

Video summary	Before watching the video	While watching
A child-led introduction to Chan'gou in Yunnan Province, China. He Ruiqin lives in a remote mountain village about three hours from the ancient city of Lijiang. Her parents are subsistence farmers, making a living from the crops of wheat, potatoes and barley grown on the steep terrace slopes surrounding their house. During term time Ruiqin and her friends all board at school because the journey is too long to travel every day and their parents work so hard and spend long hours in the fields tending their crops. The area is famous for its fast-running rivers and deep gorges. Local people travel across the rivers by boat so that they can trade their produce. At home with her family, she helps in the fields and spends time with her baby sister. They grow their own food and love to eat the traditional spicy food associated with this region of China. This clip was originally broadcast as part of the series <i>In My Shoes</i>. Download/print a transcript of the video.	Using a map locate Chan'gou. Zoom in and look at the terrain. Ask students what they think it would be like to live in this location. How does it differ from where they live? Students could create a list of their predictions. Introduce key terms such as: Terracing: a sloping piece of land that has had flat areas like steps built on it. Gorge: a steep sided narrow valley. Subsistence farmers: farming to grow food for yourself and your family.	You may wish to stop at relevant points during this short film to pose questions and check understanding, or wait until the end. Useful questions might include: - Describe the landscape. What is it like? - Why do some of the children sleep at the school? - Why is the ferryboat needed? - Why do people grow a lot of food for themselves? - What could make life quite challenging in the mountains?
After watching		
Ask students to look back at their list of predictions. Discuss whether they were correct. What else did they find out about life in this region? Were there any similarities or differences between Ruiqin's life and the life of the students in your class. Discuss with students whether they think this the life of a typical child in China. Maps could be used to look at other areas of China. This will help students to avoid a single-story narrative of a country as they will see that life can differ within a country and that China had a range of different landscapes as you move across this very large country. Students could further investigate the food that Ruiqin was eating. What are the typical dishes that people in Chan'gou eat? What do the foods tell us about that area? Students could compare this to the other children in this series.		

After watching (continued)

Show the students a climate graph for this region. How does the weather change throughout the year? What impact might this have on the children?

Curriculum notes

This clip is relevant for teaching Geography at Key Stage 3 in England and Northern Ireland, 3rd Level in Scotland and Progression Step 4 in Wales. The National Curriculum at KS3 requires the study of a location in Asia, 'including China'.

Where next?

Using GapMinder's website [Dollar Street](https://www.gapminder.org/) investigate the lives of other families around the world. This website gives you an insight into their lives and looks at different products that families have in their homes.

Students could use this information to make a comparison to Ruiqin's life and also to their own. Students could put this information into a table to enable them to make clear comparisons.

Links

Introduction to China:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zk9h6g8>

How is China changing?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zt6cg7h#zph896f>