

KS3 Geography. Life in China

Xingping

JIA DENG HUI: My name is Jia Deng Hui. I am nine years old.

TRANSLATED: This is my friend Fung Ju Lin. He's my best friend. We live on an island near Xingping.

Xingping is in Guangxi Province in south China. This area is very famous for the Karst Peak mountains and Li River.

The Li River is 440 kilometres long. When it rains it's hard to see how beautiful the landscape is. But visitors still come here to admire the views. Even though it's winter.

Here is the famous view on our 20 yuan note. If you come to China you will use a 20 yuan note. And then you'll know the picture of those mountains is where I live. This rocks says '20 yuan note view'.

My mum sells fruit here. It's really hard to sell fruit right now because it's raining a lot and very cold. We grow lots of fruit on the island where I live. My mum has her own orange trees.

[THEY TALK IN MANDARIN]

She explains lots of things to my friends and I. She says the best time for oranges is December to January. We have four different kinds of oranges. Some are sweeter than others. We all eat a lot of fruit. My mum says if you throw away the bad ones the good ones have more chance to grow.

I like oranges but my favourite is pomelo. There are lots of pomelos on our island. They've all been picked now so they get taken off to the markets. Nearly every day you can see them loaded onto boats.

I have breakfast by the fire at 7:30. My mum usually makes me rice with meat.

At eight o'clock every morning I leave home. My house is really close to the river so it only takes a minute to get there.

My dad is really good at fixing boats. This is how he earns money.

My friend Fung Ju Lin and I always go to school together. All the children on our island have to cross the river to get to school.

From the harbour we walk the rest of the way. Classes start at 8:40.

If you come to Xingping you have to take a river trip. My friends and I live here so we just play around on boats. The temperature is really cold now. Our lifejackets help to keep the wind and rain out.

It's very cold for the fishermen too. Winter is not a good season for catching fish because there are hardly any fish in the river in the winter. Some of the fishermen use cormorant birds to help them fish.

Lots of the views were painted by Chinese painters. And written about by many poets. One poem is by a famous Chinese poet called Han Yu: *The river winds like a green silk ribbon while the hills are like jade hairpins.*

But you should come when it's warmer to see the famous views.