

Teaching Guide -The Dongxiang People

Instructions for Leaders or Teachers

- Study all the material yourself before sharing it with others.
- Introduce the people group to the children.
- Listen to the audio information that describes the people group.
- Listen to any additional information provided.
- Do these things in the order listed. Some points can be skipped over if not usable.
- Use a map of globe to locate the area where the people group lives.
- Have children do map work that is age appropriate.
- Talk about the location of the Dongxiang people group in relation to the equator.
- Ask “Do the Dongxiang people live close to the equator?” If the answer is “Yes”, this indicates a hot/tropical climate.
- Ask, “Do the Dongxiang people live in a mountain area?” If the answer is “Yes”, this will indicate a colder/cooler climate.
- Have the children name the countries surrounding the country where the Dongxiang people group live.
- Look at the map included and see if the country has any access to an ocean or a river which would allow transport of goods.
- Talk about the ways the Dongxiang people group provide for basic human needs:
 - Food
 - Clothing
 - Shelter
 - Human relationships
 - Compare the answers with the way your own people provide these needs.
 - Are these customs of the Dongxiang people different from the way you live?
 - Talk about the importance of color and the meaning of color.
 - Talk about festivals and music.

- Talk about the animals that live in this country where the Dongxiang people live. Are the animals helpful to the people? Are the animals a danger to the people?
- What are the main spiritual beliefs of the Dongxiang people?
 - Have any of these people placed their faith in Jesus Christ?
 - Is there a church where these people may gather together to worship and study?
 - Do any Christians in this group face persecution, (treatment in a harsh or cruel way) for their beliefs?
- Ask your group of children if the Dongxiang people have any part of God's Word (The Bible), translated into their own language?
- Ask if they have any other Christian material?
 - Bible stories
 - Christian radio
 - Christian music Christian drama
 - Christian audiocassettes
- Pray for the Dongxiang people group using the prayer points you have heard. Are the children able to think of other things for which to pray?
- Are there people groups in your country who are still waiting to hear the message of God's love for all peoples? Pray for them too!
- Are there children or adults in your group who might like to train as Bible Translators? A Bible Translator put the words of the Bible into the words of a different language.
- Review the names and countries of other people groups you have already studied.
- If a craft or color page is included this week and is useful for your group of children to work on, do it now.

D

Dongxiang (DOONGG-shee-ahng)

It is fun to dig for buried treasure with a friend. Dusty yellow potatoes are like gold to the Dongxiang people of China. Only potatoes grow well on the dry mountain ridges where they live. Farmers long for rain to nourish thirsty wheat fields. Most of their tawny gray land lies desolate. You can taste the dust. Few outsiders visit this remote land.

When the boys are older, they will wear traditional white caps all the time. Father puts on a white woven cap every day. Mother wraps a long silky scarf around her head until only her face shows. Brr! It is often very cold on the mountain-side. Everyone dresses warmly.

The Dongxiang people do not have the Bible in their own language.





The Dongxiang People

Continent: Asia

Country: China

Geographical Information:

The Dongxiang people live in the huge country of China.

- China is part of the continent of Asia. China is so big it shares a border with 14 other countries in Asia.
- Some of those countries are:

Russia	Mongolia	Kazakhstan
Pakistan	India	Nepal
Bhutan	Myanmar	Laos
Vietnam	North Korea	

Can you locate these countries on the map of China?

- Giant Pandas are one interesting type of animal found in some parts of China. They only live in a few mountain areas where bamboo forests grow. There are only a few wild pandas left in China.
- Zoos in other parts of the world care for a few giant pandas that are kept in captivity. Zoos are places people can visit to see wild animals.

Facts about the Dongxiang people:

The Dongxiang people live near the Great Wall of China.

- The Great Wall is so big it can be seen from space.
- The Dongxiang are from Central Asia and look different from the Chinese. Many of the Dongxiang have fair skin and large noses like people from Europe.
- Legends say that the Dongxiang settled in China during the 13th century. At that time, Genghis Khan and his Mongol warriors ruled much of the world. Genghis Khan forced the Dongxiang people to move to China. Before that time they had lived in another part of Asia.
- There are about 500,000 Dongxiang people. Most of them live in one long spread out valley, very far away from towns and cities and other people. It is hard to grow food.

- Today the Dongxiang people live much the same way as they lived during the time of Genghis Khan. They are still farmers. It is hard for them to grow food. They must work very hard to grow potatoes, wheat, barley, millet and corn.
- Life is difficult for these people. They need better health care, better houses and better schools. Even more important is their need to hear God's message of love. Most of them have never heard of Jesus.
- The religion of Islam was accepted by these people about 800 years ago. Their ancestors (their people from the time of Genghis) lived near the famous Silk Road.
- Traders traveled on camels and donkeys along this dangerous and long road. Traders taught the Dongxiang the beliefs of Islam. Today they are still strong in Islamic beliefs.
- Because the Dongxiang live so far away from other people and towns, it is difficult for them to learn about how much God loves them. They do not know about God's Son. They do not know Jesus is able to save all people from sin. Foreigners (non-Chinese) are not allowed to enter the Dongxiang area of China.

The Dongxiang are the largest people group in China with no Christian believers.

You can pray for the Dongxiang people.

- Pray that God will call people to carry the message of God's love to the Dongxiang people.
- Pray that God will open the minds of these people to hear and accept God's message.
- Ask God to raise up qualified people to translate God's message of love.
- Pray that Christian materials will soon be ready for these people in their own language.

China Animal Study

The Giant Panda is a black and white bear that lives in some of the mountains of China. Pandas have big heads and heavy bodies. They have a short tails and round ears.

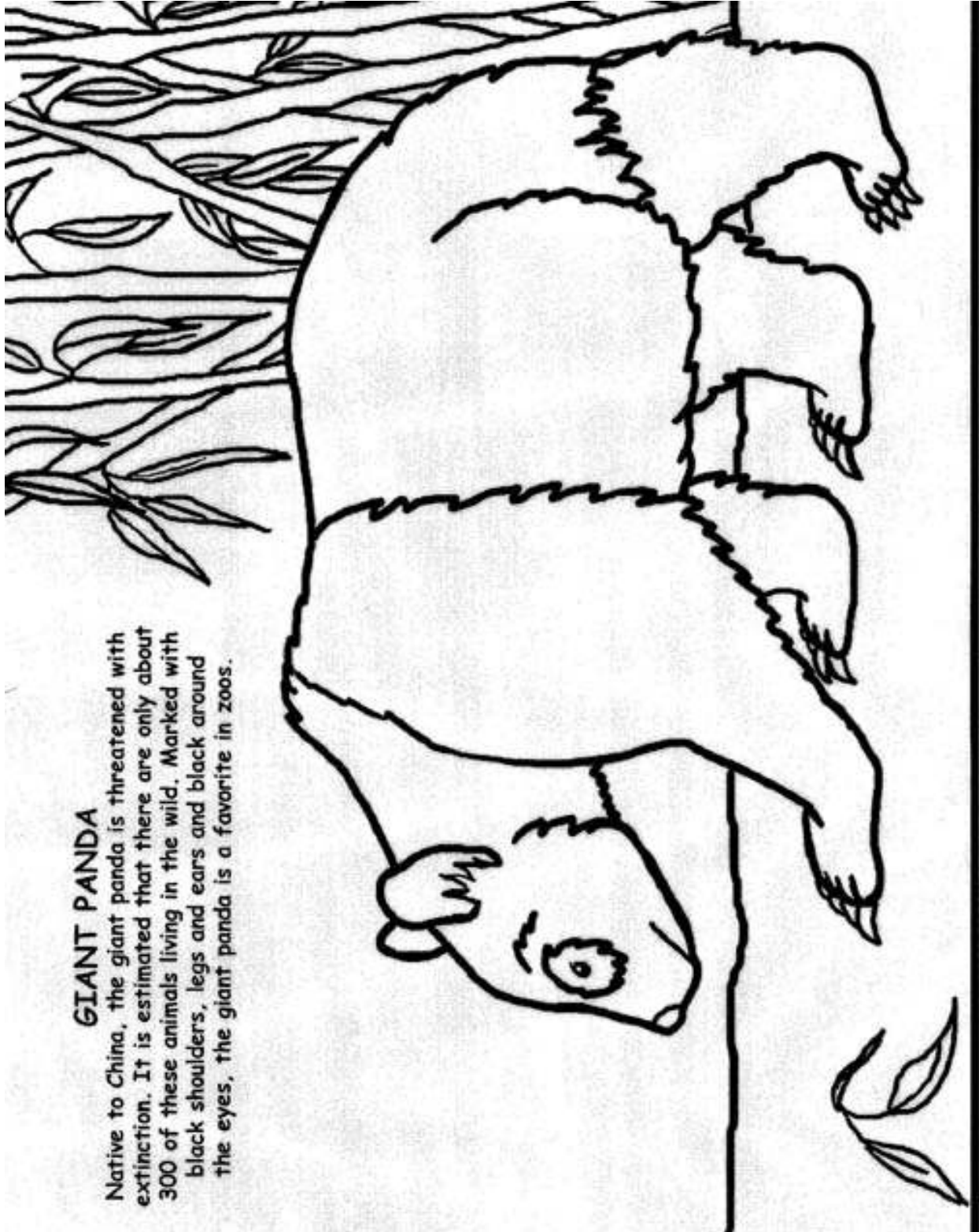
- Pandas live in the bamboo forests because they eat bamboo plants. These bears spend most of each day eating tender bamboo shoots and leaves of two type of bamboo. They must eat about 40 pounds (18 kg) of food every day. It takes them about 12 hours to eat enough. These 2 kinds of bamboo plants only grow in a few places. Only a few pandas still live in the wild.
- Giant pandas are actually white bears. They have black patches around their eyes. Their ears, shoulders, chest, legs and feet are also white. These two colors help hide the panda in the white snow and black rocky surroundings.
- The Chinese name for the panda means “giant bear cat.” Pandas are different from other bears because they have eyes like cats. Also the front paws of this bear have five clawed fingers and a wrist bone that moves like an opposable “thumb”.
- Panda fur is thick and oily and waterproof. God designed them this way to keep them warm in their cold and wet bamboo forests.
- Baby Panda cubs are small, white, blind, furless, and helpless when they are born. They only weigh four to six ounces (85-140 g) at birth. Like human babies, panda cubs cry when they are hungry or need mother’s care.
- When panda babies are three months old they begin to follow their mother. They begin to eat bamboo when six months old. They are weaned from their mother when about 9 months old. They grow very slowly and must stay with their mother for one or two years.
- Humans are the greatest enemy of this bear. They are killed for the thick pelts which are sold. Snow Leopards sometimes kill cubs.



Pandas

Coloring Page

Panda



Additional Study:

Genghis Khan and His Mongol Warriors

Many years ago a strong leader brought together a vast army. The people lived on the high plains of Asia. They did not have permanent homes. They moved from place to place looking for grass to feed their herds. This leader was called Genghis Khan. His title means “emperor of all emperors” in the language of his people.

This huge army swept west into Europe (Hungary) and as far east as Korea. This army plundered and killed many people. This very large area became an empire.

The Mongol Empire included most of Asia and large parts of Eastern Europe. It was the second largest land empire in human history. The largest empire was the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire controlled so much of the world when Jesus Christ was born and during his lifetime and for many years after.

A Mongol warrior’s most important weapon was his large bow. It was constructed of yak horn, sinew and bamboo. This bow had a great range of up to 200 yards.

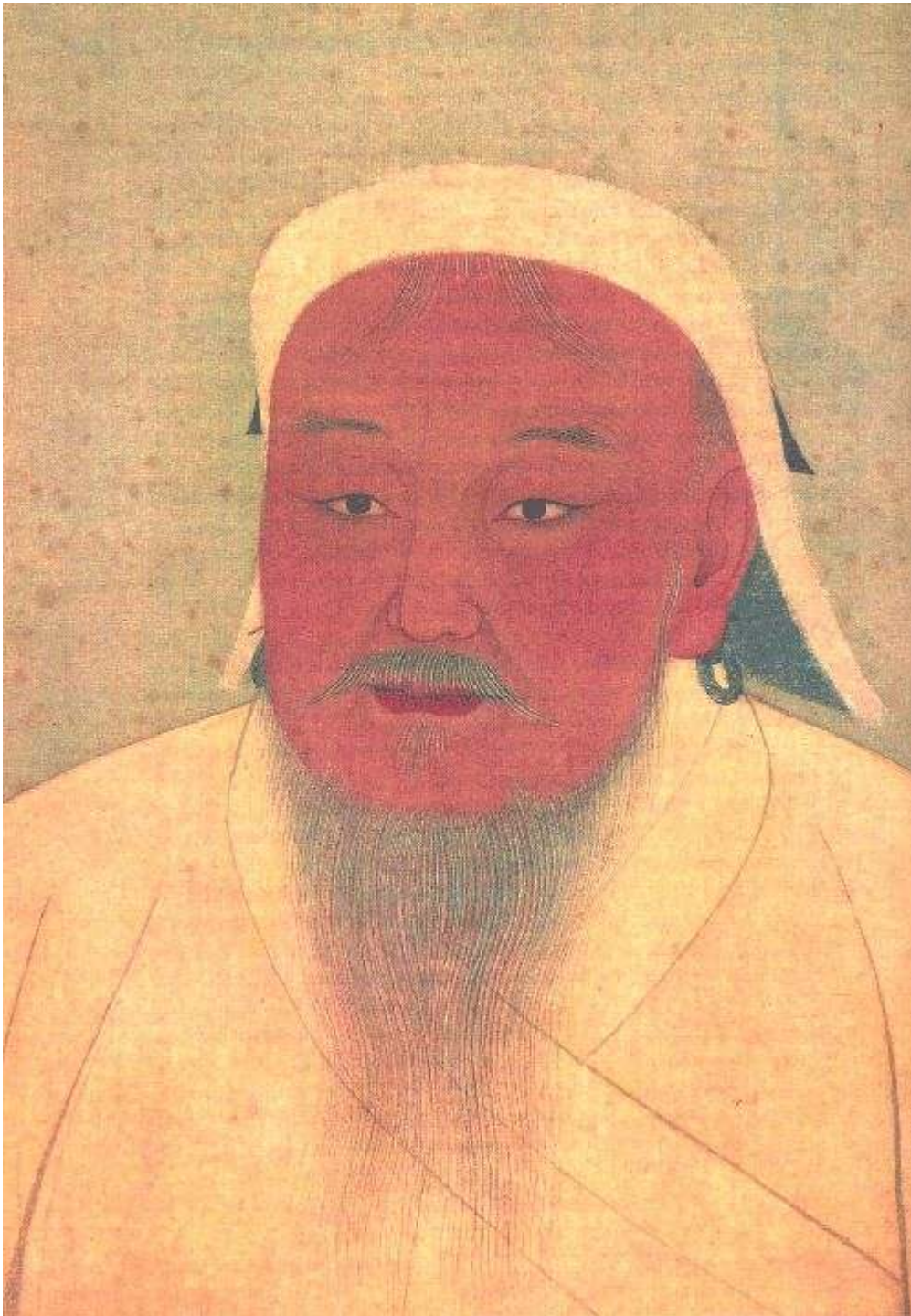
These warriors wore closely woven silk undershirts so that when an arrow was shot through the material, it could be twisted out. Silk was used to plug up the wound and not tear the flesh. The men also wore leather armor that allowed them to move freely. With their sturdy horses they could travel far and fast.

The empire was so huge it was difficult to communicate with the different areas. So in the year 1229 AD Genghis organized an efficient horse and rider communication system to cover the whole empire. In the middle of the 19th

century the same type of system was used in the United States for a few years. It was called the Pony Express.

Because the Mongols were nomads who moved from place to place with their herds of animals they needed homes that were light, easy to move, and easy to put together. They developed the world's first mobile homes called yurts or gers. The yurt had three parts: the wall frame made of cross-hatched, light weight willow branches, the ceiling also of willow and the central roof cap and wall coverings made of thick warm felt. They were fully collapsible and movable. They were warm in winter and cool in summer.

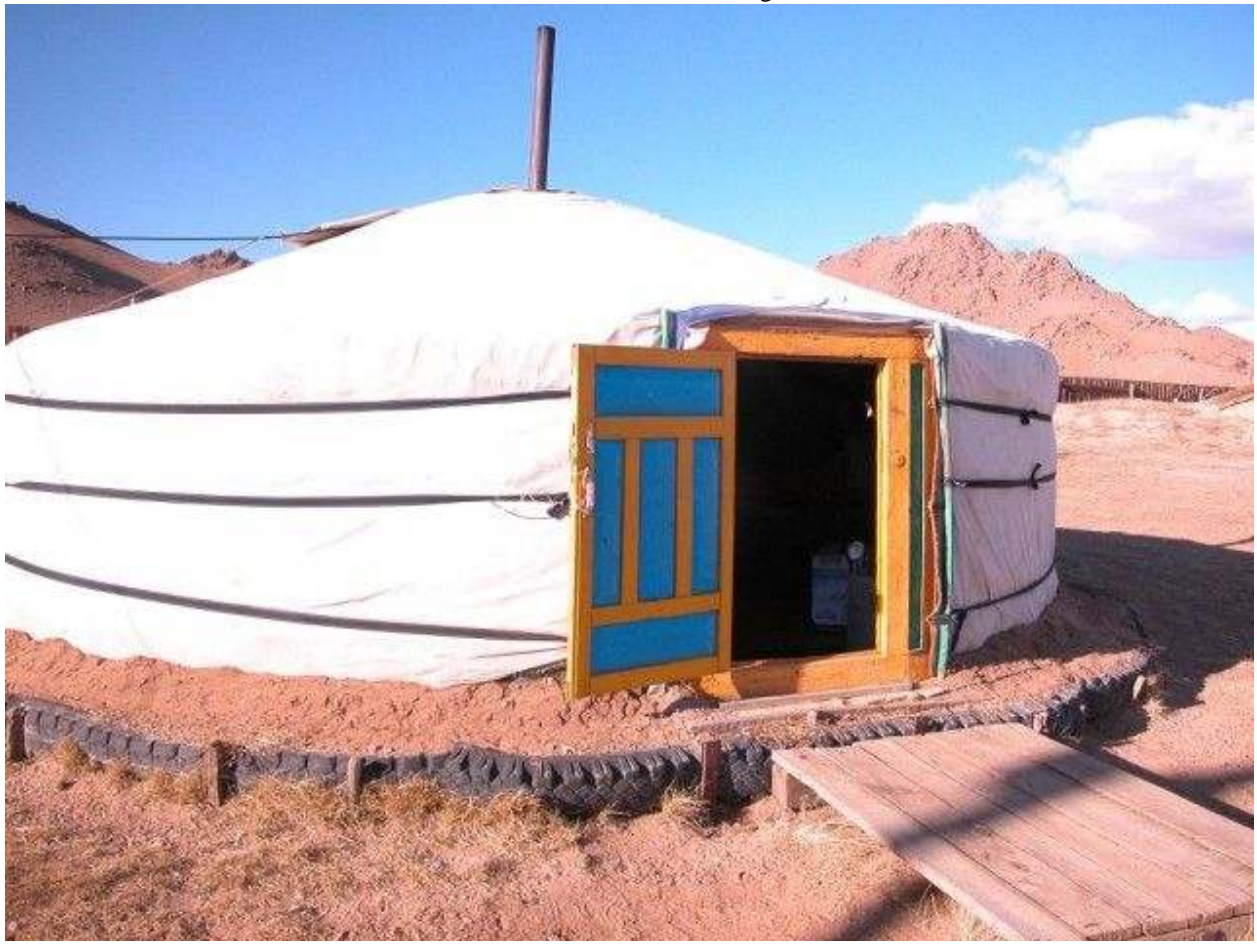
Today many people in Mongolia still live in yurts.



Genghis Khan



Mongol Warriors



Yurt

The Great Wall of China

The Great Wall of China is an ancient Chinese fortification. It was built and rebuilt by hand over a period of a great many years.

- **It was built out of granite stones, bricks and earth.**
- **It stands as high as 35 feet tall with watch towers every 100 to 200 yards.**
- **These towers sent messages to each other by using smoke to signal attacks.**
- **The Great Wall of China is 3,948 miles (6,352 km) long.**
- **It is the longest structure ever built.**
- **It was built to keep nomadic invaders like the Mongol warriors out of China and to protect the Chinese people.**
- **Long ago the Chinese leaders ordered the Chinese people to work on the wall.**
- **The workers were always in danger of being attacked and killed by bandits.**
- **Many people died while building the wall.**
- **Possibly as many as one million workers died building the wall.**
- **It is sometimes called the long graveyard (burial place).**
- **It is claimed that the Great Wall can be seen from space.**
- **Space is the part that is very high in the sky, much higher than any bird can fly.**
- **Today people can still walk along parts of this huge wall.**



The Great Wall of China

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