

WORLD 10-1

SNAPSHOTS OF CHINESE CULTURE

NOTE: Unless you have earned the MAGIC QUILL power-up, these notes must be COPIED ON YOUR OWN PAPER.

Questions/Interactions	Notes
	<p>Basics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fourth largest country in the world (3.6 mil. sq. miles – smaller than the U.S.A.)• 1 out of 5 people on earth are Chinese.• Most enduring culture in history (4,000+ years).• We wrongly stereotype Asian cultures probably more than any other group. <p>Dynasties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emperors passed power to sons when they died.• Heaven only supported good rulers.• Natural disasters were signs that Heaven was upset.• A dynasty ended when an emperor had no heir or was overthrown. <p>Civil Service Exams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Chinese wanted their leaders to be the best and brightest.• They designed HARD tests based on classic Chinese writings and Confucianism.• Students studied for 20 years!• They memorized entire books!• One part of the tests lasted 3 full days!• Many people tried to cheat (by copying texts in their clothes or bribing graders)• If caught they were killed.• To prevent cheating, students would be locked in their exam rooms for many days before the test. <p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Instead of letters, they use over 45,000 characters.• Some of these are pictograms.• Writing goes up and down. <p>Martial Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kung fu is the most popular form of Chinese martial arts (karate is Japanese).• It's about self-defense but also making oneself a better person.

Tangrams

- A 7-piece puzzle.
- The object is to use all 7 pieces to create a given shape.
- It's harder than it looks.