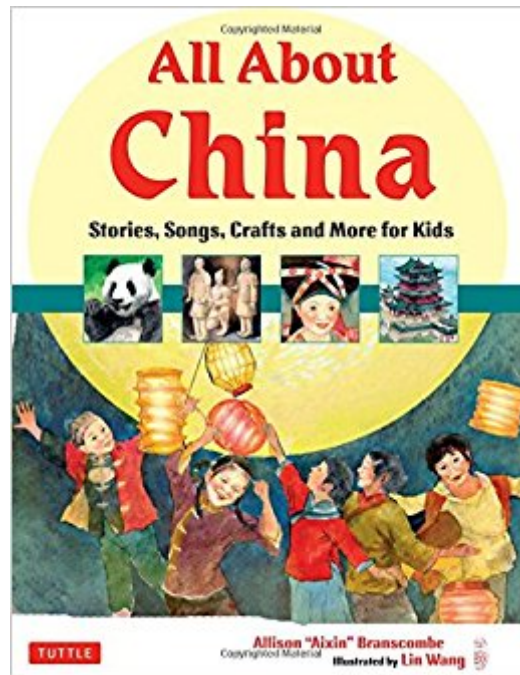




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# All About China: Stories, Songs, Crafts And More For Kids



## Synopsis

**\*\*Winner of Creative Child Magazine 2015 Preferred Choice Award\*\*\*\*Winner of the Independent Publisher Book Award Silver Medal\*\*\*\*Winner of Moonbeam Children's Book Awards 2015 Silver Medal\*\***Take the whole family on a whirlwind tour of Chinese history and culture with this delightfully illustrated book that is packed with stories, activities and games. Travel from the stone age through the dynasties to the present day with songs and crafts for kids that will teach them about Chinese language and the Chinese way of life.All About China is the next best thing to being there!China is the world's largest and most populated country boasting thousands of years of history, tradition and culture. In All About China, you'll:Discover the fantastic Chinese tales about the creation of the earth and the origin of the Moon GoddessDelve into China's multifaceted cultural heritage, visit breathtaking places and learn Chinese folk songsTake a crack at solving a tangram shape puzzleLearn about the twelve Chinese zodiac animalsTry your hand at making a traditional brush painting of a panda, bamboo and other subjectsAll About China is an exciting and captivating introduction to the country, featuring page after page of colorful illustrations, interesting stories, amazing facts, cultural insights, engaging activities and much more. Young readers will embark on a fascinating journey through the many faces of this country, meeting its people and examining its landscape, culture and historical tapestry.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 6

## Customer Reviews

Gr 1-3 • This wide-ranging introduction to China covers everything from history and geography to etiquette and music, with recipes, games, art projects, and traditional folktales. Large watercolor paintings with informative captions break up the text, and topics frequently shift, making this one ideal for browsers. However, complicated points are overly simplified. For instance, the text claims that Taiwan was originally part of China and implies that it didn't separate until 1949, which ignores Taiwan's complicated colonial history and that it was ruled by Japan from 1895 to 1945. Making the recipes kid-friendly results in loss of authenticity for many, such as one for mooncakes (which ends up being a jelly-filled crescent roll). VERDICT Despite the drawbacks, this volume fills a collection hole in many libraries, as interest in China continues to grow and many comparable titles for this age group, such as *China* (DK, 2007), *Discovering Cultures: China* (Cavendish Square, 2002), and *China* (Children's Pr., 2008), are out of date. Purchase where needed. • Jennifer Rothschild, Arlington County Public Libraries, VA

"All About China opens with engaging, easy-to-grasp sections on history, geography, government, and China's place in today's world, enlivened with folk stories, cultural insights, hands-on activities, and more." • The Journal of Families with Children from China "This book celebrates, with an impressive scope, the cultural riches of China and its epic history • with plenty of hands-on projects along the way." • Booklist "There is no shortage of books on China today. However, there are very few books for young readers. All About China is well written, beautifully illustrated and creatively captures what is important for all children to know about China."

• World Journal "All About China is educational, informative and extremely enjoyable. The illustrations are delightful and make this book a joy to explore from cover to cover! Allison Branscombe's book is an entertaining, well-researched jewel for both kids and adults."

• Helen Yee, Former President, Chinese Culture Foundation, 2009-2010 "The All About Asia series is the children's version of a folklore handbook, a user-friendly encyclopedia, a DIY manual for experiencing an Asian country's culture from a youth's point of view."

• AsianFortuneNews.com "All About China by Allison Branscombe is a nice book to be introduced to the huge culture that is China. [ ] It is a good book for kids to read to know about a lot of different aspects of China. If you are trying to write a report about China for elementary school, or just want to learn a little bit about a lot of different aspects of China, this would be a good book." • San Diego Book Review "The first thing I noticed about this book were the beautiful illustrations by Lin Wang. Sometimes soft and delicate, sometimes vibrant and full of

energy, but always perfect for the topic at hand. The layout and production of this book is superb, making it easy to follow and understand at any age level. The surprise and delightful nature of this book are the many unique and unexpected topics that illustrate the fascinating culture of China and its people." •Adoption Today" This fine book gives a good overview of the country, the people, and the culture. This comprehensive picture book is a real treasure for curious young people of elementary school age." •San Francisco Book Review

All About China is a lovely balance of story and history, facts and culture, stunningly illustrated on every page with color and detail that kids (and adults) will return to and enjoy, noticing something new each time. The book is a visual feast, and the illustrations do pair perfectly with the text in every single section -- so that even young readers (or non-readers) will enjoy poring over each page. From cool "did you know?" kinds of facts about China's history, to its inventions, myths, games, culture, crafts and family-friendly recipes, this is a great primer on a fascinating country. I liked very much that the author didn't drag out the usual/generic stories and facts. Her mix of information is different and useful, and seems chosen with love: from calligraphy lessons to moon cake recipes for the Chinese New Year, from typical Chinese pets to how to sing "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" in Mandarin. (Because, why not?) Note: other reviewers have mentioned that it's "accessible." That's true -- almost any background or reading ability will find a way to access the knowledge in this beautifully packed book. But "accessible" doesn't mean dumbed down: I studied Chinese history in college, and I still learned a few things! I bought this book for a Chinese friend's daughter, as well as for young relatives who were born in China but adopted into my family. They've all loved it. I'm considering buying another as a gift to our elementary school library.

What a beautiful book Allison Branscombe has produced! She has covered so many worthwhile subjects that would be of interest to children and adults alike. The illustrations are beyond beautiful. Lin Wang is such a talented artist! I can't imagine the number of hours it took to produce such a wonderful volume. I recommend this to any child who loves learning about other children and other cultures. China really comes alive in all the words, illustrations, games, crafts, and all the other activities that foster learning by seeing and doing. This kind of knowledge engenders a deep appreciation and love of the Chinese culture. There is no better way to do away with prejudice and ignorance. There is no better way to appreciate the Chinese way of life than to understand its history, art, food, customs and folklore. This book leads the reader to do all of this through a most magnificent and enriching journey.

What an engaging and comprehensive introduction for children of all ages to the vast riches of Chinese history and culture! Opening this book is akin to diving into a treasure chest. Little nuggets of gold easily accessible thanks to both the enticing story telling and the exquisite illustrations. The presentation of the different topics is perfectly paced: ideal to hold the attention of even the very young, yet sufficiently informative for those who wish to dwell and reflect on a specific subject. Alison Branscombe has captured the spirit of China's multi-faceted culture and offered memorable stories, songs, games and more as a delightful, colorful feast for all the senses. Children will return time and again to relive the excitement and pleasure of discovery, enhancing their knowledge and just having fun! A great resource for the individual reader but also an invitation to bring readers together in group activities.

Allison Branscombe, author, and illustrator Lin Wang have produced a book that is at once engaging, colorful and educational without preaching what the reader must learn. Written for children and young adults, so much of the content was enlightening for me as an adult! The subjects of religion, culture, traditions, food, the arts, dynasties and more were discussed and illustrated in such a way that helped the reader comprehend the country of China and its people. "All About China: Stories, Songs, Crafts and More for Kids" should be in every classroom and home for it opens our eyes to a distant culture made accessible by Allison and Lin. Brava ----- Great job!

Allison Branscombe's "All About China" is a tremendous addition to the library of anyone, young or old, who is curious about Chinese history, geography, language, and culture. Skillfully paced and beautifully illustrated by Lin Wang, "All About China" provides rich and memorable insight into a culture that Branscombe clearly has expertise in and passion for. The book is truly fun, deftly capturing the excitement of discovering a new culture. Crucially, it is also highly interactive, making it perfect for younger readers. I wholeheartedly recommend it to anyone with an interest in learning more about China!

Just pulled my copy out (once again) to read to my children about Chinese New Year. We love this book- its filled with child-friendly explanations about many aspects of Chinese culture and celebrations. The illustrations are lovely and the text is informative and so much fun to read. I see it in my children's hands often. Highly recommend!

I love the way this book brings together stories of the culture of China as we have experienced it over the 17 years we have worked on learning it to make it part of our Chinese daughters' lives. The narrative style is engaging, the layouts and artwork are beautiful. So much to explore and appreciate about the middle kingdom. This book is highly entertaining and a really great resource for kids and families.

The book has an amazing array of information that is not only suitable but also very interesting to the young readers. It is a great book to give to a child who wants to learn about China, its history, geography and culture. Illustrations are bright and eye catching. Wish there were more books on other countries done as well as this one is, and have them all be available to children at schools.

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