

Video summary	Before watching the video	While watching
A child-led introduction to Lijiang in Yunnan Province, China. Wang Yuxi is a Naxi boy. The Naxi are one of the 25 minority groups that live in Yunnan. They are ancient peoples, indigenous to this part of China. Lijiang is situated in the shadow of the foothills of the Himalayas and its spectacular landscapes and ancient architecture are a magnet for tourists. Wang Yuxi's father is a driver for the many tourists, while his grandmother - who still wears traditional Naxi dress - does most of the work at home. He takes his son on a tour of the locality. They fish for grass carp on the beautiful Lake Lashihai and take in views of the Yulong mountains, especially Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. The area is famous for Chinese herbs used in traditional medicine and for tea. They ride ponies along the ancient tea trail - the route runs into neighbouring Myanmar - formerly Burma - Laos, and Vietnam. NB: the map which features near the start of the video clip uses the name 'Burma'. The military government of Burma changed the name of the country to 'Myanmar'. However, use of the name 'Burma' remains widespread and it is the policy of the UK government to use that name, as it is also adopted by the country's democracy movement. With his friend he runs through the ancient alleyways of the old town to get to a Naxi wedding on time. 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 Lijiang. Zoom in and look at the terrain. How does it differ to the terrain they can see outside of their classroom window? 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: Glacier: a slow-moving river of ice. Trading: the exchange of goods between countries. Province: an area of land within a country.	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 are the mountains important? - Why do tourists want to visit this location? - What was the Silk Road? - What is the climate like in this region? - What traditions can you see? - How are the women described?

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 Wang Yuxi'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.

Show students a map of the Silk Roads and the trade routes across Asia. Discuss with students why they think those routes were so important. You could also discuss what types of products would be traded. Are they the same as the products we trade with China now?

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 for Geography at Key Stage 3 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 Wang Yuxi'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>