

To Our Little Friends



Dear little friends:

Do you know there is a country called China far away in the East? China is not only an ancient country but also a modern one. In China there are fifty-six nationalities living in harmony. And there are also many scenic spots and historical sites, such as the Great Wall and the Terracotta Warriors and Horses as well as modern buildings such as the Bird's Nest and the Water Cube. It is home to pandas. Besides, the famous fairy tale of the Handsome Monkey King, Sun Wukong, was created in China! If you want to know more about China, please come and join us to learn Chinese, an ancient and beautiful language!

The Chinese language has its own characteristics. There are four tones in Chinese, giving the language full rhythm and cadence and it is very pleasing to the ear when spoken. The characters used to record the Chinese language are called Chinese characters, which were like vivid pictures and now are square-shaped in written form.

Chinese Paradise is a key from us for you to open the door to the Chinese language, leading you on a pleasant and exciting journey to the world of Chinese. This series of textbooks not only presents to you brief introductions to the Chinese culture, descriptions of Chinese characters and short stories, but also includes popular children's songs, folk songs, handicrafts and games. We believe that you will enjoy your Chinese learning experience and soon be able to greet Chinese kids in Chinese and also write beautiful Chinese characters!

Now let's open *Chinese Paradise* and begin our journey of Chinese learning together!



The compilers

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