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

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: DS509.5.H66 C47 2000eb [ONLINE].

Call Number: Curr.Mats. ML3750 .D257 1986


Call Number: j745.7 Mer

Call Number: Curr.Mats. DS821 .O43 1997

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


*Call Number: Curr.Mats. DS721 .Z463 2008*

**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*

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*

A humble artist agrees to confront the terrifying dragon that threatens to destroy his village.
*Call Number: PJ Dav*

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: j B 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**

Describes the creations of some of Japan’s Living National Treasures and artists who are involved in various Japanese arts.
**Call Number: j700.952 Ham**

Presents the numbers one through ten in Chinese, using each number to introduce concepts about China and Chinese culture.
**Call Number: j951 Has**

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**

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**

In this collection of haiku poems, a young girl walks through a Japanese garden and discovers many delights, from one leaf to ten stone lanterns.
**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

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

Follow Mimiko as she takes you month by month through festivities in Tokyo.
**Call Number:** J952.135 Tak

(Grades K-3). [China].
A young Chinese girl and her grandfather enjoy a typical morning riding on grandpa’s
bicycle to do errands.
**Call Number:** PJ Tsu

Shepard. (Grades 7-12). [Korea/Japan].
A fictionalized autobiography in which Yoko escapes from Korea to Japan with her
mother and sister at the end of World War II.
**Call Number:** J Wat

(Grades 2-4). [Japan].
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

Books. (Grades K-3) [China].
Three sisters at home alone are endangered by a hungry wolf that is disguised as their
grandmother.
**Call Number:** j398.2 You

Yuan, H. (2006). *The magic lotus lantern and other tales from the Han Chinese*. Westport, CT:
Libraries Unlimited. (Grades 7-12). [China].
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 (Afghanistan, Cambodia, India, Pakistan, Thailand, Vietnam)**

Hyder Akbar tells how his ordinary suburban California life was turned upside-down after 9/11, when his father, a descendant of a political family returns to his native Afghan homeland.
**Call Number:** j958 Akb

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
This book depicts the twelve different types of schools in India through colorful photographs.
**Call Number: j954 Hey**

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**

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**

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: j B Huy**

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**

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

A boy accompanies his father for the first time on a caravan trip through the mountains of Afghanistan to trade their goods at the market.
**Call Number:** J McK

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

**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


Shabanu, the daughter of a Pakistani nomad is pledged in marriage to an older man whose money will bring prestige to her family. She needs to either accept her fate or risk the consequence of defying her father’s wishes.

**Call Number:** J Sta

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


Two young Afghani girls living in a refugee camp in Pakistan share a precious pair of sandals brought by relief workers.

**Call Number:** PJ Wil

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