

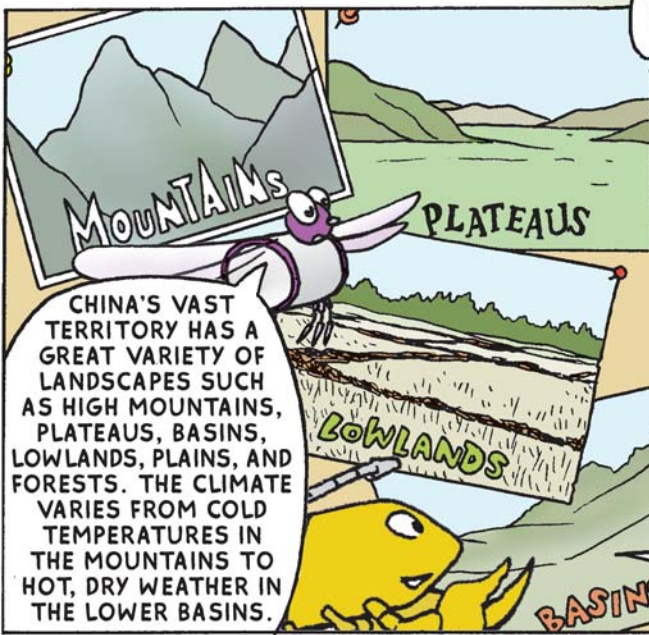
BOY THIS CHINESE FOOD IS REALLY YUMMY!

YES, BUT THERE'S A LOT MORE TO CHINA THAN CHINESE FOOD.

TODAY, CHINA IS KNOWN AS THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. IT IS A COUNTRY LOCATED IN EAST ASIA, AND IT IS ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE UNITED STATES. IT CURRENTLY HAS THE WORLD'S LARGEST POPULATION, WITH MORE THAN 1,300,000,000!



OVER A BILLION?! THAT'S A LOT COMPARED TO THE 298 MILLION THAT LIVE IN THE U.S.



CHINA'S VAST TERRITORY HAS A GREAT VARIETY OF LANDSCAPES SUCH AS HIGH MOUNTAINS, PLATEAUS, BASINS, LOWLANDS, PLAINS, AND FORESTS. THE CLIMATE VARIES FROM COLD TEMPERATURES IN THE MOUNTAINS TO HOT, DRY WEATHER IN THE LOWER BASINS.

Plains

PLATEAUS

LOWLANDS

BASINS

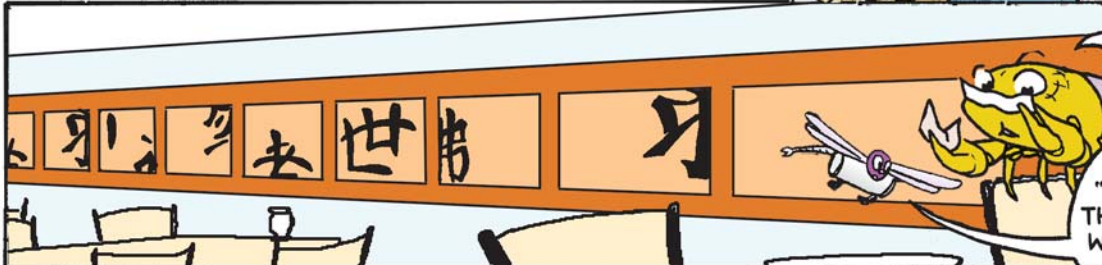
FORESTS

A BUFFET OF LANDFORMS AND CLIMATES!

ANCIENT CHINA WAS EAST ASIA'S MOST ADVANCED CIVILIZATION, INFLUENCING JAPANESE, VIETNAMESE, AND KOREAN CULTURES. THE CHINESE INVENTED MANY THINGS, SUCH AS PAPER, GUNPOWDER, SILK, AND ALL OF THESE THINGS SPREAD TO OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.



THIS SAYS, "IMITATION IS THE SINCEREST FORM OF FLATTERY."



YES! WE ARE ALL "FORTUNATE" THAT THE ANCIENT CHINESE WERE SO ADVANCED.

WOW, THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF RIVERS IN ANCIENT CHINA.

TAKLA MAKAN DESERT

THERE IS SOMETHING VERY FAMILIAR ABOUT THIS, DRAGONFLY. DEJA VU...

TIBETAN PLATEAU



RED RIVER

YANGTZE RIVER

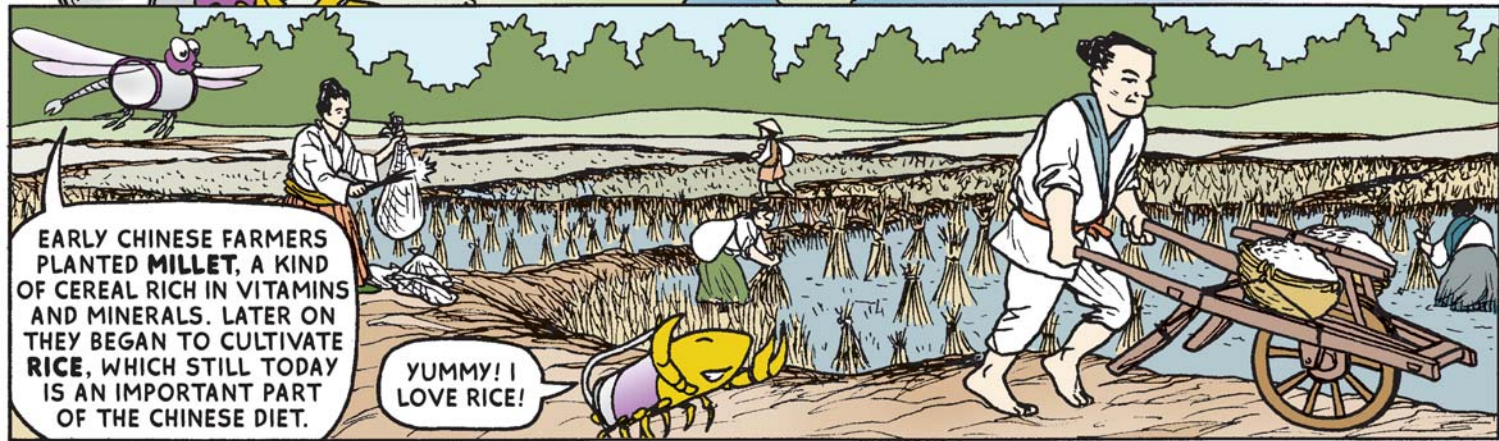
YELLOW RIVER

SHANGHAI

HONG KONG

SOUTH CHINA SEA

YOU'RE RIGHT! JUST LIKE THE EGYPTIANS, ANCIENT CHINESE CIVILIZATION BEGAN ALONG A RIVER. ANCIENT CHINESE BEGAN FARMING ALONG THE YELLOW RIVER.



EARLY CHINESE FARMERS PLANTED **MILLET**, A KIND OF CEREAL RICH IN VITAMINS AND MINERALS. LATER ON THEY BEGAN TO CULTIVATE **RICE**, WHICH STILL TODAY IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE CHINESE DIET.

YUMMY! I LOVE RICE!

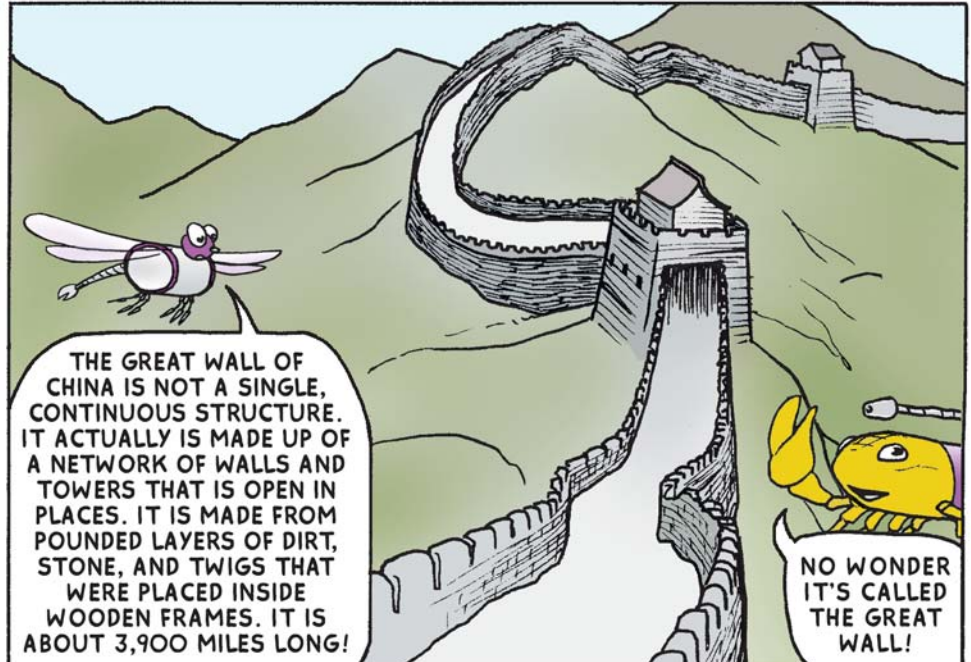
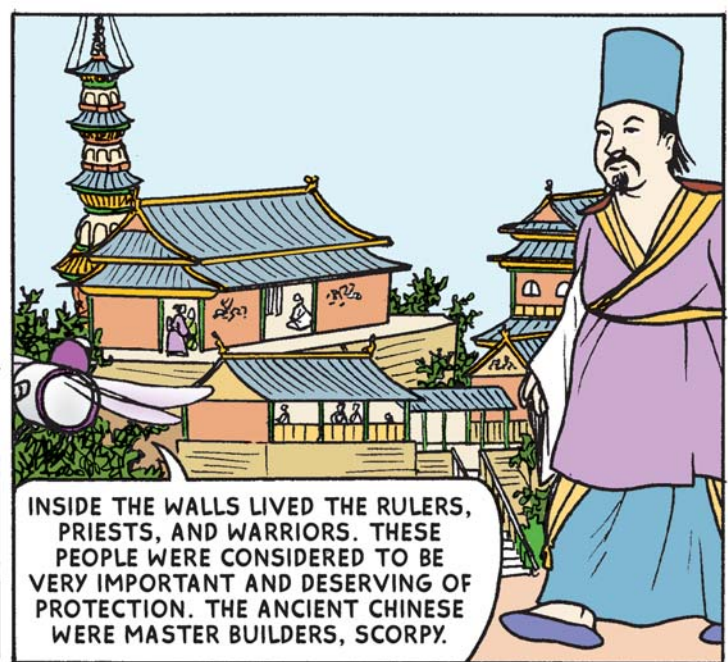
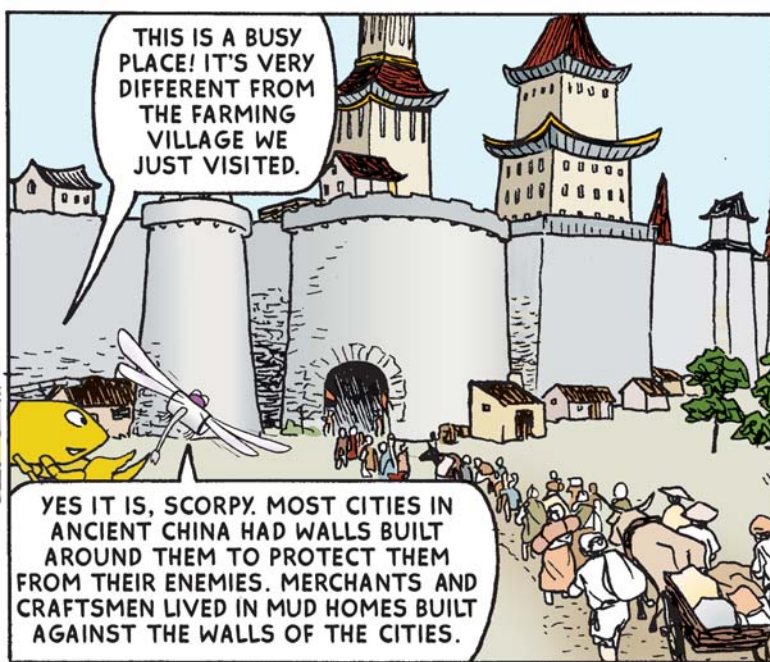
CHINESE FARMERS WERE TRIBAL PEOPLE WHO LIVED A FEW MILES FROM MOST CITIES OR TOWNS IN MUD HUTS WITH THATCHED ROOFS. THEY USED SIMPLE STONE TOOLS AND DOMESTICATED ANIMALS SUCH AS OXEN TO DO THEIR JOB. THE LAND THEY FARMED WAS USUALLY OWNED BY THE RULERS TO WHOM THEY PAID RENT IN THE FORM OF CROPS.

THEY HAD TO WORK VERY HARD!

LET'S VISIT A NEARBY CITY AND SEE HOW LIFE IS DIFFERENT THERE.

OK - TOO BAD THE ANCIENT CHINESE DID NOT HAVE BICYCLES!



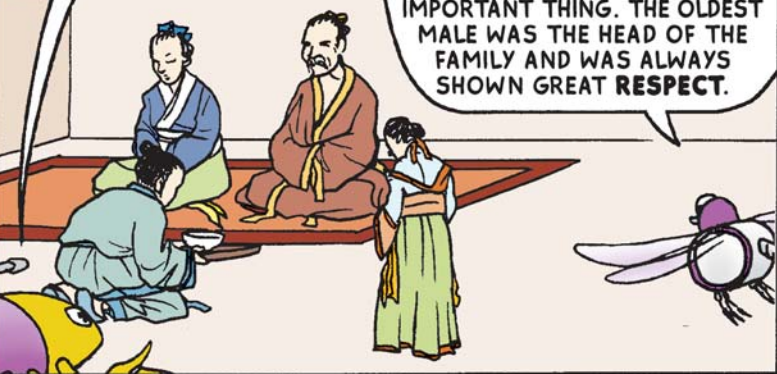


HEY, DRAGONFLY, IS THAT SOME KIND OF RULER? EVERYONE IS BOWING TO HIM.

HE IS NOT A RULER, SCORPY, HE IS THE **FATHER** OF THIS FAMILY. NO MATTER HOW RICH OR POOR YOU WERE IN ANCIENT CHINA, FAMILY WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING. THE OLDEST MALE WAS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY AND WAS ALWAYS SHOWN GREAT **RESPECT**.

IN ANCIENT CHINA, MARRIAGES WERE ARRANGED BY THE FATHERS IN ORDER TO MAKE A STRONG CONNECTION BETWEEN TWO FAMILIES. THE YOUNG OBEYED THEIR PARENTS WITHOUT A FUSS. CHILDREN LOOKED FORWARD TO THE DAY THEY WOULD BECOME PARENTS WHEN THEIR CHILDREN WOULD HONOR THEM.

I GUESS THE ANCIENT CHINESE THOUGHT FATHER ALWAYS KNEW BEST!

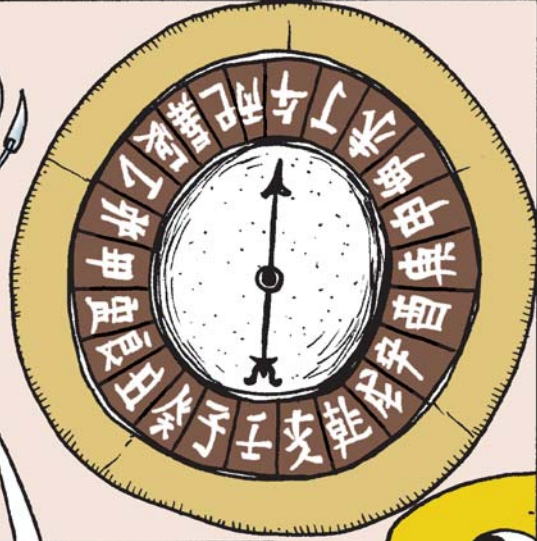


LOOK AT THAT MAN MAKING SCRIBBLE MARKS ALL OVER THAT SCROLL!

HE'S NOT SCRIBBLING. HE'S WRITING IN ANCIENT CHINESE. VERY SIMPLY PUT, ONE SYMBOL OR CHARACTER REPRESENTED EACH CHINESE SYLLABLE, AND WHEN WRITTEN TOGETHER THESE SYMBOLS WOULD FORM A WORD. ANCIENT CHINESE RECORDED THEIR HISTORY WITH THEIR WRITTEN LANGUAGE.

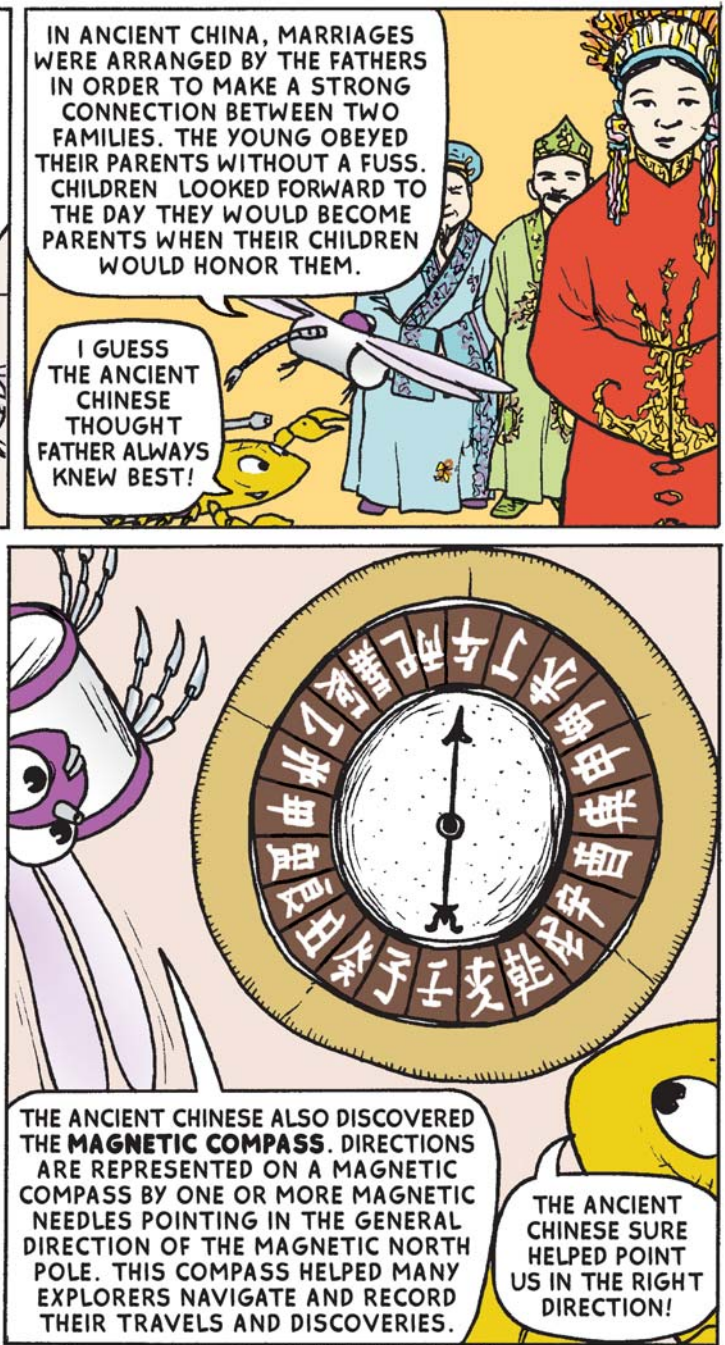
THAT'S WHY WE KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THEIR HISTORY TODAY.

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THE ANCIENT CHINESE ALSO DISCOVERED THE **MAGNETIC COMPASS**. DIRECTIONS ARE REPRESENTED ON A MAGNETIC COMPASS BY ONE OR MORE MAGNETIC NEEDLES POINTING IN THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF THE MAGNETIC NORTH POLE. THIS COMPASS HELPED MANY EXPLORERS NAVIGATE AND RECORD THEIR TRAVELS AND DISCOVERIES.

THE ANCIENT CHINESE SURE HELPED POINT US IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION!





DRAGONFLY!
CHECK OUT THIS
COOL WORM
I FOUND!

IT'S A SILKWORM,
SCORPY. IT'S NOT
REALLY A WORM,
IT'S ACTUALLY A
CATERPILLAR. THESE
CREATURES WERE
VERY IMPORTANT
TO THE ANCIENT
CHINESE.

SILK IS THE FIBER PRODUCED
FROM A COCOON, THE COVERING
THAT IS MADE BY THE SILKWORM.
THIS FIBER WAS VERY VALUABLE
FOR ITS USE IN FINE FABRICS AND
TEXTILES. IN FACT, SILK IS ONE OF
THE OLDEST KNOWN TEXTILE FIBERS.
FOR MANY CENTURIES, THE
GATHERING AND WEAVING OF SILK
WAS A SECRET PROCESS KNOWN
ONLY TO THE CHINESE. THE
ANCIENT CHINESE USED SILK TO
TRADE TO OTHER COUNTRIES
FOR LUXURIES THAT COULD
NOT BE FOUND IN CHINA.

I HAD NO
IDEA SILK
HAD BEEN
AROUND
THAT
LONG!

ARE THOSE
WORKERS
DIGGING A
TUNNEL
INTO
THAT MOUNTAIN?

THEY ARE ACTUALLY MINING FOR **BRONZE**,
SCORPY. BRONZE IS A VERY STRONG AND
TOUGH METAL. CRAFTSMEN WOULD USE
THE MINED BRONZE TO MAKE GOBLET,
CUPS, AND POTS AS WELL AS WEAPONS.

ONCE AGAIN,
THE CHINESE
GAVE US
SOMETHING
THAT WE STILL
USE TODAY!

THAT'S NOT ALL, SCORPY! THEY
ALSO DISCOVERED HOW TO MAKE
GUNPOWDER AND **FIREWORKS!**
THE FIRST FIREWORKS WERE USED
FOR SENDING SIGNALS TO OTHERS
FAR AWAY. THEY WERE PROBABLY
GUNPOWDER-FILLED PARCHMENT
PAPER TUBES. THESE PAPER
TUBES WERE THEN SHOT IN THE
AIR USING AN ARROW, AND THEY
WOULD EXPLODE IN THE AIR!

BOY, THE ANCIENT
CHINESE SURE HAVE
LOTS OF REASONS
TO CELEBRATE!