

# KS3 Geography. Life in China

## Yangshuo

MA SIDUO: My name is Ma Siduo. I am nine years old. I live in Yangshuo.

NARRATOR: Yangshuo is part of Guangxi Province in Southern China. It is a spectacular area, very popular with tourists drawn here by the sights of the amazing *karst* landscape. At the bottom of the valleys flow the rivers Yulong and Li. Temperatures are generally warm but it can get very wet and foggy in the rainy season.

SIDUO (TRANSLATED): [DESCRIBING HER DRAWINGS] I really like drawing the landscapes here. These are the hills of Yangshuo. This is the River Li, which is next to my home. This is a bamboo raft. This is a fisherman. This is the fisherman's cormorant. This is the famous Moon Hill.

NARRATOR: The whole area where Siduo lives is on a bed of limestone rock. It's the limestone that forms the steep-sided mountains - or 'karsts' - and the underground caves. Limestone is a porous rock and alkaline so when the slightly acidic rain falls - as it does in the rainy season, like now - the rock dissolves forming impressive stalactites and stalagmites in the caves. A whole tourist industry has built up in Yangshuo. There are lots of hotels and restaurants and bustling street markets where farmers and local craftsmen can sell their goods.

SIDUO (TRANSLATED): Many tourists come to visit Yangshuo. They really like our local products.

I like wandering through the town with my friends. I have lots of good friends.

The beautiful fans are very popular; we like choosing our favourites. All these fans are made in Yangshuo county.

We like star fruit. Everyone gets a piece.

Here you can stop and see how silk is made. We like playing with the silk worms...but I think they're a bit scary!

SIDUO (TRANSLATED): Lots of people like to stop and buy snacks. This is tofu with chives, chilli, beans and a sweet sauce. It's really tasty.

NARRATOR: School and after school clubs are a very big part of Chinese children's lives.

SIDUO (TRANSLATED): I go to school every day at seven thirty. My Mum takes me on her electric scooter. My Mum works as a teacher at my school...so we can travel together every day.

We all have breakfast at school. We usually have Guilin rice noodles. They're mixed with soya bean, spring onion, pork and chilli. People here like eating spicy food!

The first lesson today is Maths. First of all, the whole class stands up and bows to the teacher. This is part of Chinese etiquette, and is to pay respect to our teacher.

NARRATOR: The children learn about the history of maths reading it out loud as a class before they start their sums.

[THE CLASS CHANT TOGETHER]

SIDUO (TRANSLATED): Mrs Yang is our Maths teacher. After the first class we do exercises in the playground. Our leader is my friend Xu Shichen.

NARRATOR: The children exercise to keep warm as there is very little heating - if any - in the school buildings.

SIDUO (TRANSLATED): Every Friday evening I have my favourite class - dancing. My friend Xu Shichen is my dance partner. We've been dancing together since we were six. We've done competitions together. I really like dancing, because when I dance it makes me really happy.

NARRATOR: Siduo loves her friends and her school and her hometown of Yangshuo. She is lucky enough to live in one of the most beautiful parts of China.