiting China and has used his time there to explore much of the country, study the language, and become close friends with many wonderful Chinese people.

You can write to Dia, Michael, Chen, or Kathy at:



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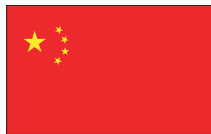
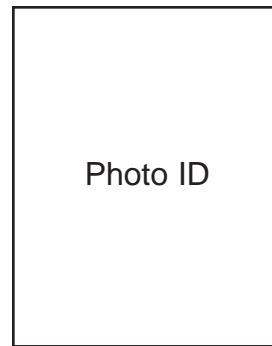
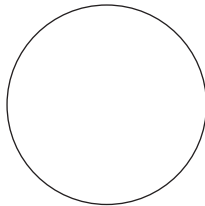


## PASSPORT

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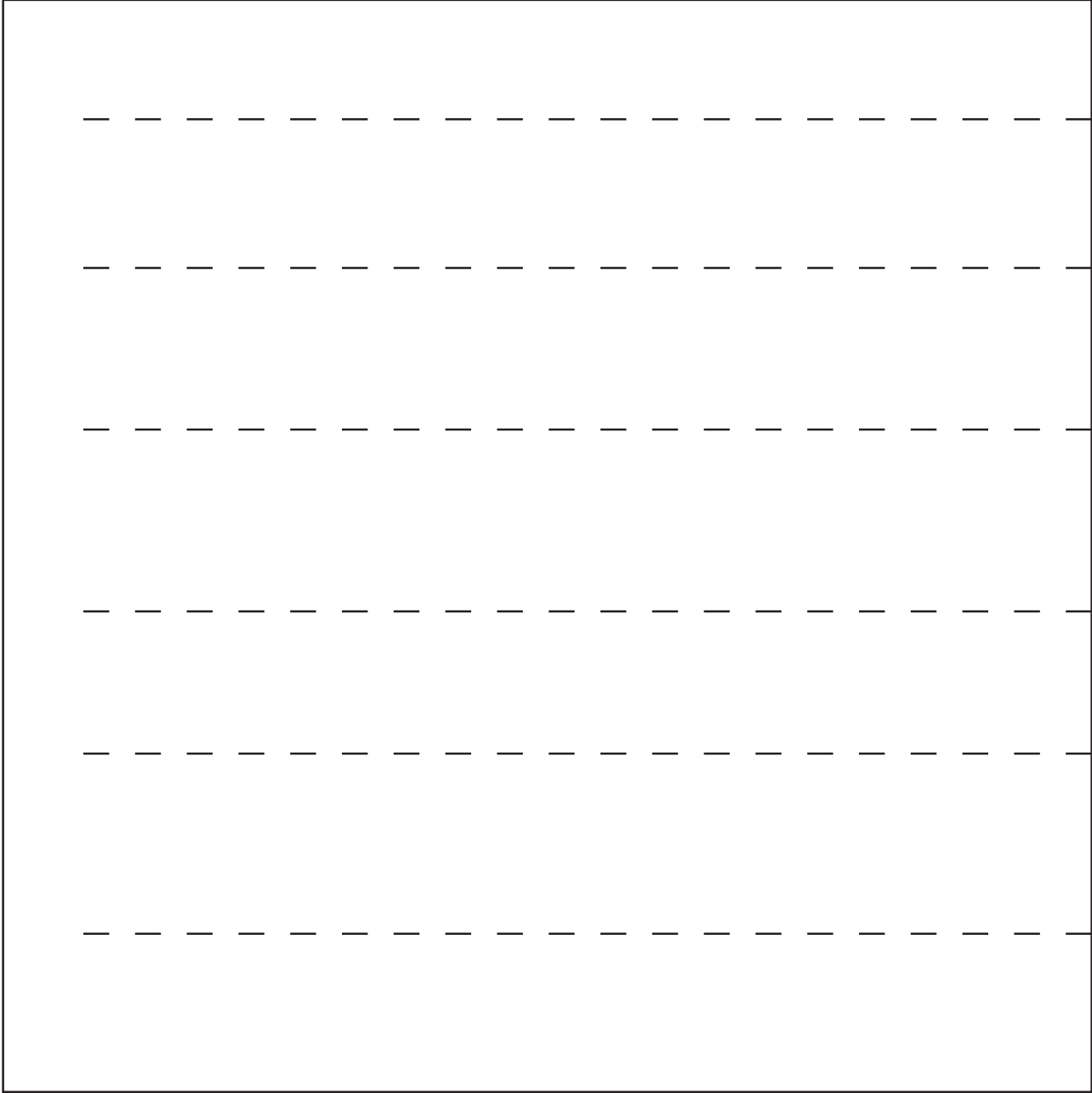
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# Appendix B — Paper Lantern

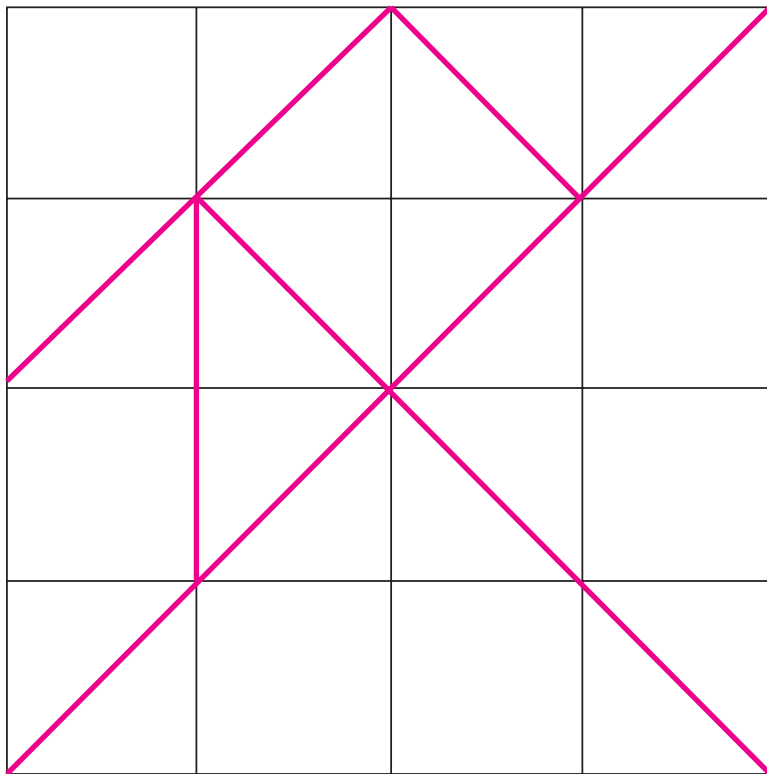
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Fold

Slits

# Appendix C — Tangram Puzzle



Cut out a 4 inch square on heavy paper or card stock. Lightly draw a 4 inch by 4 inch grid of squares on it.

Draw the lines shown in red and cut out the shapes along the red lines.

You will have 7 pieces as shown below.

