

Unit 5

Land Scenery



Lead-in Questions

1. Do you know the Five Sacred Mountains in China? What are they?
2. Do you know the Four Famous Buddhism Mountains in China? What are they?
3. Can you interpret one of the famous mountains in China?

China is renowned for the complicated geomorphologic surroundings like mountains, hills, cliffs, canyons, valleys, and volcanoes, which attract people all over the world. In the northwest of China, most of the mountains boast spectacular mountain landscapes with an altitude of more than 6,000 meters such as Everest (珠穆朗玛峰, 8,848 m), Godwin Mountain or K2 (乔戈里峰, 8,611 m), Shisha Pangma Mountain (希夏邦马峰, 8,013 m), Minya Konka Mountain (贡嘎山, 7,556 m), Muztag Mountain (慕士塔格峰, 7,546 m) and Siguniang or Four Sisters Mountain (四姑娘山, 6,250 m). These high mountains are steep and precipitous, covering with snow all year long, and appealing to the professional climbers, adventurers and scientific explorers at home and abroad.

With magical hues and shapes, mountain scenery displays the natural beauty, cultural relics and fantastic shapes, such as the Five Sacred Mountains and the Four Famous Buddhist Mountains, Huangshan Mountain (黄山), Lushan Mountain (庐山), Yandang Mountain (雁荡山), Danxia Mountain (丹霞山), Wudang Mountain (武当山), Qingcheng Mountain (青城山) and Sanqing Mountain (三清山).



1. The Five Sacred Mountains

In ancient times, the sacred mountains were very important destinations for Taoism

followers to pay respect or pilgrimage. Emperors considered the mountains as the symbols of gods and came to the high mountains to sacrifice to the heaven. Men of letters also came for acquiring inspiration, composing poems, writing essays, painting and taking pictures. The five sacred mountains were the places where emperors often arrived. In the Sui Dynasty (581-618), Emperor Wen (文帝) officially identified such Five Sacred Mountains according to their geographic locations as Taishan Mountain (泰山) to the east in Shandong Province, Huashan Mountain (华山) to the west in Shaanxi Province, Hengshan Mountain (恒山) to the north in Shanxi Province, Hengshan Mountain (衡山) to the south in Hunan Province and Songshan Mountain (嵩山) in the center in Henan Province.

1.1 Taishan Mountain

Taishan Mountain or Mount Tai (泰山), “the first of the Five Sacred Mountains”, lies some 43 miles to the south of Jinan City, Shandong Province. It was once called Mt. Dai (岱), Mt. Daizong (岱宗) or Mt. Taiyue (泰岳) in history. Rich in historic relics and unique natural scenery, it is a must for tour lovers. Mount Tai reflects splendid Chinese culture and natural beauty, and plays a key role in the development of Buddhism and Taoism. Its main peak, Jade Emperor Summit (玉皇顶) is about 1,532 meters high.

As the famous saying goes, “When one climbs up on Taishan Mountain, the world below him seems to be suddenly belittled.” The four greatest wonders of the mountain are: the Sunrise (旭日东升), the Sunset (晚霞夕照), the Sea of Clouds (云海玉盘) and the Golden Belt along the Yellow River (黄河金带). Besides, such scenic spots are also attractive as Shibapan Path or Eighteen Paths (十八盘), Lvzu Cave (吕祖洞), Guandi Temple or Temple of Emperor Guan (关帝庙), Heilong Pond or Black Dragon Pond (黑龙池), Heavenly Queen Pool (王母池), Mid-heaven Gate (中天门), Dongyue Temple (岱庙), and Azure Cloud Temple (碧霞祠).



Taishan Mountain

In 1987, Taishan Mountain was listed in the UNESCO’s World Natural and Cultural Heritage List.

1.2 Huashan Mountain

Huashan Mountain or Mount Hua (华山), 120 kilometers east of Xi’an in Shaanxi Province, is famous for its steep and risky ascent. With an altitude of 2,200 meters, it is known as “the No.1 precipitous mountain under heaven” because of its natural scenes of steep and narrow paths, precipitous cliffs, and a high mountain range. Just as the saying goes, “There has been only one path up Huashan Mountain since ancient times.” Along the road, the most dangerous places are: the Thousand-foot Precipice (千尺幢), the Hundred-foot Crevice (百尺峡), the Blue Dragon Ridge (苍龙岭), the Cliffside Road (长空栈道), the Sparrow Hawk’s Cliff (鹞子翻身), the Ear-touching Cliff (擦耳崖), etc.

There are five peaks with nicknames: the East Peak — the Sunrise Peak (东峰朝阳), the West Peak — the Lotus Peak (西峰莲花), the North Peak — the Cloud Terrace Peak (北峰云台), the South Peak — the Goose-resting Peak (南峰落雁) and the Middle Peak — the Jade Lady Peak (中峰玉女). The mountain was called Huashan Mountain (hua means flower in Chinese) because the five peaks look like five petals of a flower from a distance.



Huashan Mountain

1.3 Hengshan Mountain (north)

Hengshan Mountain or Mount Heng (恒山) is located about 62 kilometers south to Datong City of Shanxi Province. It was also called “Changshan Mountain (常山)”, “Hengzong (恒宗)”, “Yuanyue (元岳)”, or “Ziyue (紫岳)” in history. As the bottleneck from Shanxi Plateau to Central Hebei Plain beyond the Great Wall, Mount Heng used to be a place of military importance with battlefield relics like passes, fortresses, castles and beacon towers. Its main peak, Heaven Peak (天峰), is known as “the second summit under heaven” and “a famous mountain of strategic importance” with an altitude of about 2,016 meters. On the top of the mountain, people can find vast pine trees, fantastic stones, exotic flowers and rare herbs, etc.

The spots of the mountain are characterized by the distinct four seasons and the extreme temperature difference between daytime and at night. The famous scenic spots are: Hanging Temple (悬空寺), Guolao Range (果老岭), Flying Stone Cave (飞石窟), Cuiping Peak (翠屏峰), Beiyue Temple (北岳庙), etc.



Hengshan Mountain (north)

1.4 Hengshan Mountain (south)

Hengshan Mountain or Mount Heng (衡山) is situated 50 kilometers Hengyang City of Hunan Province. It is famous for its fantastic scenery and magnificent Buddhist temples, among which the Great Temple of Hengshan Mountain is the largest ancient architectural complex in the south of China, with an area of 9,800 square meters.

Mount Heng boasts 72 peaks with endless trees, of which the most famous are: Zhurong Peak (祝融峰), Furong Peak (芙蓉峰), Zigai Peak (紫盖峰), and Tianzhu Peak (天柱峰). Zhurong Peak, 1,290 meters above sea level, is a best place to view the sunrise.

The well-known four wonders of the mountain are: the loftiness of Zhurong Peak (祝融峰高), the delicacy of



Hengshan Mountain (south)

Tripitaka Temple (藏经楼秀), the quietness of Fangguang Temple (方广寺深) and the mystery of Water-screen Cave (水帘洞奇). In history, men of letters came here for different views and lectures, thus such famous academies were built as Nanyue Academy (南岳书院) and Yehou Academy (邺侯书院).

1.5 Songshan Mountain

Songshan Mountain or Mount Song (嵩山) is located in more than 90 kilometers southwest of Zhengzhou in Henan Province. Its highest peak, Junji Peak (峻极峰), is 1,494 meters above the sea level.

The mountain is renowned not only for the beautiful natural scenery, but also for the historic interests here and there, such as Shaolin Temple (少林寺), Zhongyue Temple (中岳庙), Songyang Academy (嵩阳书院), the Forest of Shaolin Pagodas, the Pagoda of Songyue Temple of the Northern Wei Dynasty (北魏嵩岳寺塔), and the Gaocheng Observatory of the Yuan Dynasty (元代告诚观星台).

The forest resources of Songshan Mountain are praised as rare treasures for their large quantity, antiquity and vivid shapes, such as the General Cypress, the most antique cypress tree in China.



Songshan Mountain



2. The Four Famous Buddhism Mountains

In the first century, Buddhism was introduced from India into China via the Silk Road. Religion travels occurred frequently. In order to practise meditation, Buddhists favored quiet mountains and deep forests. Centuries later, the four mountains were considered as the Four Sacred Mountains of Buddhism and each of them is believed to be the dwelling place of a Buddha who, in myth, is said to dedicate him/herself to the service of helping all creatures in the world: Putuo Mountain (普陀山) in Zhejiang Province—sacred to Avalokitesvara or the Bodhisattva of Compassion (观音菩萨), Wutai Mountain (五台山) in Shanxi Province—sacred to Manjushri or the Bodhisattva of Wisdom (文殊菩萨), Emei Mountain (峨眉山) in Sichuan Province — sacred to Samantabhadra or the Bodhisattva of Benevolence (普贤菩萨) and Jiuhua Mountain (九华山) in Anhui Province — sacred to Kshitigarbha or the Bodhisattva of Salvation (地藏王菩萨).

2.1 Putuo Mountain

Putuo Mountain or Mount Putuo (普陀山) lies about five kilometers east of Zhoushan

(舟山) Island in Zhejiang Province. It is also known as “Buddhist fairyland”, “the holy land of the South Sea”, “the fairyland of Penglai”, and “the first seamount.” Its main peak, Buddha Peak or Baihua Peak (白华顶, meaning white flower) is about 291 meters above sea level, with stone steps reaching to the top.

In the Tang Dynasty, the mountain became a Buddhist sanctuary to enshrine the statue of Avalokitesvara who became a symbol of the mountain later. Avalokitesvara was originally a male in India and Tibet, but portrayed as a female in China because, on the one hand, the image is often described as a deity of mercy and gentleness, holding a vase in her hand and pouring out holy water to assist the suffering people; on the other hand, it is convenient for women who came to pray. It’s said that the Buddha blessed women to give birth to a child as their wills.

The three famous temples on the mountain are: Puji Temple (普济禅寺), Fayu Temple (法雨禅寺) and Huiji Temple (慧济禅寺). The mountain is full of marvelous beaches, quiet valleys, spectacular caves, overhanging cliffs, bizarre rocks, etc. Thus, it is also an ideal resort for holiday.



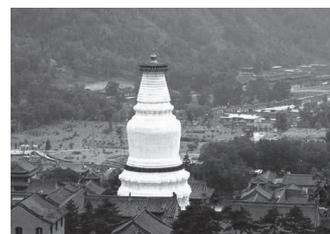
Putuo Mountain

2.2 Wutai Mountain

Considered as Manjushri’s dwelling place, Wutai Mountain or Mount Wutai (五台山) is located in Wutai County of Shanxi Province. As a matter of fact, the mountain got its name Wutai (Five Terraces) because it is a cluster of five terraces like peaks: East, West, South, North and Central Terraces. It is also called Qingliang Mountain (清凉山, meaning cool and pleasant) because the climate in summer is cool and pleasant. Its highest peak, Yedou Peak (叶斗峰) of the North Terrace known as “the roof of the north of China” with around 3,061 meters above the sea level.

With bright blue sky and wonderful natural beauty, the mountain is covered with trees surrounding ancient temples and monasteries. The symbol of the mountain, the Big White Pagoda for Buddha’s sarira (舍利), was built, featuring with Nepalese style in the Eastern Han Dynasty.

Since the Tang Dynasty, the mountain became a sacred place of Buddhism. Such five temples are the greatest temples of the mountain as Xiantong Temple, also called Lingjiu Temple (显通寺/灵鹫寺), Tayuan Temple (塔院寺), Buddha Temple (菩萨顶), Shuxiang Temple (殊像寺) and Luohou Temple (罗睺寺), with Xiantong Temple as the oldest one in China.



Wutai Mountain

2.3 Emei Mountain

Emei Mountain or Mount Emei (峨眉山) lies about 140 kilometers to the southwest of Chengdu, the capital city of Sichuan Province. It is also titled as “the Buddhist world”, “kingdom of plants”, “paradise of animals”, “geological museum”, etc. It’s said that the peaks of the mountain oppose each other like eyebrows (e’ mei in Chinese), hence the name. Its highest peak, Wanfoding or Thousand-Buddha Summit (万佛顶) is around 3,079 meters above the sea level, while its main peak, Jinding or the Golden Summit (金顶), is neighboring. From Jinding summit, one can enjoy the four marvelous sights: sunrise, cloud sea, saint lamp, and the most spectacular wonder — Buddha’s light. What’s more, monkeys in the mountain are also attractive to most visitors.

The patron Buddha of the mountain is Samantabhadra who is called Buddha Puxian (普贤) in Chinese.

On the top of the mountain, dozens of temples are dotted with a great collection of Buddhism cultural relics. The famous temples are: Baoguo Temple (报国寺, meaning dedication to the country), Fuhu Temple (伏虎寺, tiger in ambush), Qingyin Pavilion (清音阁, pure notes), Wannian Temple (万年寺, thousands of years), Xixiang Pool (洗象池, elephant bathing), Jiulao Cavern (九老洞, nine elders), Hongchun Terrace (洪椿坪), etc.



Emei Mountain

In 1996, Emei Mountain was listed as the UNESCO’s World Natural and Cultural Heritage.

2.4 Jiuhua Mountain

Jiuhua Mountain or Mount Jiuhua (九华山) is located in the southwestern of Qingyang County (青阳县) in Anhui Province, covering an area of 120 square kilometers. It was originally called Jiuzi Mountain (九子山, meaning nine kids in Chinese) because its nine peaks shape like lotus flowers. It’s also said that the name came from the poem “From the azure sky above descends a jade-like flow, and nine charming lotuses rise out of the peaks below” by Li Bai (李白, 701-762), a renowned poet in the Tang Dynasty. Jiuhua Mountain is also known as “the lotus Buddhism nation”, “the No. 1 mountain of southeast” and “the No.1 mountain of Jiangnan.”

Jiuhua Mountain boasts 99 peaks with such 9 ones are the most imposing as Shiwang or Ten Kings (十王), Qixian or Seven Sages (七贤), Tiantai or Heavenly Terrace (天台), Tianzhu or Heavenly Pillar (天柱), Lianhua or Lotus (莲花), Luohan or Arhart (罗汉), Duxiu (独秀), Furong (芙蓉), and Guanyin or Avalokitesvara (观音), among which Shiwang Peak is the highest with 1,342 meters above sea level.

As one of the Four Sacred Buddhism Mountains, Jiuhua Mountain is the dwelling place

of Kshitigarbha. Famous temples are: Huacheng Temple (化城寺), Kshitigarbha Buddhist Temple (地藏禅寺), Baisui or Hundred-year-old Palace (百岁宫), Zhiyuan Temple (祇园寺), Ganlu (甘露寺), Huiju Temple (慧居寺), etc.

Jiuhua Mountain is attractive not only for its Buddhist spots, but also for its fascinating scenery. The famous sights are: the sunrise at Tiantai Platform or the Heavenly Terrace (天台晓日), the moon mirroring in Shutan Pool (舒潭印月), the mountain scenery by the five streams (五溪山色), the sea of clouds around Lotus Peak (莲峰云海), the snow at Pinggang or Flat Terrace (平冈积雪), the jingle of Nine-kid Spring (九子泉声), the evening bell of Huacheng Temple (化城晚钟), the old phoenix pine trees (凤凰古松), etc. Besides, in the mountain, such rare and precious animals and plants can be found as *Zamioculcas zamiifolia* (金钱树, or golden tree), and giant salamander (娃娃鱼).



Jiuhua Mountain

3. Huangshan Mountain

Huangshan Mountain or Mount Huang (黄山), originally called “Three Emperors’ Capital (三天子都)” and “Mt. Yi (黟山)”, is situated in Huangshan City of Anhui Province, covering an area of 1,200 square kilometers. It has 72 peaks with Tiandou (天都峰), Lianhua or Lotus (莲花峰) and Guangming (光明顶) as the three main peaks. What’s more, the scenic spots are: two lakes, three waterfalls, 16 springs, 24 streams, 36 little peaks and 36 large peaks.

Known as “the No.1 unique mountain in China”, Huangshan Mountain is famous for its unique beauty with the four great wonders: the uniquely shaped pines (奇松), the fantastic rock peaks (怪石), the sea of clouds (云海) and the hot springs (温泉). As the sayings goes, “Where there is a rock, there is a pine; where there is a pine, it displays an attractive sight.” The scenery of the mountain changes dramatically from hour to hour and through the seasons.

In 1990, Huangshan Mountain was listed in the UNESCO’s World Natural and Cultural Heritage List.



Huangshan Mountain

4. Lushan Mountain

Lushan Mountain or Mount Lu (庐山) lies in Jiujiang City (九江市) of Jiangxi Province. It’s also called Kuanglu Mountain (匡庐山) because there lived seven brothers surnamed “Kuang (匡)” in the Zhou Dynasty. Its main peak, Hanyang Peak (汉阳峰) is

1,474 meters above the sea level.

The mountain is a unique mountain resort with green peaks, floral paths, flying waterfalls, changing sea of clouds, odd caves, artful gardens, etc. Famous scenic spots are: Big Tianchi Pool (大天池), Small Tianchi Pool (小天池), Viewing-river Pavilion (望江亭), Dragon's Head Cliff (龙首崖), Immortal Cave (仙人洞), Three Treasures Tree (三宝树), Guanyin Bridge (观音桥), Bailudong Academy (白鹿洞书院), Donglin Temple (东林寺), etc.

In 1996, Mt. Lushan was listed in the UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage List.



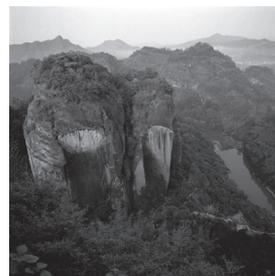
Lushan Mountain

5. Wuyi Mountain

Wuyi Mountain or Mount Wuyi (武夷山), also known as “the No.1 scenic wonder in the southeast of China” or “green waters and red mountains”, is located in Wuyishan City of Fujian Province, with an area of 70 square kilometers. It boasts Jiuqu Steam or Nine Winding Streams (九曲溪), 36 peaks, 72 caves, 99 rocks and 108 scenic spots.

The mountain is characterized by typical Danxia landform with red unique peaks, streams and ravines. It integrates the fantasy of Huangshan Mountain, the elegance of Guilin, the beauty of the West Lake in Hangzhou and the splendor of Tai Mountain.

In 1999, Wuyi Mountain was listed in the UNESCO's World Natural and Cultural Heritage List.



Wuyi Mountain

6. Yandang Mountain

Yandang Mountain or Mount Yandang (雁荡山) lies in Leqing County (乐清县) of Wenzhou City in Zhejiang Province, covering an area of 450 square kilometers. It consists of eight scenic areas with fascinating peaks, waterfalls and caves, among which the three famous wonders are the most eye-catching as Linfeng Peak or Spiritual Peak (灵峰), Lingyan Rock or Spiritual Rock (灵岩) and Big Dragon Waterfall (大龙湫). Known as “a famous mountain in the sea”, or “an unsurpassed wonder in the world”, Mount Yandang was listed as World Geopark by UNESCO in 2005.



Yandang Mountain

7. Danxia Mountain

Danxia Mountain or Mount Danxia (丹霞山) is 56 kilometers from Shaoguan City (韶关市) of Guangdong Province. It is one of the four famous mountains in Guangdong Province, along with Luofu Mountain (罗浮山), Xiqiao Mountain (西樵山) and Dinghu Mountain (鼎湖山). The mountain is so-called because of the famous and typical Danxia landform. Its main peaks are Zhanglao or Abbot Peak (长老峰), Hailuo or Conch Peak (海螺峰) and Baozhu or Precious Pearl Peak (宝珠峰). It is also called “China’s red stone park” with compelling cliffs, luxuriant trees, chirping birds, etc.

Famous scenic spots are: Senmao or Monk’s Cap Peak (僧帽峰), Fairy Mountain and Wonderful Pavilion (仙山琼阁), Boy Paying Homage to Buddha Guanyin (童子拜观音), Jade Lady Blocking the River (玉女拦江), Yangyuan Rock (阳元石), etc. As the saying goes, “The mountains and waters of Guilin are the most beautiful under heaven, but they are still inferior to Danxia Mountain in Guangdong Province.”



Danxia Mountain

8. Wudang Mountain

Wudang Mountain or Mount Wudang (武当山), also called Taihe Mountain (太和山) or Xianshi Mountain (仙室山), lies in Danjiangkou City (丹江口市) of Hubei Province. It was once called “Taiyue (太岳, yue means mountain in Chinese)”, “Xuanyue (玄岳)”, “Dayue (大岳).” Its highest peak, Tianzhu Peak (天柱峰), is 1,612 meters above the sea level, known as “one pole supporting the sky.” Many smaller peaks surrounding Tianzhu Peak seem to pay homage to it.

The mountain covers an area of 321 square kilometers, attracting a large number of visitors with the splendid ancient building complex and compelling natural scenery, such as the 3 pools, 9 springs, 11 caves, 24 streams, 36 cliffs and 72 peaks.

It’s said that the mountain was the place where Emperor Zhenwu (真武大帝) of Taoism flew up to the Heaven. The constructions of the mountain began in the Tang Dynasty and ended in the Qing Dynasty. After the long history, the existing building complex covers the Grand Purple Cloud Palace (紫霄宫), the Fuzhen Temple (复真观), the Palace of Harmony (太和宫), the Yuxu Palace (玉虚宫), the Golden Hall (金殿), the Yuzhen Palace (遇真宫), the South Cliff Palace (南岩宫), etc.

As an important Taoist holy land, Wudang Mountain is also a birthplace of martial arts. Wudangquan and Taijiquan



Wudang Mountain

were created by Zhang Sanfeng (张 三 丰). Martial arts of Wudang Mountain paralleled with those of Shaolin. Just as the saying goes, “Wudang martial arts in the south are esteemed while Shaolin martial arts in the north are respected.”

In 1994, Ancient Building Complex in Wudang Mountain was listed by UNESCO as a World Culture Heritage Site.

9. Qingcheng Mountain

Located about 15 kilometers southwest of Dujiangyan City (都 江 堰 市) in Sichuan Province, Qingcheng Mountain or Mount Qingcheng (青 城 山, meaning “evergreen city” in Chinese) got its name because of the green trees on the mountain all year round. Covering an area of more than 120 kilometers, Qingcheng Mountain boasts 36 peaks, 72 caves and 108 scenic spots. Known as “the best secluded mountain under heaven”, the mountain is an important cradle of Taoism with over ten Taoist temples and spots, such as the Tianshi or Heavenly Master’s Cave (天 师 洞), Jianfu Palace (建 福 宫), Shangqing Palace (上 清 宫), Zushi Hall (祖 师 殿), Yuanming Palace (圆 明 宫), Laojun Pavilion (老 君 阁), Yuqing Palace (玉 清 宫) and Zhaoyang Cave (朝 阳 洞).



Qingcheng Mountain

In 2000, Qingcheng Mountain and the Dujiangyan Irrigation System were listed as UNESCO’s Cultural Heritages.

10. Sanqing Mountain

Situated in Shangrao City (上 饶 市) of Jiangxi Province, Sanqing Mountain or Mount Sanqing (三 清 山) covers an area of more than 756 square kilometers. It was named after a Chinese phrase, “The three steep peaks look like the Three Pure Ones sitting on the summits.” The Three Pure Ones or the Three Purities refer to the “manifestations of the primordial cosmic energy” in terms of Taoist Trinity, later they represent “the three divine natures of all living beings — past, present and future” which are ruled by the three pure ones in Taoist teachings — the Jade Purity (玉 清) or “the Universal Lord of the Primordial Beginning” (元 始 天 尊), the Supreme Pure One (上 清) or “The Universal Lord of the Numinous Treasure” (灵 宝 天 尊) and the Grand Pure One (太 清) or “The Universal Lord of the Way and its Virtue” (道 德 天 尊).



Sanqing Mountain

Its main peak, Yujing Peak (玉京峰), stands over 1,819 meters above the sea level. The mountain shows granite peaks, unique rocks, diverse forest, flying waterfalls, deep valleys, etc.

In 2008, Sanqing Mountain National Park was on the list of UNESCO's Natural Heritage.



11. Wulingyuan

Situated in Wulingyuan (武陵源) District, Zhangjiajie City (张家界市), Hunan Province, Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area is composed of the three areas: Zhangjiajie (张家界) National Forest Park, Suoxiyu River (索溪峪) and Tianzi Mountain (天子) Nature Reserve, covering an area of over 264 square kilometers.

Famous for the peaks, forests, caves and waterfalls, Wulingyuan boasts five great wonders: exotic peaks (奇峰), fantastic stones (怪石), deep ravines (幽谷), beautiful waters (秀水) and karst caves (溶洞).

Its peaks are the more than 3,000 quartz sandstone (石英砂岩) pillars with bizarre shapes, looking like camel, five-finger, the drunk, etc. Between the peaks stand ravines and gorges with streams, ponds, waterfalls, caves and natural bridge: Immortals' Bridge (仙人桥) is known as the "First Bridge under Heaven." About 40 caves are along the banks of the Suoxiyu River and the southeast side of Tianzi Mountain with the famous Huanglong Cave or Yellow Dragon Cave which is one of the ten largest caves in China. Many brooks and streams with beautiful names flow underground. The wonderful scenic spots are: Puguang Temple (普光禅寺), Tianmen Mountain (天门山), the Maoyan River (茅岩河), etc.

Known as a green treasure house and natural zoo, Wulingyuan has more than 3,000 species of plants, over 700 types of trees, about 450 kinds of ornamental flowers, some 116 species of vertebrates and around 20 rare birds, such as ginkgo, spruce, lobster flower, giant mountain lotus, azalea, iron plum, orchid blooms, Chinese giant salamander, Asiatic wild dog, Asiatic black bear, clouded leopard, Chinese water deer, rhesus monkeys, civets and pangolins, tragopan, golden pheasant, white-headed duck and red-billed leiothrix.

In 1992, Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area was put on the list of UNESCO's Natural Heritage.



Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area



12. Jiuzhaigou

Known as the "Fairylad on Earth", Jiuzhaigou (九寨沟) lies in Nanping County (南

坪县), 450 kilometers to the north of Chengdu City, Sichuan Province. It covers a total area of 720 square kilometers, neighboring the White River Nature Reserve and the Wanglang (王朗) Nature Reserve to the east, and the Huanglong (黄龙) Place of Scenic Interest to the south.

In ancient times, Jiuzhaigou was called “Yangtong” (羊峒). At present, it gets other names like “Heyao Jiuzhai” (何药九寨) and “Jade Sea.” The name, Jiuzhaigou, was after the nine Tibetan villages: Panxin (盘信), Rize (日则), Yala (牙腊), Panya (盘亚), Zechawa (则查洼), Heijiao (黑角), Shuzheng (树正), Heye (荷叶) and Zharu (扎如).

Noted for green lakes, colorful woods, numerous falls, ever snow peaks and the Tibetan customs, Jiuzhaigou boasts a great number of famous scenic spots, such as Grass Lake, Swan Lake, Arrow Bamboo Lake, Panda Lake, Five-flower Lake, Pearl Shoal Waterfall, Mirror Lake, Nuorilang (诺日朗) Falls, Shuzheng (树正) Lake, Crouching Dragon Lake, Reed Lake, Long Lake, Five-color Pond and Seasonal Lake.



Jiuzhaigou Valley Scenic and Historic Interest Area

In 1992, Jiuzhaigou Valley Scenic and Historic Interest Area was scribed on the list of UNESCO’s Natural Heritage.

13. Huanglong

Known as “world wonder” and “fairyland on earth”, Huanglong (黄龙) Scenic and Historic Interest Area is located in Songpan County (松潘县) of Sichuan Province. Noted for the four wonders: colorful lakes, snow-covered mountains, wonderful valleys and virgin forest, Huanglong is composed of two valleys. One is Huanglong or Yellow Dragon Valley extending 3.6 kilometers with snow-covered mountains, fascinating glaciers, virgin forest and colorful ponds. Due to the colored limestone deposit, the valley looks like a winding golden dragon with over 3,400 colorful travertine lakes ranked No.1 in China. The other is Muni Valley (牟尼沟) including Zhaga Waterfall (扎嘎沟), the biggest calcified waterfall in China, and Erdaohai Valley (二道海沟), the largest in the area.

Huanglong is also renowned for the forest ecosystems and animals on the brink of extinction, like the giant panda and Sichuan golden snub-nosed monkey.

In 1992, Huanglong Scenic and Historic Interest Area was listed on the UNESCO’s Natural Heritage.



Huanglong Scenic and Historic Interest Area

Besides, numerous landscapes decorate the country such as Dragon and Tiger Mountain and Jinggang Mountain (井岗山) in Jiangxi Province, Guanzhi Mountain (冠豸山) and Ten-thousand-stone Mountain in Fujian Province, Ali Mountain (阿里山) in Taiwan Province, Laoshan Mountain (崂山) and Liangshan Mountain (梁山) in Shandong Province, Mogan Mountain (莫干山) in Zhejiang Province, Changbai Mountain (长白山) in Jilin Province, Qianshan Mountain (千山) in Liaoning Province, Qiyun Mountain (齐云山) in Anhui Province, West Zhejiang Great Valley in Zhejiang Province, Malinghe (马岭河) Valley in Guizhou Province, Wudalianchi (五大连池) Showplace in Heilongjiang Province, Longgang (龙岗) Volcanic Cluster in Jilin Province, peaks and caves in Guilin, the Stone Forest in the Lunan Yi Autonomous County of Yunnan Province, Zhijin Cave (织金洞) in Guizhou Province, Zhaoqing Star Lake (肇庆星湖) in Guangdong Province, and Stone Sea and Land of Caves in Sichuan Province.

Post-class Tasks

I . *Fill in the blanks with what you have learnt.*

1) In the Sui Dynasty, Emperor Wen officially identified such Five Sacred Mountains according to their geographic locations as _____ to the east in _____, _____ to the west in _____, _____ to the north in _____, _____ to the south in _____, and _____ in the center in _____.

2) The four greatest wonders of Taishan Mountain are: _____, _____, _____, and _____.

3) _____ is known as “the No.1 precipitous mountain under heaven” because of its natural scenes of steep and narrow paths, precipitous cliffs, and a high mountain range.

4) The well-known four wonders of Hengshan Mountain in Hunan Province are: _____, _____, _____, and _____.

5) From Jinding summit of Emei Mountain, one can enjoy the four marvelous sights: _____, _____, _____, and _____.

6) Huangshann Mountain is famous for its unique beauty with the four great wonders: _____, _____, _____, and _____.

7) The three famous wonders of Mount Yandang are: _____, _____, and _____.

II . *Match the following two groups of words or phrases.*

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) the East Peak | a. the Jade Lady Peak |
| 2) the West Peak | b. the Cloud Terrace Peak |
| 3) the North Peak | c. the Goose-resting Peak |

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 4) the South Peak | d. the Lotus Peak |
| 5) the Middle Peak | e. the Sunrise Peak |
| 6) Taishan Mountain | f. Tianzhu Peak |
| 7) Hengshan Mountain | g. Shiwang Peak |
| 8) Songshan Mountain | h. Hanyang Peak |
| 9) Putuo Mountain | i. Junji Peak |
| 10) Wutai Mountain | j. Yedou Peak |
| 11) Emei Mountain | k. Heaven Peak |
| 12) Jiuhua Mountain | l. Yujing Peak |
| 13) Lushan Mountain | m. Baihua Peak |
| 14) Wudang Mountain | n. Jade Emperor Summit |
| 15) Sanqing Mountain | o. Thousand-Buddha Summit |

III . *Fill in the following chart.*

Mountain	Province	Sacred to Buddha
	Zhejiang	Avalokitesvara or the Buddha of Compassion
Wutai Mountain		Manjushri or the Buddha of Wisdom
	Sichuan	Samantabhadra or the Bodhisattva of Benevolence
Jiuhua Mountain		Kshitigarbha or the Bodhisattva of Salvation

IV . *Answer the following questions briefly.*

- 1) What are the Three Pure Ones or the Three Purities?
- 2) Where is Jiuzhaigou? Deliver a tour commentary about it.
- 3) Can you name three famous mountains in China? Interpret one of them to a group of foreigners.