

Video summary	Before watching the video	While watching
<p>A child-led introduction to Yangshuo in Guangxi Province, China - an area famous for the karst limestone peaks and limestone caves.</p> <p>The town lies on the Li River and local farmers come to the market on their bamboo rafts, ferry boats, tractors and lorries to sell their citrus fruit and vegetables, which are grown abundantly in this province where the climate is hot and humid in the summer and cold, foggy and wet in the winter.</p> <p>Tourism is the main business here and many visit the area to see the karst peaks and to buy the Chinese fans and silks associated with the area.</p> <p>Ma Siduo is 10 years old. Her mother is a teacher at her school and they travel together every morning on her Mum's scooter. The school day starts with reading and exercises in the playground to keep warm.</p> <p>She likes to go into town with her friends to look at the silk worms, Chinese fans and to eat the local food and fruits, especially star fruit and other local delicacies like spicy tofu.</p> <p>Ma Siduo loves to dance and has won many dance competitions with her friend and partner Xu Shichen. We also visit the limestone caves nearby and look at Moon Rock, a mountain with a moon shaped hole through it.</p> <p>This clip was originally broadcast as part of the series <i>In My Shoes</i>.</p> <p>Download/print a transcript of the video.</p>	<p>Using a map locate Yangshuo. Zoom in and look at the terrain. How does it differ to the landscape students can see outside of their own window?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Introduce key terms such as:</p> <p>Karst: a landscape formed by the dissolution of soluble rocks, like limestone.</p> <p>Stalactite: a mineral formation, often resembling an icicle, that hangs from the ceiling of a cave.</p> <p>Stalagmite: an upward-growing mound of mineral deposits that have precipitated from water dripping onto the floor of a cave.</p>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the landscape that you can see. What is it like? • What is the climate like in this location? • What is a karst landscape? • Why would tourists want to visit this location? • What types of food do people like to eat? • Why is education important to these children?

After watching

Ask students to look back at their predictions. Were they correct in what they thought life would be like if they lived in Yangshuo?

Look at images of the karst landscape. This is a great opportunity to practice field sketches, much like Ma Siduo did in the film. Students can annotate their field sketches to show the different limestone features that they can see. Ask students how they think those landscapes formed and whether there is anything similar in the UK.

Students could carry out further investigations into Yangshuo. How does the weather and climate change throughout the year? What types of food do they like to eat? What do tourists visit when they go to Yangshuo?

Curriculum Notes

This clip is relevant for teaching Geography at KS3 in England and Northern Ireland, 3rd Level in Scotland and Progression Step 4 in Wales. The National Curriculum for Geography 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 Ma Siduo'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>

Limestone landscapes:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zvp82hv/revision/5>