

Asia: Trade Route Safari

Week One: China

City of Guangzhou, Province of Guangdong

The People

Welcome to Guangzhou!

Good morning, Safari Saeed here. Are you ready to get started on our safari? Our first stop is **Guangzhou**, a city that used to be called **Canton** or **Kwangchow**. Guangzhou is the capital of the Guangdong province of China.

Most of the people of the province are **Han Chinese**. The Han are the largest ethnic group in China. Most speak the Chinese dialect we call **Mandarin**. Very few people in this province have accepted Jesus as God, even though it was the very first to hear about Jesus from a Protestant missionary. Robert Morrison worked in the region in 1807, but today, most of the Han people of the area believe in the traditional religions of China. People practice Daoism, Confucianism, and Buddhism. Some people practice all three along with **superstitions** they have learned.

Guangzhou is in the southeastern part of China. Because of its location on the Pearl River, it has been a popular spot for foreign trade for many years. Remember, when you can't haul something overland on a trade route, it makes a lot of sense to try to move your goods by ship along the water. European traders have been traveling to Guangzhou ever since the third century A.D. Today, the city is home to more than six million people.

The climate is **subtropical monsoon**, which means that the summers are usually hot and humid with quite a bit of rain, while winters are pretty dry and without much snow. One of the biggest weather-related problems Guangzhou has is **typhoons**.

In historic times, Guangzhou was a trade center that exported things like sugar, fruits, silk, tea, timber, and herbs. Today, they export more mechanical and technological machines. Guangzhou was the eastern beginning of the Spice Route; ships left from the port and traveled close to land on their way to Singapore.

Write It or Draw It

I'm going to give you the title to a story. It's a story that hasn't been written yet. Your job is to either write the story or draw/illustrate what the cover of a book by that name would look like.

Use your imagination. It can be a picture book, a funny book, a serious book—anything you can think of.

The title for this week's story is: "**Zhang's Plan: How a Flower Changed Everything.**"

Spelling and Vocabulary

Try adding these words to your spelling list for this week. You found each of them in my introduction to The People above:

Guangzhou
Canton
Kwangchow
Han Chinese
Mandarin
superstitions
subtropical monsoon
typhoons

For vocabulary practice, print the page of 3x5 cards at the end of this lesson. Write a definition for each of the words on the back of the cards.

Geography

Find the following places on a map:

Guangzhou (city)
Guangdong (province)
Pearl River (Zhu Jiang)
South China Sea
Xi (West) River
Dong (East) River
Baiyun Mountain

Safari Science

One of the exciting parts of a safari is getting to meet and learn about some of the many animals that live all over the world. It always amazes me how creative God is! The first creature I'd like you to meet is the brown-chested jungle-flycatcher. Come on with me, and we'll see if we can find one. They are getting harder to find as they lose their natural habitat.

Shhhhh. Do you see it there, in the tree? It's that small brown bird sitting high up in that branch. I think it's singing. Listen.

I know you probably imagined something different when I said “brown-chested jungle-flycatcher.” Its name makes it sound like some sort of tough predator. It belongs to the scientific family *muscapidae*, which includes several different types of birds, including warblers, thrushes, and babblers.* It grows to an average size of 15 centimeters.

Watch a video of the brown-chested jungle-flycatcher [here](#).

SchoolhouseTeachers.com note: Parents should closely monitor children’s use of YouTube and Wikipedia if you navigate away from the videos and articles cited in these lessons. We also recommend viewing the videos on a full- screen setting in order to minimize your students’ exposure to potentially offensive ads.

Use this [website](#) to answer the following questions:

True or False:

1. You are likely to find brown-chested jungle-flycatchers in thick bamboo.
2. Brown-chested jungle-flycatchers have been spotted in Japan.
3. The number of brown-chested jungle-flycatchers has been steadily increasing in recent years.

Research challenge: How do flycatchers catch their prey?

A printable notebooking page is included in this lesson for your convenience.

*There is some disagreement among scientists about which specific birds should be included in the *muscapidae* family.

Safari Record

Do you like to take pictures? I love to take pictures! I made a digital book of my pictures from the places I’m going to show you this month: China, Vietnam, Brunei, and Malaysia. You can see it below. After you click to play the video, you’ll see a map that shows where the country is and the flag of the country. You’ll hear the camera take a picture for your record. The pictures will rotate, the camera will click again, and you’ll see some pictures from the country along with some neat facts about the locations.

To see my digital book of pictures, [click here](#).

If you want to make your own safari record, ask a parent if it is OK to look online or in some magazines for pictures of the places we see, the people we meet, and the animals we discover. A great place to start on your search for pictures is the [World Factbook](#).

Friday Factoid

China shares its borders with lots of countries—14 as a matter of fact! Here is a list of those countries and the length of border that China shares with each of them.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Km</u>
Afghanistan	76
Bhutan	470
Burma	2185
India	3380
Kazakhstan	1533
North Korea	1416
Kyrgyzstan	858
Laos	423
Mongolia	4677
Nepal	1236
Pakistan	523
Russia	3645
Tajikistan	414
Vietnam	1281

Add it up!

What is the total length of China's land borders?

What's the difference?

Which country does China share the longest border with? Which country does it share the shortest border with? What is the difference (in km) between those two borders?

Challenge:

Make a bar chart or a pie chart representing the amount of border China shares with its neighbors.