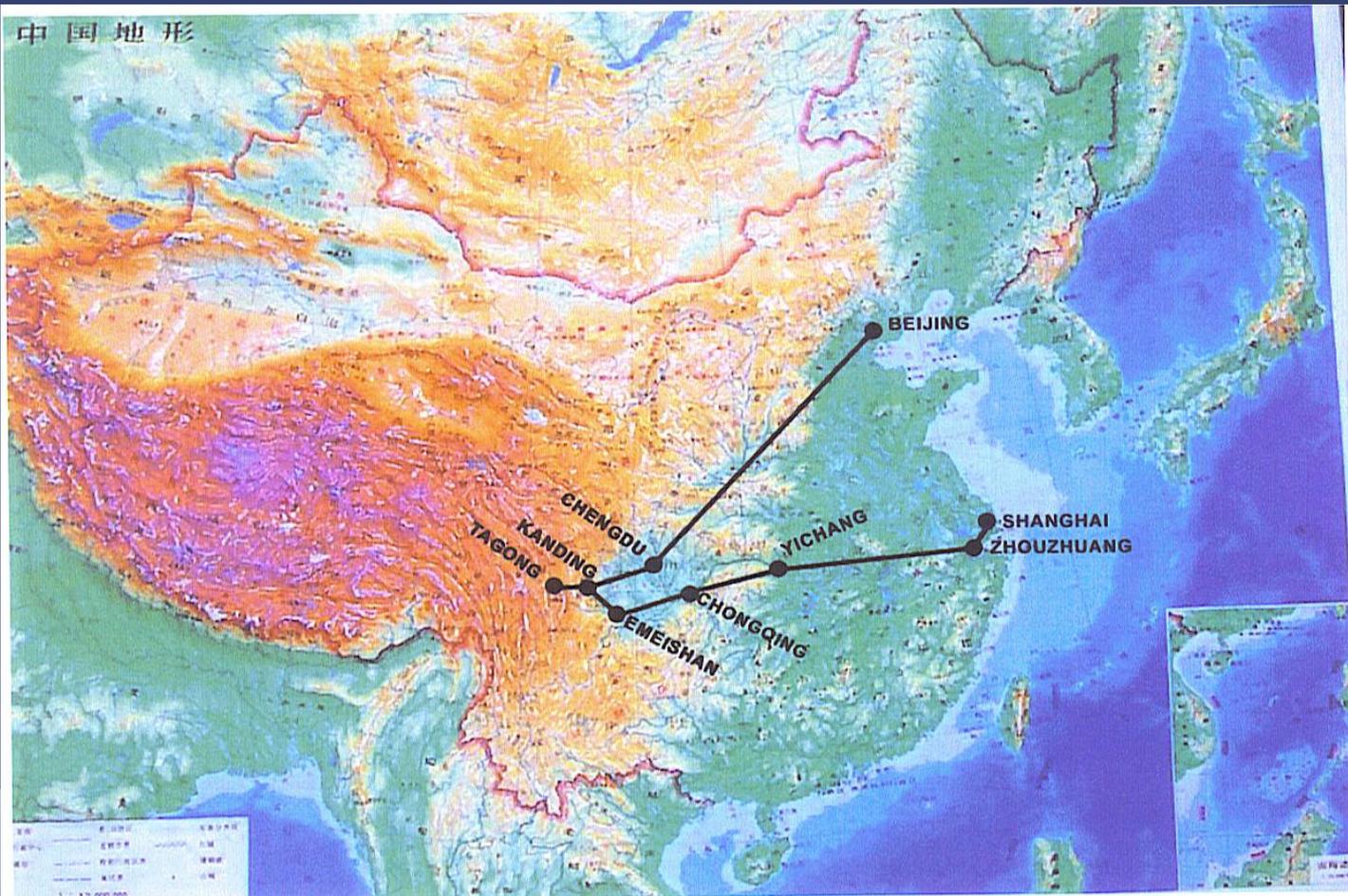


What Role has the Yangtze River Played in China's History and Development?

A Thematic Curriculum

By Ted Mitchell

Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School of Coventry



China Study Tour 2006: Old River, New China



Shanghai – A Mission to Surpass Hong Kong (created by the British)

The Yangtze Delta

“[M]ore than 300 of the world's Fortune 500 companies have invested in the city.” ([CNN](#))



In the last two decades, more than 5,000 buildings 15 stories or taller have gone up in the city. For much of the 1990s, by one estimate, three-quarters of all the construction cranes in the world were operating in China, and more than a quarter of the global total was in Shanghai alone.

([LA Times](#))





Zhouzhuang – UNESCO World Heritage Site

(Canal town off the Yangtze River)





Venice of China –
Boat tours wind
through the village
of souvenir shops,
tea houses, and
restaurants.



It's mostly a day visit
for the Chinese.

Three Gorges Dam





2006 7 2

Entering the locks



2006 7 2

“610-foot high wall running 1.3 miles from bank to bank.”
([PBS](#))

26 generators pumping out more than 18,000 megawatts of electricity (20 times the capacity of the Hoover Dam in the U.S.)
([Discovery Channel](#))

Inside the crowded locks.

On the Yangtze River





By completion, the river will have risen 180 meters above its original level.



80% of China's power comes from coal (National Geographic). Coal barges make up a large portion of Yangtze traffic.

This city, Fengdu, like others have been relocated and will be submerged.



For tourists, these Chinese simulate trackers of the past by pulling smaller boats up this river. It was much more difficult in the past.

200

Shennong Gorge – Up a tributary of the Yangtze River.



2006 7 2



Fengdu: A city that has been swallowed by the Yangtze River. (Relocation Issue)



Chongqing - a city on the Yangtze





It is its own municipality. Population = 31,442,300. It was also Chiang Kai Shek's capital during the Japanese invasion.

Just squatting for conversation

Leshan – The world's largest Buddha





A UNESCO World Heritage Site – The largest Buddha since the Taliban demolished Afghanistan's.

The Buddha lies at the confluence of the Minjiang, Dadu and Qingyi rivers in the southern part of Sichuan province in China. These rivers merge into the Yangtze.





The Dujiangyan Irrigation System diverts water from the Minjiang River (a tributary of the Yangtze), supplying Chengdu with fresh water and preventing floods.

Dujiangyan Irrigation System constructed around 250 B.C.E.



ASFMS Social Studies Department: Grade-Span Thematic Essential Questions

Overarching Question (6-8):

How does understanding the
past help us to understand the
present?

ASFMS Social Studies Department: Grade-Span Thematic Essential Questions

- Why do people live and move where they do?
- Why do people live the way they do?
- How and why do humans organize their societies the way they do?
- How does technology affect people's lives?
- How has conflict and cooperation shaped human history?
- How has the quest for resources affect the human history?
- Why do civilizations rise and decline?

Content Specific Thematic Essential Question:

What Role has the Yangtze River Played in China's History and Development?

Thematic Curriculum Coverage/Connections:

- ✓ Yangtze & Yellow Rivers (Chinese Civilization)
 - ✓ Nile River (Egyptian Civilization)
 - ✓ Tigris & Euphrates Rivers (Mesopotamian Civilization)
 - ✓ Sarasvati River (Indus Valley Civilization)

2006 NCTA China Study Tour

Tour Theme:
Old River, New China

