Teaching Asia
Teaching Asia: A Selected List of Books
Curriculum Materials Center
David & Lorraine Cheng Library, William Paterson University

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Teaching Asia is a selected list of resources available at the Cheng Library that can be helpful when developing units to teach about Asia in Grades K-12. Geographical, cultural, and historical information about the individual countries can be found in these series: *Cultures of the World*, *Fiesta*, and through the online catalog, http://chengfind.wpunj.edu.

Teaching Aids and Reference Books:


Call Number: Curr.Mats. DS821 .O43 1997

Call Number: Curr.Mats. DS509.3 .O33 1998


Children’s Books:
Arranged by region this list includes picture books, poetry, folklore, memoirs and other literature.

Eastern Asia (China, Japan, Korea, Tibet, Mongolia)

Legend of Hua Mu lan who goes to war disguised as a man to save the family honor and becomes a great general.
Call Number: j398.21 Chi

(Grades 3-5). [Japan].
The true story of a girl with leukemia who races to fold 1,000 paper cranes to verify the legend that a sick person could become well.
Call Number: j362.78 Coe

Follow the search for the successor of the thirteenth Dalai Lama as they follow a beautiful rainbow to the humble dwelling of a loving family where they find the youngest son and take him back to Lhasa to be the newest infant ruler.
Call Number: jB Dal

Discover how three great historical figures: Xuanzang, Genghis Khan, and Marco Polo, each traveled the Silk Road along different routes and for different motives.
Call Number: j950 Gal

A biography and introduction to the work of a Japanese haiku poet who expresses his love for nature in his poems.
Call Number: j895.6 Gol

Long-Long helps his grandfather sell his cabbages to buy provisions for Spring Festival.
Call Number: PJ Gow

**Call Number:** j700.952 Ham


**Call Number:** j951 Has

Jiang, J. (1997). *Red scarf girl: A memoir of the Cultural Revolution*. New York, NY: HarperCollins. (Grades 6-8). [China]. Ji-Li is faced with the most dreadful decision in her life, when she has to denounce her father and break from her family or refuse to testify and sacrifice her future in her beloved communist party.

**Call Number:** j951.05 Jia


**Call Number:** J Kim


**Call Number:** J Kim

Krebs, L. (2005). *We’re riding on a caravan: An adventure on the Silk Road*. Cambridge, MA: Barefoot Books. (Grades K-4). [China]. Discover the sights and sounds of the Silk Road, such as the Yellow River, the oasis at Dunhuang, the rugged desert near Hami, and the excitement of the market at Kashgar.

**Call Number:** j950 Kre


**Call Number:** j811.6 Man
A Mongolian tale of how the horse-head fiddle (morin khuur), a traditional string instrument with a carved horse head at the peg head, got its name.
**Call Number:** j398.2 Ots

Tree-ear, an orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters’ village and longs to learn how to create the delicate celadon ceramics himself.
**Call Number:** J Par

A brother and sister face the increasingly oppressive occupation of Korea by Japan during World War II, which threatens to suppress Korean culture entirely.
**Call Number:** J Par

Urikohime, a girl born from a melon, battles the monstrous oni, who steals babies to eat their tasty belly buttons.
**Call Number:** j398.2 Sie

Sachiko was six when the devastation from the bombing of Nagasaki was wrought. This story tells her experiences in the aftermath and her long journey to find peace.
**Call Number:** j940.54 Ste

Follow Mimiko as she takes you month by month through festivities in Tokyo.
**Call Number:** j952.135 Tak

A young Chinese girl and her grandfather enjoy a typical morning riding on grandpa’s bicycle to do errands.
**Call Number:** PJ Tsu

Yoshitsune was a baby when his father went to war with a rival samurai family and lost his family. He was sent away to live in a monastery where he learned the ways of a Samurai.
**Call Number:** j952.01 Tur
Introduces Japanese words from A to Z. Book is designed to be read from back to front and from right to left.
**Call Number:** j495.682 Wel

Little Bao has had enough bullying and robbing by foreign missionaries and soldiers. He recruits an army of commoners trained in Kung Fu to fight back.
**Call Number:** J Yan

In this zodiac myth the emperor names the animals in the zodiac.
**Call Number:** J398.209 Yas

Three sisters at home alone are endangered by a hungry wolf that is disguised as their grandmother.
**Call Number:** J398.2 You

From Monkeys Fishing the Moon and The Butterfly Lovers to Painted Skin and Dragon Princess this collection of over 50 tales, both well-known and obscure, provide a glimpse into Chinese tradition and culture.
**Call Number:** J398.2 Yua

The life and works of a young Chinese girl, who started painting animals at the age of three. In her teens she became the youngest artist to show her work at the Smithsonian Institution.
**Call Number:** J759.951 Zhe

**Southern Asia (Bali, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, Vietnam)**

Whenever Nima meets someone on her long walk to the market village in Nepal, she brings her hands together with her fingers almost touching her chin, bows her head slightly, and says "Namaste," which means "the light in me meets the light in you."
**Call Number:** PJ Coh
Having fled Cambodia to escape the Khmer Rouge army, Sundara is torn between remaining faithful to her own people and enjoying her life in her Oregon high school.
Call Number: J Cre

A reward of one grain of rice doubles day by day into millions of grains of rice when a selfish raja is outwitted by a clever village girl
Call Number: j398.209 Dem

A collection of Vietnamese folktales with explanatory notes following each story.
Call Number: j398.2 Gar

A Vietnamese-American boy spends a day with his father on his shrimp boat, listening as he describes how his own father fished on the South China Sea.
Call Number: PJ Gar

Recently emigrated from India, Gita is looking forward to celebrating her favorite holiday, Divali, a festival of lights. Things are so different in her new home that she wonders if she will ever adjust.
Call Number: PJ Gil

Chandra and her sister Deena see a solar-powered lantern at the market and are determined to get one for their brother who has a bad cough from kerosene lamps.
Call Number: PJ Hei

This book depicts the twelve different types of schools in India through colorful photographs.
Call Number: j954 Hey
[Thailand].
A lullaby which asks animals such as a lizard, monkey, and water-buffalo to be quiet and not disturb the sleeping baby.
**Call Number:** j811.54 Ho

(Grades 9-12). [Thailand].
After social rebels convince the headman of a small village in northern Thailand to resist the land rent, his daughter finds herself in a student uprising.
**Call Number:** J Ho

[Bangladesh].
With seed money borrowed from a bank, a young woman and four of her friends in Bangladesh change their lives by starting their own businesses.
**Call Number:** PJ How

A collection of personal reminiscences of the author’s youth in the central highlands of Vietnam.
**Call Number:** jB Huy

A Pakistani boy confined to a wheelchair tries to capture the most kites during Basant, the annual spring kite festival, so he can become “king” for the day.
**Call Number:** PJ Kha

Rani believes that her mother loves their pet chicken more than she cares for her, until the day that a fluffy chick appears and steals Rani’s own affections.
**Call Number:** PJ Kha

Pen pals Elliot and Kailash discover that even though they live in different countries, America and India, they both love to climb trees, have pets, and ride a school bus.
**Call Number:** PJ Kos

A child describes waiting for the monsoon rains to arrive and worries that they will not come.
**Call Number:** PJ Kri
A collection of stories featuring strong female figures from Hindu mythology.
**Call Number:** j398.2 Kri

An account of the former Pakistani child labor activist, whose life and unexplained murder, brought an awareness of the evils of child labor.
**Call Number:** j331.34 Kuk

A collection of traditional tales, proverbs, songs, and games organized by region, also includes general information on the geography, peoples, and history of the Malay Peninsula.
**Call Number:** j398.2 Mac

Two girls work hard all day to help support their family by chipping bricks into small pieces, Yasmin, the older sister, seeks a way to attend school and learn to read so that she can have a better life.
**Call Number:** PJ Mal

Thirteen-year-old Lakshmi leaves her poor mountain home in Nepal thinking that she is to work in the city as a maid. However she has been sold into the sex slave trade in India and there is no hope of escape.
**Call Number:** J McC

Photographic journey of a family in the aftermath of the devastating Tsunami in Thailand.
**Call Number:** j959.3 Mor

Depicts the history and culture of the Hmong, a unique ethnic group living in Southeast Asia, and describes the experiences of a family who left Laos to live in America.
**Call Number:** j305.895 Mur
Photographs and text document working children and includes a chapter on Iqbal Masih, the child labor activist from Pakistan.
**Call Number: j331.31 Par**

Explore the cultural and environmental aspects of traditional Balinese rice farming through photographs.
**Call Number: j633.18 Rey**

Judge Rabbit solves the problem of a mischievous tree spirit who has taken on human form.
**Call Number: j398.245 Spa**

Terada, A. M. (1994). *The magic crocodile and other folktales from Indonesia.* Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press. (Grades 5-10). [Indonesia].
An illustrated collection of twenty-nine traditional tales from six regions of Indonesia.
**Call Number: j398.2 Ter**

A young Vietnamese girl maintains her own cultural identity while struggling to adjust to the United States.
**Call Number: J Tra**

A picture biography of two young Pakistanis heroes.
**Call Number: j331.3 Win**

Nobel Peace winner Muhammad Yunus was determined to make a difference in the world and eventually revolutionized global anti-poverty efforts by developing micro lending concepts.
**Call Number: j321.1 Yoo**

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