

Macmillan Publisher's Tiantian Zhongwen Graded Readers Series

Tiantian Zhongwen is a carefully graded Chinese reader series for high-elementary Chinese language learners and above. Each book in the series contains 20 stories, and the series is graded into four levels: Gold, Turquoise and Violet

Each anthology contains a varied selection of reading, including fiction and non-fiction, with topics ranging from ancient fables and history to modern China, lifestyles and the unique characteristics of the Chinese language. Each reading passage is accompanied by language support boxes to help with key or difficult vocabulary, a language points section to explain key grammar, comprehension questions, and a Cultural Insight box in English to explore related aspects of Chinese culture. English translations and answer keys are provided in the appendices. The combination of enjoyable stories and the language support makes the *Tiantian Zhongwen* series suitable for both classroom and self-study use.

Turquoise Level:

The Turquoise level contains 2 titles, *A Nice Lady in Shanghai* and *Bicycle Kingdom*, and is designed for low-intermediate level learners. The vocabulary amount is limited to the most commonly used 1,000 Mandarin Chinese words. This level is ideal for Chinese learners with 1 or 2 years of Chinese studies.

Violet Level:

The Turquoise level also contains 2 titles, *Beijing's Courtyards* and *Teahouses in China*, and is designed for intermediate level learners. The vocabulary amount is limited to the most commonly used 2,000 Mandarin Chinese words. This level is ideal for Chinese learners with over 2 years of Chinese studies.

Gold Level (COMING SOON!):

The Turquoise level also contains 2 titles and is designed for upper-elementary level learners. The vocabulary amount is limited to the most commonly used 700 Mandarin Chinese words. This level is ideal for Chinese learners with over 1 year of Chinese studies.

Key features:

- a wide selection of enjoyable reading about China
- helps learners increase their Chinese reading and character recognition abilities through meaningful and stimulating contexts
- Provides ample language support to aid students' vocabulary and grammar knowledge
- Packaged with an audio CD, with recordings of all the stories, for extra listening practice

Tiantian Zhongwen Graded Reader Series

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Sample pages:

What each story contains:


Colourful illustrations to explain the main ideas of the story

13 中国的茶馆
Teahouses In China

喝茶是中国人的习惯。如果一边喝茶，一边聊天，一边欣赏中国传统艺术，感觉一定会很不错。

Language support boxes highlight key or difficult words

老舍茶馆



你可能去过大饭店，去过咖啡馆，也可能去过歌厅什么的，可是你有没有去过中国的茶馆呢？

在中国，几乎每个城市都有茶馆，特别是南方的一些省市，那里的茶馆几乎和饭馆一样多。不仅城市的马路边有茶馆，公园里有茶馆，甚至农村都有茶馆了。很多人都有去茶馆的习惯。

几乎 *adv* almost
省 *n* province
农村 *n* rural area

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13 中国的茶馆 Chinese Teahouses

有些人一大早就到茶馆喝茶，有些人下班后到那里坐上两三个小时，或读书看报，或一边喝茶，一边聊天。到了节假日，朋友们也常常到茶馆里聚会。有些茶馆还经常有各种文化活动。总之，茶馆不但是人们休息的地方，也是人们交流的重要地方，同时，也为国内外的游客提供了一个了解当地文化的机会。

北京的茶馆也不少，其中最有名的是前门附近的老舍茶馆。客人一坐进老舍茶馆，服务员小姐马上就会送来一壶热茶和几种北京小吃。客人可以一边吃着、喝着，一边看中国传统的京剧、杂技等节目。现在，老舍茶馆已经成为一处新的旅游景点，每天都吸引着不少中外游客来参观。

总之 *conj.* In a word, in conclusion
交流 *v.* communicate
壶 *n.* pot
小吃 *n.* snacks, refreshments
杂技 *n.* acrobatics
节目 *n.* programme, item (on a programme)

想一想 Questions

人们在茶馆里一般做什么？

北京最有名的茶馆叫什么名字？它有什么特点？

Thought-provoking questions about the story

Language Points to explain key grammar and words appearing in the stories

提供 offer, provide

语言点 Language Points

1. 同时，也为国内外的游客提供了一个了解当地文化的机会。
At the same time, it also offers domestic and overseas tourists an opportunity to learn more about the local culture.
“提供”，动词。是“供给（意见、物资、条件等）”的意思。
“提供” is a verb that means “to offer (opinions, material condition, etc.)”.
(1) 学校给我们提供了很好的学习条件，所以我们要好好学习。
(2) 这个饭店为客人提供免费早餐。

吸引 attract

2. 老舍茶馆……每天都吸引着不少中外游客来参观。
Lao She Teahouse... attracts many domestic and overseas tourists every day.
“吸引”，动词。是“把别人的注意力引到自己这方面来”的意思。
“吸引” is a verb that means “to draw the attention of other people”.
(1) 这本书非常吸引我，所以我想在这里多住一段时间。
(2) 这本书的名字吸引了很多老年人的注意。

Cultural Insights that link to the story and give a deeper understanding of modern China

Comprehension questions to check understanding

练习 Exercises


判断正误 True (T) or false (F)

(1) 北方的茶馆比南方多。 ()
(2) 在茶馆不仅可以喝茶，还可以吃小吃。 ()
(3) 茶馆是人们交流的地方。 ()
(4) 老舍茶馆在北京的西直门附近。 ()

文化路观 Cultural Insights

老舍茶馆
Lao She Teahouse

老舍茶馆，始建于1988年，是以作家老舍及其名剧《茶馆》命名的茶馆。老舍茶馆古香古色，在这里，大家可以欣赏到京剧、杂技等中国优秀传统文化艺术的精彩表演，同时可以品尝各种名茶、宫廷糕点、北京传统小吃。自开业以来，老舍茶馆接待了近四十位外国元首和两百多万中外游客。
Lao She Teahouse was built in 1988. It is named after Lao She, a famous Chinese writer, and Teahouse, his well-known drama. Showcasing ancient Chinese architecture and décor, Lao She Teahouse is also a venue for Chinese traditional cultural and folk arts performances, such as Beijing opera and acrobatics shows. Guests can enjoy a variety of teas, refined desserts, and traditional Beijing snacks while attending shows. Since its opening, Lao She Teahouse has received over forty heads of state and two million visitors from home and abroad.



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+ CD/ MP3 downloads to improve listening skills
+ English translations at the back of the book