

THE EMPTY POT



unit study and lapbook

The Empty Pot

Book by Demi

Unit study by Ami

Bible and Character

Memory Verse

Proverbs 12:22 - Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.

Social Studies

Geography- China

The Empty Pot is set in China, a large country located in Asia. Find China on your map together. Can your student find Beijing, the capital city?

As you read this story together, your student may notice some of the Asian architecture. The emperor's house is a pagoda. Pagodas are a building in Chinese architecture that look like a tower made from stacked boxes or octagons. It is large at the base and gets smaller at the top. They were originally built as part of a temple compound (usually Buddhist) but most of them today are historic landmarks. Most cities will have at least one old pagoda of which the residents are very proud. The Wild Goose Pagoda in Xian (where the Terracotta Warriors are buried) is a famous pagoda dating to the Tang dynasty.

China is also known for a much, much larger piece of architecture-- its great wall that was built about 2,000 years ago to keep out invaders from the north. It was built by Qin Shi Huangdi, the first emperor of China during the Qin Dynasty. The wall stretches for over 1,500 miles and is made of bricks, rocks, and packed earth. It stretches across the mountains of northern China, from the Jiayu Pass in the west to the mouth of the Yalu River in the east.

Most people think of rice when they think of China. It has been grown in southern China for a very long time (archaeologists have found evidence dating back to 5000

B.C.). Chinese farmers probably invented the rice paddy. Your student can watch the video (on the main unit study page) of rice being harvested.

Rice is usually boiled in water or steamed. It can be eaten alone or with just about anything! Some people add sauces, some add vegetables, some add meat, and some add a combination of the three. Rice can also be made into noodles; it is a good source of carbohydrates and gives you energy!

An animal native to the bamboo forests in the mountains of China is the beloved Giant Panda. The people of China have always believed that this was a special animal. It is said that ancient emperors kept giant pandas as pets! Two-thousand-year-old books have been found in China that show giant pandas with magical powers; people thought they could ward off evil and disasters. Today, the bears are a symbol of peace and good luck. Pandas are called "large bear-cats" by the Chinese and were not known to those living outside of China until 1916. The first westerner to observe one in the wild was Hugo Weigold from Germany. If your student wants to learn more about this animal, check out this [Giant Panda Lapbook](#).

If you were to visit China today, you would find statues of Buddha, a religious figure. Buddhism was founded by an Indian prince (who called himself Buddha). He taught his people the Four Noble Truths, and an Eightfold Path. He also taught the people to use meditation. After his death, his followers came to China from India around 400 AD to spread his teachings which were generally popular and accepted. The religion of China is complex and there are many other elements included (not just Buddhism), but Buddhism is still practiced.

In 1404 Emperor Yong Le ordered that a new capital be built. He named it Beijing. Beijing was one of the most elaborate cities in the world and deep inside there was a smaller city, surrounded by walls and a moat. This was known as the Forbidden City and was the home to the Emperor and the royal family; it is the world's largest palace complex consisting of 800 buildings and 9,000 rooms. The construction for the Forbidden City began in 1406 and took about one million workers 14 years to complete!

Read other books about China together. Record fast facts in the flap book. Search

the internet to find how to write your student's name in Chinese. Let him write it inside the name fold.

History- Emperors

The word *emperor* is a general word for a ruler having total control of a country or region. Throughout history, various places have had (and still have) different names for rulers. Introduce your student to some of these names- president, king/queen, emperor, czar, dictator. Also explain to your student that different kinds of rulers have different amounts of power.

Language Arts

Main Character

Discuss Ping as the main character. After reading the book, how would your student describe him? (young, Chinese, boy, good at growing things, honest, etc.). Write one sentence (or phrase) in each square on the character web to describe Ping.

Plot

Review the parts of a story with your student (you can use the questions on the flap book to aid in discussing the different parts of plot). Write the examples from *The Empty Pot* under the flaps.

Copywork

Use the following quotes for copywork this week:

"Honesty is the best policy." --Abraham Lincoln

"Thou shall not lie." --Exodus 20:16

"No legacy is so rich as honesty." --William Shakespeare

"A half-truth is a whole lie." --Yiddish Proverb

Creative Writing

Write your own royal decree announcing the emperor's decision. Use additional pages as needed.

Vocabulary

Use the flowers and pots for a matching activity.

Science

Parts of a Flower

Many plants are made up of four parts- flowers, leaves, roots, and stems.

Here are the basic parts of a flower:

Stems keep the plant upright. Leaves and flowers grow on the stems.

Sepals are small leaves that are found under the flower.

Inside a flower you will find all kinds of things!

Petals are brightly colored leaves. They are easy to spot and the reason we love to look at flowers!

The middle has long tubes called **stamens**. Stamens have two parts- the anther and the filament. Can your student find any pollen on the stamens?

Plant use this pollen to make seeds. The **pistil** is the inner middle of the flower. It is the seed producing part and usually consists of a stigma, style, and ovary.

Experiment- Cooked/Uncooked Seed

Take two fast sprouting seeds (radishes may be best) and cook one. Plant both in glass jars so you can really observe what is happening. Keep record of each plant on day 1, day 10, and day 20 using the flap book provided.

Additional Gardening Activities

Add a fun gardening project to do with your students this week!

Pocket Plot

Grow a mini-garden!

Take a clean lid (peanut butter jar lid would work) and lay damp tissue in the jar.

Plant mustard seeds and cress seeds on the tissue. Don't plant the entire tissue.

Cover them with a piece of black paper and take a peek at them every day (be sure to keep the tissue damp). Once you see little shoots coming up, take the cover off.

Let them grow. Add little rocks and toys (small animals), etc. to your pocket garden. Water it regularly!

Table Top Garden

photos contributed by Candace Crabtree



Buy some root vegetables (carrot, turnip, yam, parsnip, rutabaga, radish, etc.). Try to pick vegetables that already have a bit of green at the top, if possible. Cut off the tops and place them in water; you may need to use toothpicks to prop the veggies. Check the veggies every few days and record what you find (use photos and dictation/writing or let your student draw his own pictures). Make sure the bottoms of the vegetables stay submerged in water.



Applied Math

Calendar Skills

The emperor gave the children one year to tend their seeds. How long is one year?

1 year is the same as

4 seasons

12 months

52 weeks

365 days

Division

Turn to the page with the children all lined up in an "s". Ask your child how many he thinks are in line. It would take some time to count all the children one by one. Show him how it is quicker to skip count. Start with twos, skipping every other child and skip counting by twos. That only took half the time to count! Now skip count by threes, then fours, and so on. If your child is ready, you could also introduce the concept of dividing. If you divide all the children up into groups of two, how many groups are there? Are there any remainders? How many groups of three? Any remainders? How about groups of four? Do this until you can find groups with no remainders. (There are 52 children so you could get 26 groups of 2, 13 groups of 4, 4 groups of 13, or 2 groups of 26).

Art

Still Life

Turn to the two pages showing Ping in the center, surrounded by all the beautiful pots, vases, and other containers. Examine the shapes of all the containers with your child. When someone paints a picture of something that does not move, such as a table, fruit, or flowers, it is called a still life. Help your child to pick a lovely pot, vase, or other container from around your home and set it on a table. Have your child draw a still life picture of the container. Show him, by pointing out the details in Demi's illustrations, how to make the object look three dimensional (having height, width, and depth). When your child gets the still life looking in the way he likes, outline it with a fine tip black pen, and paint it with soft watercolors just as Demi did.

Circular Art

All of the illustrations in this story are done within circular shapes. When doing art in this way, some planning and thinking ahead is necessary to make sure you fit everything you want within the shape. Draw a circle. Have your child draw a scene, such as a playground, farm, or zoo scene, within the circle. Explain that the picture should be balanced, with equal parts of the circle filled or empty. Encourage your child to add details such as birds, leaves, or flowers to balance the picture just as Demi did. Ask your child if it was hard to keep all of his picture within the circle.

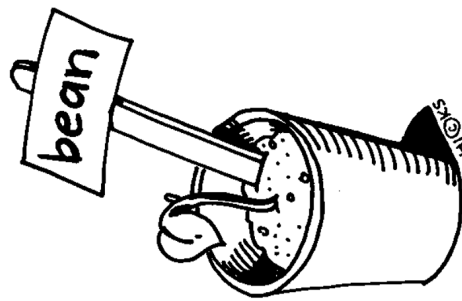
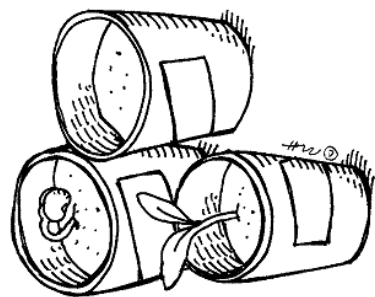
Drawing from a Model

Demi did a wonderful job of illustrating joyful children at play. They are in all kinds of positions, doing headstands, running, jumping, and doing cartwheels. It is likely that Demi watched children in action to properly illustrate how they look. She may have even had children pose for her to catch them in action. Take turns with your child, posing in fun or even silly positions, while the other person draws. Who could hold the position longest? Who drew the most playful looking pose?

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Grow some beans! Add pictures to these sequence pages as you watch your own bean plants grow! Use these pieces to make cards (store in a pocket) or use them to make a small booklet.



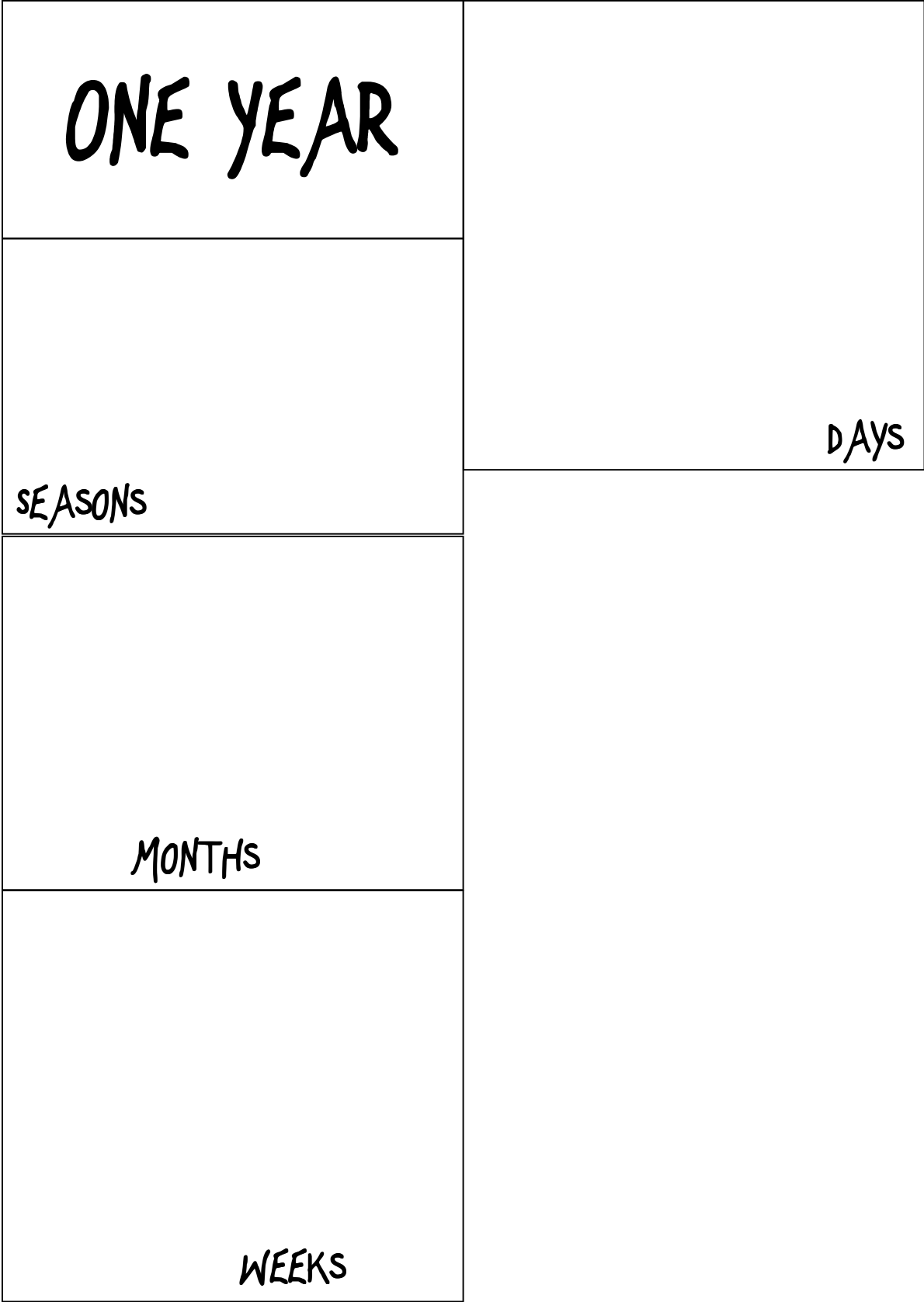
The bean seed is covered in a hard outer shell (the seed coat). Water is added to the seed and...

it swells and pops open! The first root (radicle) pokes through the seed coat; it grows down.

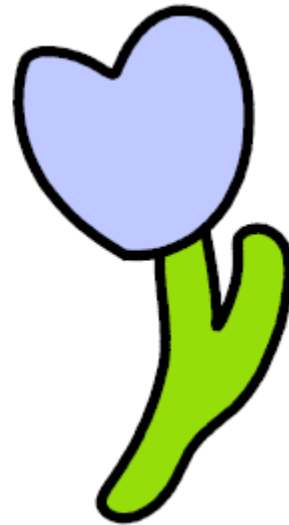
As the roots grow, a stem appears. The bean uses the food in the seed to grow.

Leaves grow on the stem and stretch towards the light. Beans grow. Inside the beans are more seeds!

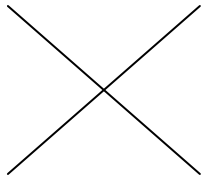
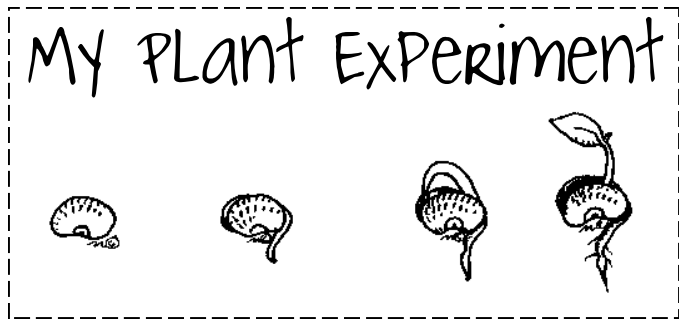
Cut out rectangles. Stack together (smallest to largest) with cover on top and staple.



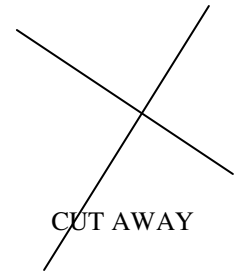
Print on cardstock. Have your student match the flowers to the pots. An extra flower/pot has been included.



Print page. Cut on solid lines;
fold on dotted lines. On the cen-
ter top portion, write your title.



CUT AWAY



CUT AWAY

COOKED
seed
Day one

BACK

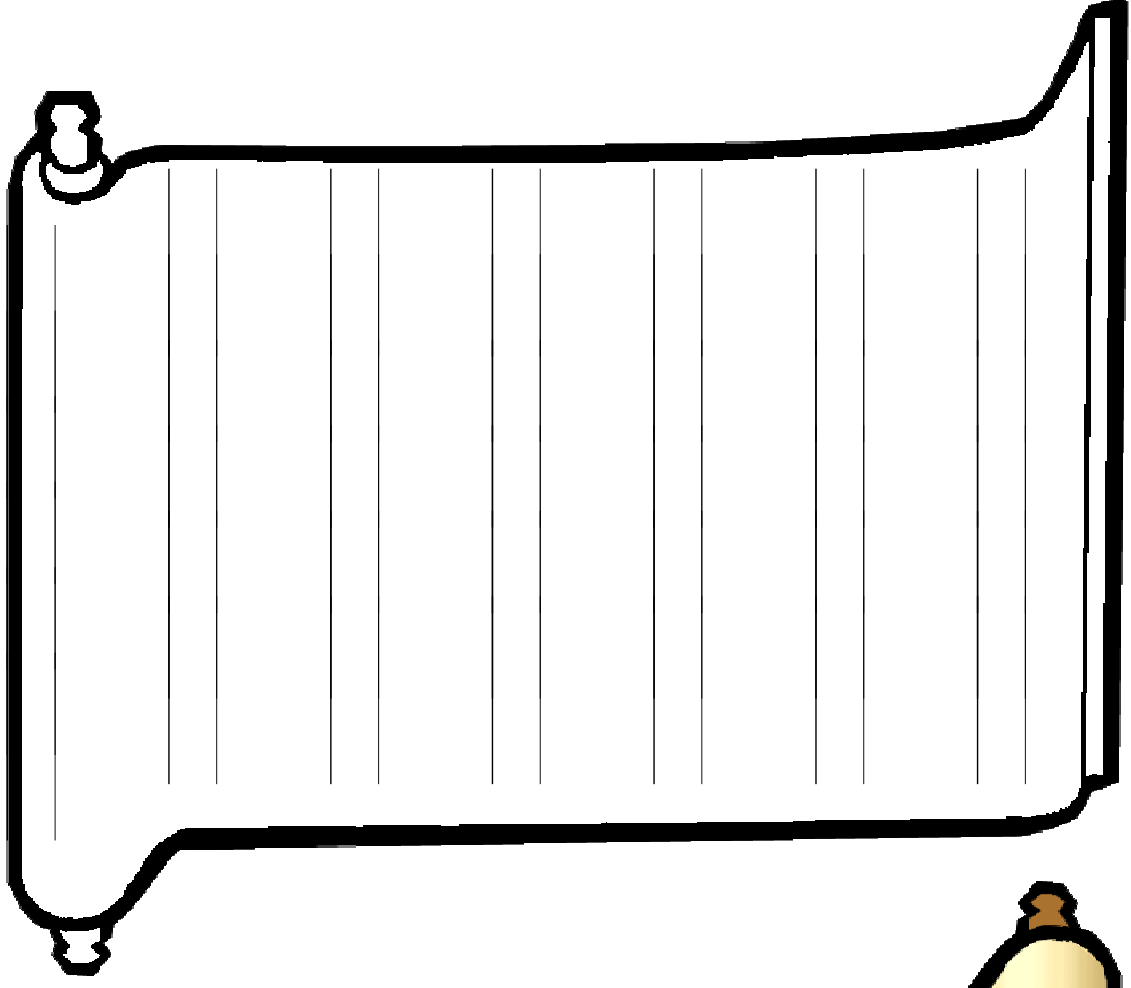
REGULAR
seed
Day one

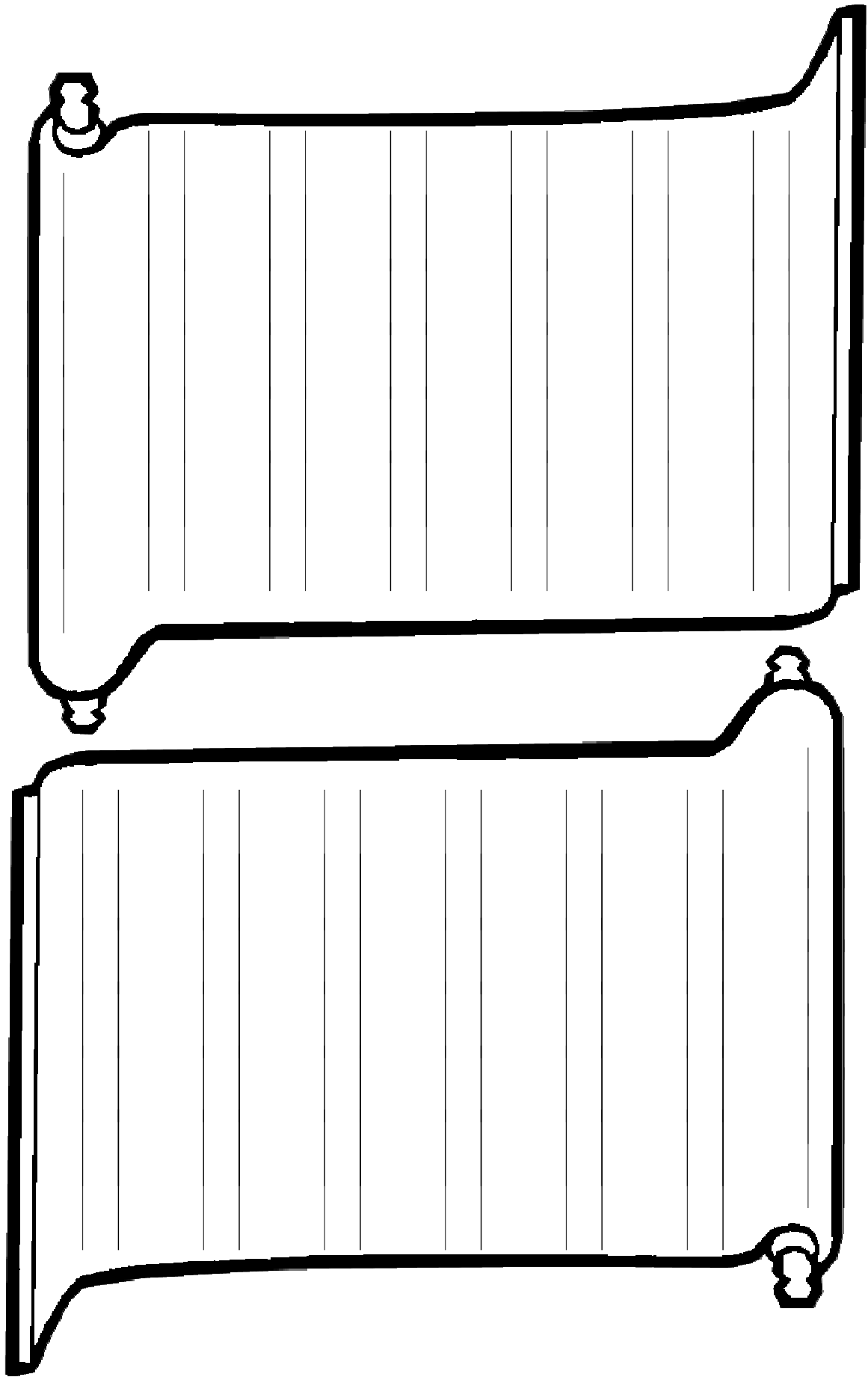
COOKED
seed
Day Ten

REGULAR
seed
Day Ten

COOKED
seed
Day Twenty

REGULAR
seed
Day Twenty

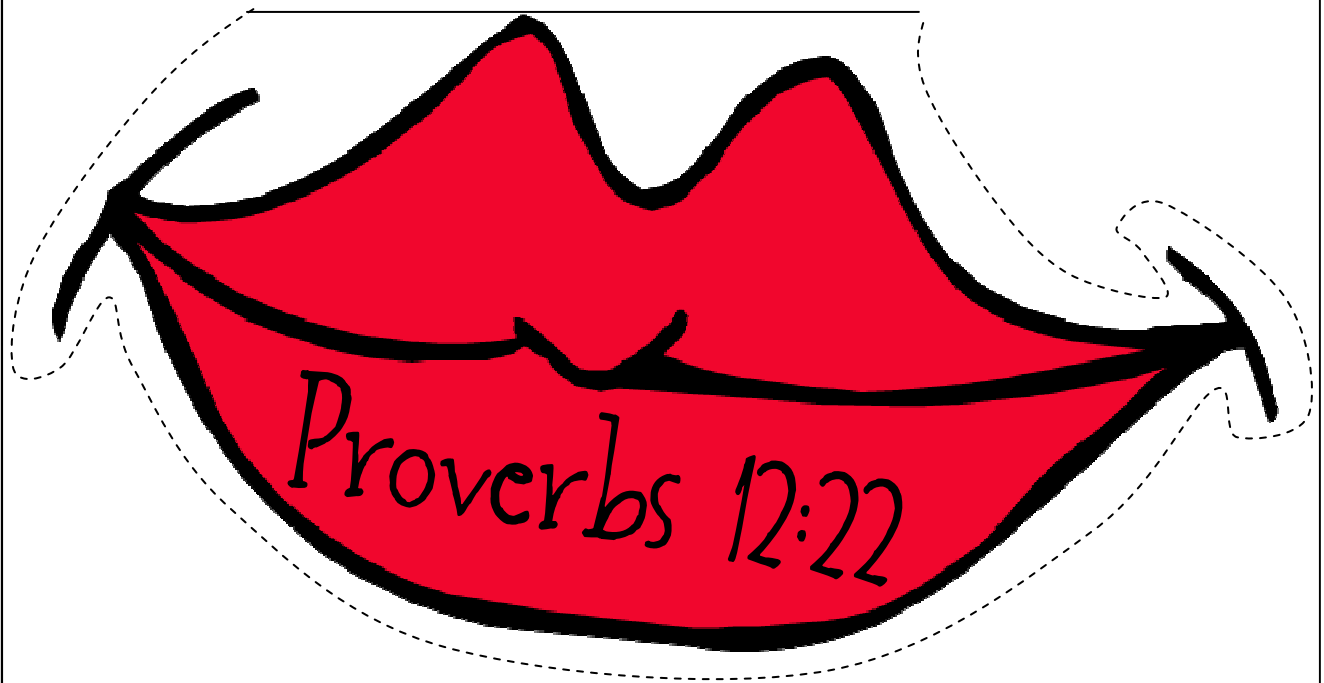




Lying lips are
abomination to the Lord:
but they that deal truly
are his delight.

Fold in half and cut around lip shape. Cut and
paste words to the inside of the book or write
them in your own handwriting.

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Honesty is the
best policy.

Abraham Lincoln

HONESTY

COPYWORK

Thou shall not

lie.

Exodus 20:16

No legacy is so

rich as honesty.

Shakespeare

A half truth is a
whole lie.

Yiddish Proverb

Cut out book as one piece. Fold on solid black line (fold up). Cut dotted line. You should have a space at the top of this book to write a title. You can also turn it upside down and put the title on the bottom. Under the right flap, write a definition of emperor. Under the left flap, write names of other kinds of rulers around the world.

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WHAT IS AN
EMPEROR?



RULERS
AROUND
THE WORLD

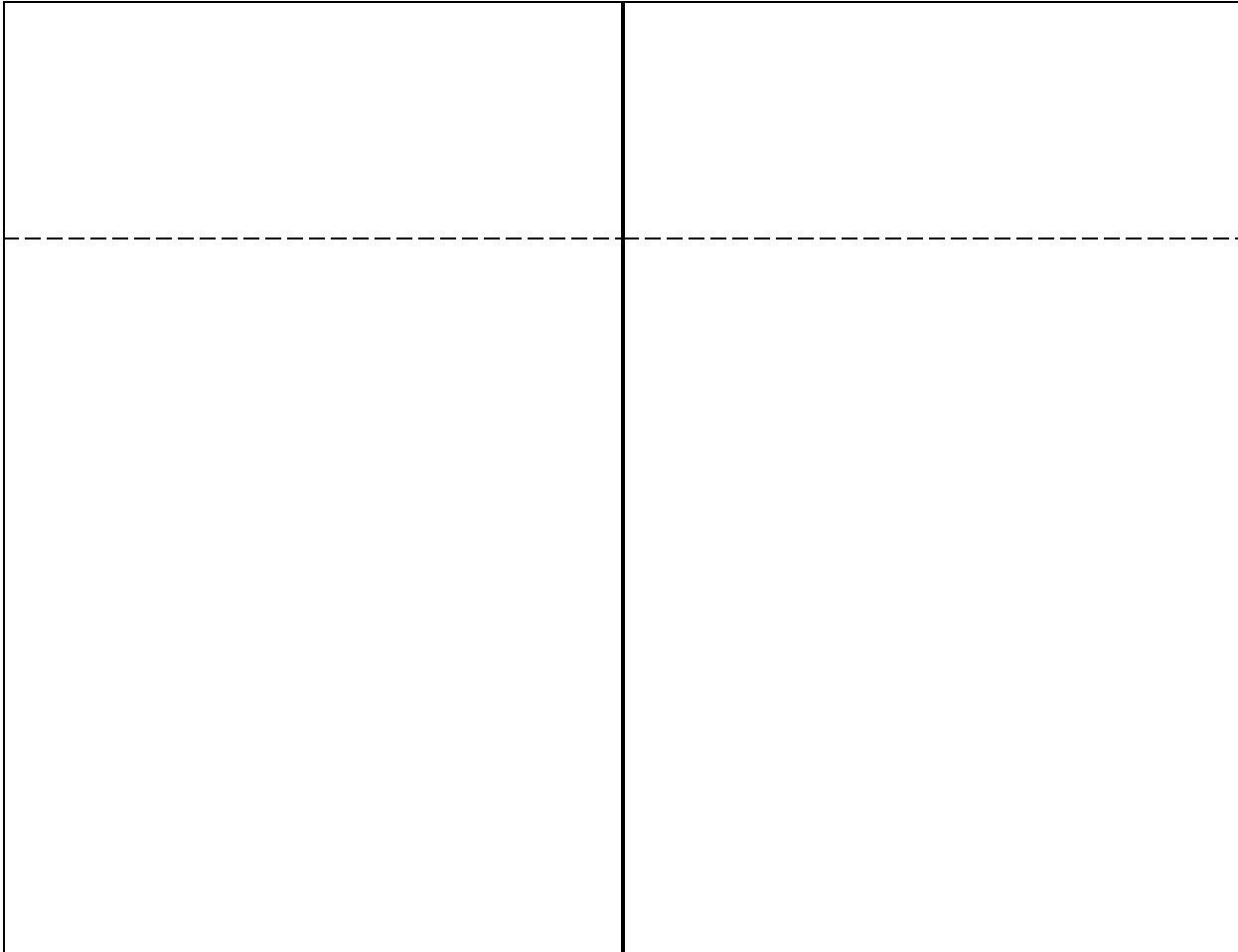


What I know about Ping

What I know about Ping

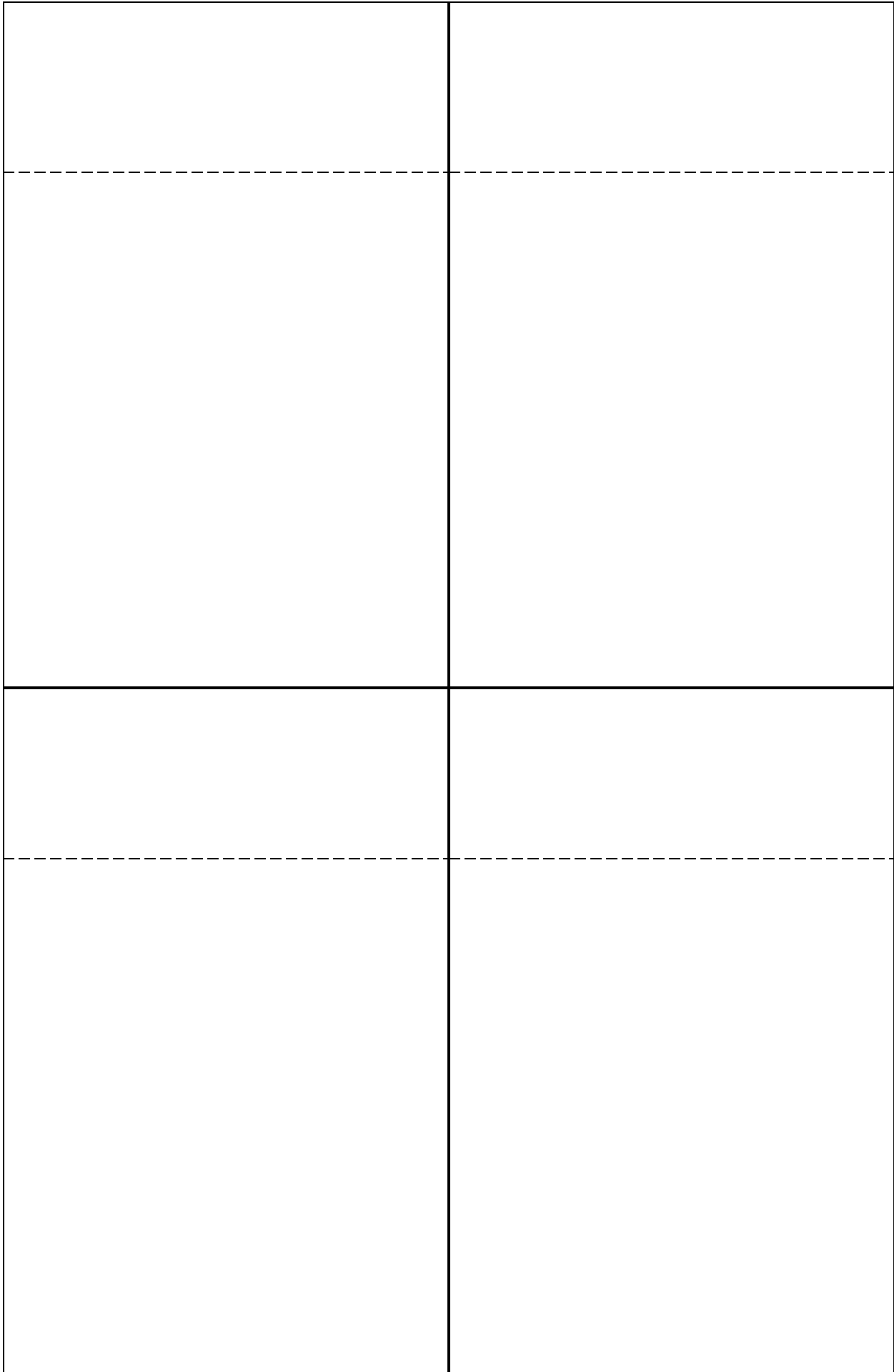
PRINT ON CARDSTOCK (first four pages)

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Cut apart on solid black lines. You should have two rectangles when finished. These are flags. Add images to fronts and text to the backs when book is constructed.

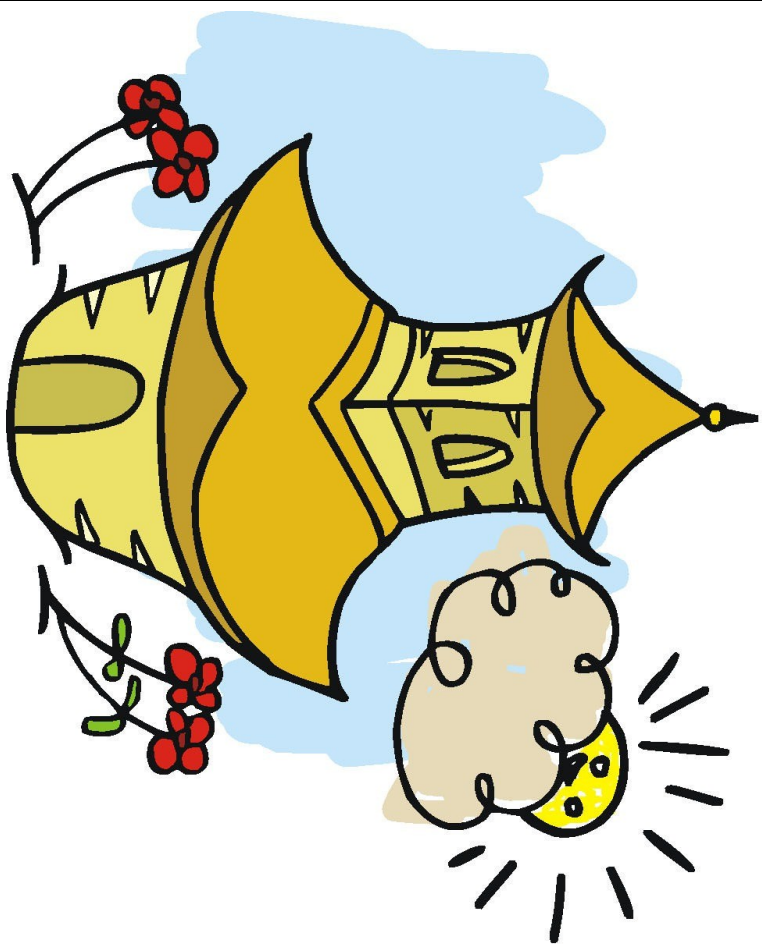
The next page is a bit tricky, but you can do it! Fold it like an accordion (back and forth, back and forth) using the horizontal lines on the sides as a guide. It's hard for me to explain how I used the lines as a guide, but basically, they helped me as I was making my fold I used the next set of lines I could see as my stopping point for that fold. Once you get it folded, unfold and cut on the solid black lines (not the side lines, but the main lines that form the rectangle). Once you have your accordion, you should follow the directions in the link given [on the website](#).

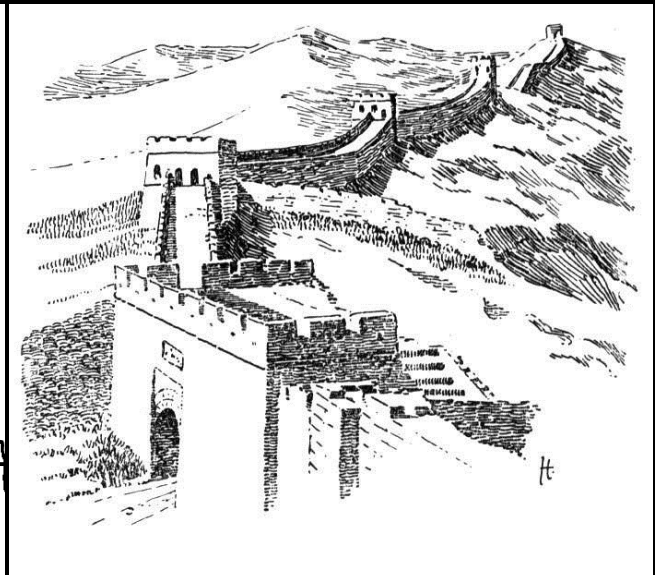
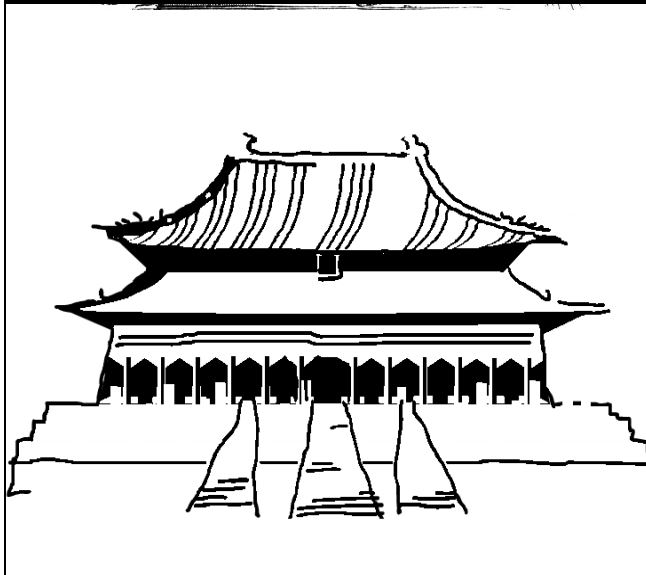
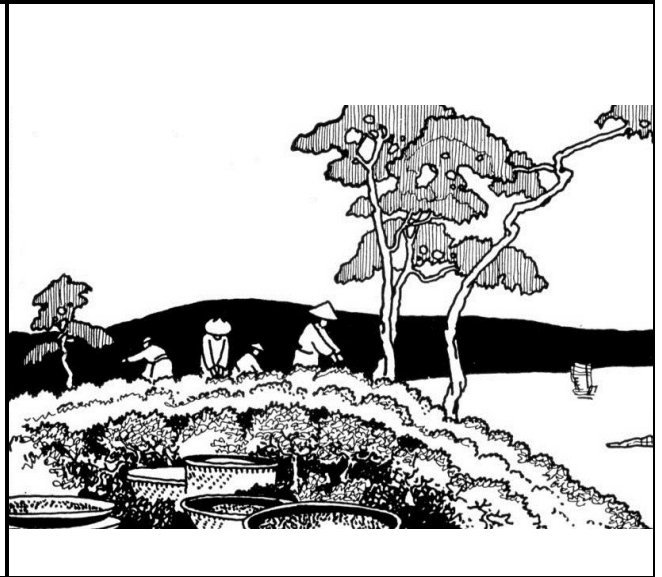
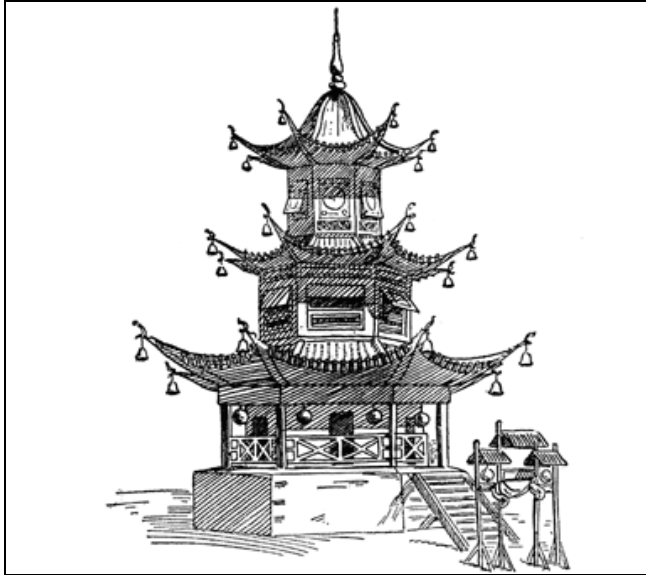


Cut apart on SOLID black lines; you should have four pieces when finished; these are the flags.

Cut on the solid black lines; you will have two rectangles when finished. These are your covers.

What Would I Find in China?





Color images, if desired.

Pagodas are a building in Chinese architecture that look like a tower made from stacked boxes or octagons. It is large at the base and gets smaller at the top. They were originally built as part of a temple compound (usually Buddhist) but most of them today are historic landmarks. Most cities will have at least one old pagoda of which the residents are very proud.

Rice has been grown in southern China for a very long time (archaeologists have found evidence dating back to 5000 B.C.). Chinese farmers probably invented the rice paddy. Rice is usually boiled in water or steamed. It can be eaten alone or with just about anything! Some people add sauces, some add vegetables, some add meat, and some add a combination of the three. Rice can also be made into noodles; it is a good source of carbohydrates and gives you energy!

In 1404 Emperor Yong Le ordered that a new capital be built. He named it Beijing; it was one of the most elaborate cities in the world and deep inside there was a smaller city—surrounded by walls and a mote. This was known as the Forbidden City and was the home to the Emperor and the royal family; it is the world's largest palace complex and consists of 800 buildings and 9,000 rooms. The construction for the Forbidden City began in 1406 and took about one million workers 14 years to complete!

The people of China have always believed that the Giant Panda was a special animal. It is said that ancient emperors kept giant pandas as pets! Two thousand year old books have been found in China that show giant pandas with magical powers; people thought they could ward off evil and disasters. Today, the bears are a symbol of peace and good luck. Pandas are called "large bear-cats" by the Chinese.

Buddhism was founded by an Indian prince (who called himself Buddha). He taught his people the Four Noble Truths, and an Eightfold Path. He also taught the people to use meditation. After his death, his followers came to China from India around 400 AD to spread his teachings which were generally popular and accepted.

China is famous for The Great Wall. The wall was built about 2,000 years ago to keep out invaders from the north. It was built by Qin Shi Huangdi, the first emperor of China during the Qin Dynasty. The wall stretches for over 1,500 miles and is made of bricks, rocks, and packed earth. It stretches across the mountains of northern China, from the Jiayu Pass in the west to the mouth of the Yalu River in the east.

Use the pieces below however you desire to create your own minit books.

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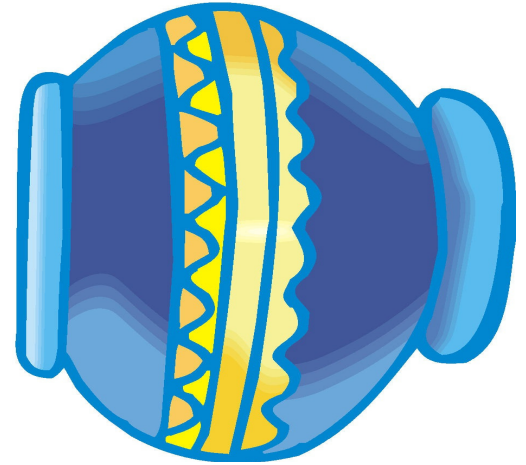
Flag of China



Map of China

The Empty Pot

Book Basics



Cut out book basics minit as one piece. Tri-fold. Use to record information about the book such as author, copyright date, why I like/didn't like this story, etc.

Cut on solid lines.
Mountain fold on dotted line.



MY NAME IN CHINESE



FACT 1

FACT 2

FACT 3

FACT 4

FACT 5

FIVE
FAST
CHINA
FACTS

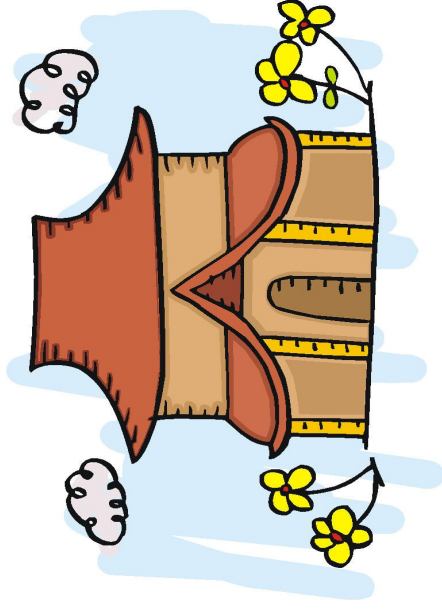


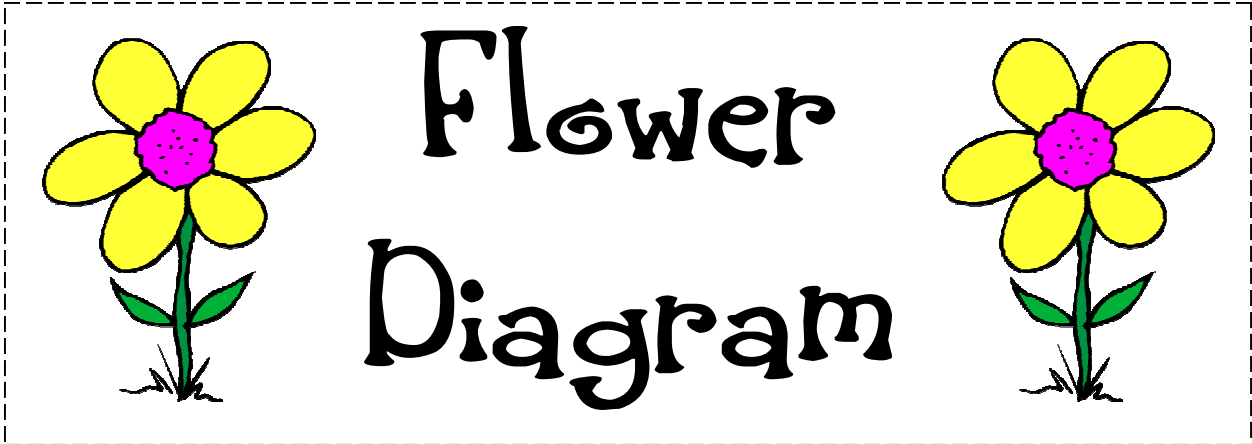
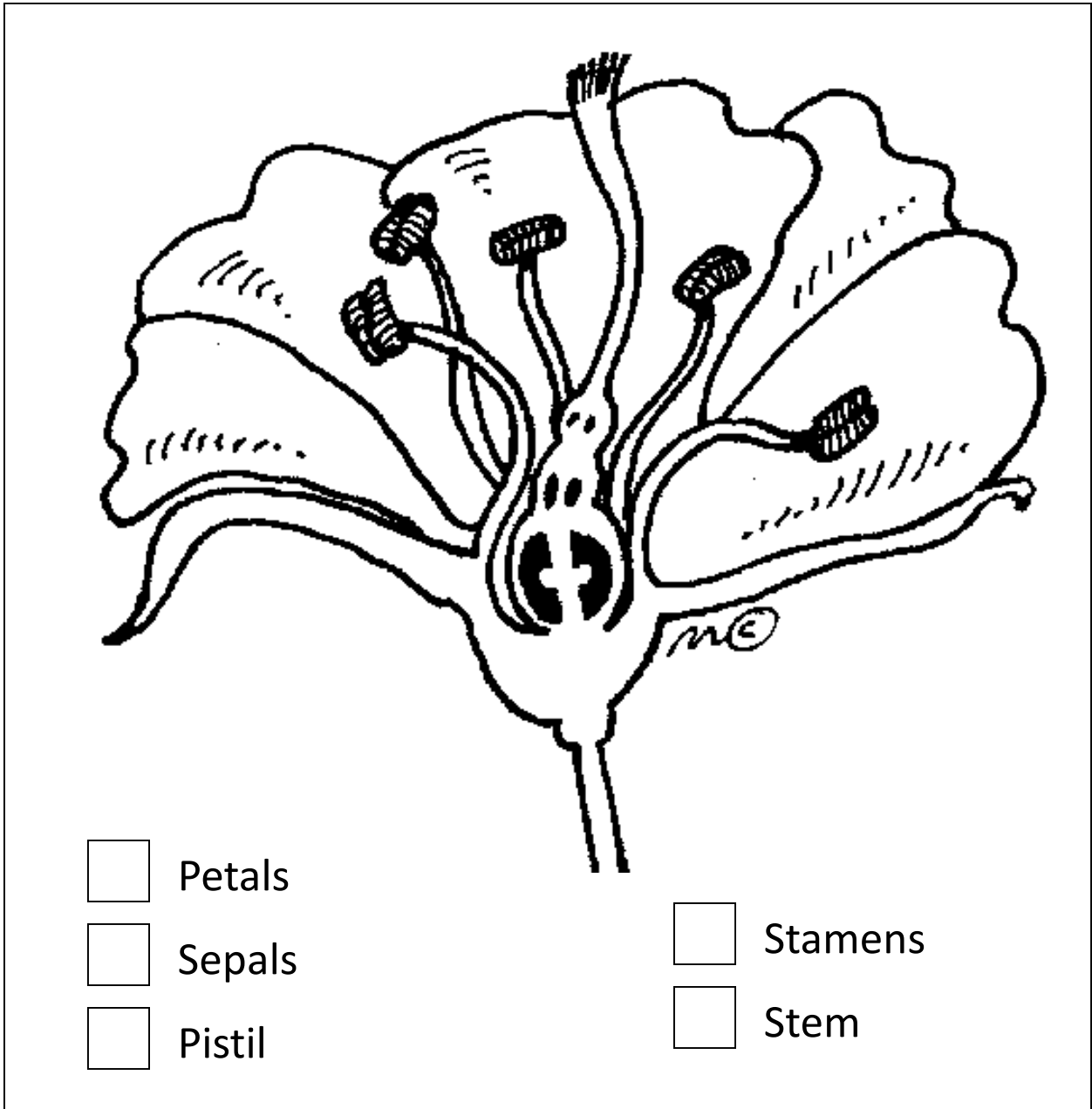
Cut on solid lines. Mountain fold on dotted lines.

<p>Setting</p> <p>When and where does the story take place?</p>
<p>Conflict</p> <p>What is the problem in the story?</p>
<p>Rising Action</p> <p>What events are created by the problem?</p>
<p>Climax</p> <p>What is the most exciting moment of the story?</p>
<p>Denouement- Resolution</p> <p>What is the final solution?</p>

The Empty Pot

Plot





Color each box a different color. Color the corresponding part of the plant the same color.