



EAST MEETS WEST EDUCATION PROGRAM

Portland Classical Chinese Garden PO Box 3706 Portland OR 97208-3706 Tel (503) 228-8131
www.portlandchinesegarden.org

Whether trickling, flowing, spraying, foaming, splashing,
in rivers or oceans,
Water is the very blood and marrow of Heaven and Earth.
Zi Yuan Hua Zhuan (Mustard Seed Garden Manual of Painting)

1. List the component parts of the human circulatory system with their various functions.
2. Thoroughly read the first paragraph: “Water is the Circulatory System of the World.” List 6-8 ways in which water functions as the circulatory system of the world. At the end of your list, evaluate the Chinese view of water as the world’s circulatory system and compare and contrast this to the functions of the human circulatory system listed in your answer to #1.
3. Explain in your own words how the architects and designers of the Portland Classical Chinese Garden used the element of water to showcase the importance of this life-giving element. Try to sketch one of the features you describe.
4. Two of China’s most well-known and respected ancient teachers—Confucius and Lao Tzu—deeply observed the qualities of water that serve as a model for humans. Thoroughly read the paragraphs “Following the Path of least Resistance; Wearing Down the Hardest Stone” AND “Confucius Advises the Virtuous Person to Study Water.” ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER Create a 3-Column Chart with the following headings: (1) Qualities of Water for the Virtuous Person to Observe; (2)

Human Behavior Modeled after Qualities of Water; (3) Personal Reaction. Complete the chart with at least 5-7 original additions.

Examples: Complete your chart with your own ideas

Qualities of Water for the Virtuous Person to Observe	Human Behavior Modeled after Qualities of Water	Personal Reaction
Water gives everything life	Giving help is like giving life to other people	Being unselfish is best with friends
Water follows the path of least resistance	Finding ways around obstacles is better than fighting with them	Is going around the same as 'giving in'?
Water extends everywhere	Being a good person extends to all situations	Sometimes what I think is right, bothers others

CONTINUE ON YOUR OWN...

At the end of your list, select one quality and describe how YOU personally have demonstrated this quality to your advantage at some point.

5. Thinking Deeply as a Philosopher: Vividly describe an experience or encounter in nature you have personally had in which you have learned an important lesson—about yourself and/or about the ways of the natural world.
6. Using examples, write an explanation of why China's Grand Canal—the 1,794 kilometer-long human engineered river—can appropriately be referred to as an 'artery' of China.
7. Literal Level Thinking: What is sericulture? Critical Thinking: Write an original analysis of how sericulture in China and the Grand Canal helped to make Suzhou a prosperous city during the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties? (HINT: Think about the demands for the various products from the industry of sericulture.)
8. Extend Your Thinking: Two Qing emperors— Emperor Kangxi (He became emperor at 8 years of age in 1622 and ruled for 61 years) and then his grandson Emperor Qianlong (reigned 1736 – 1795)—made Inspection Tours of Southern China along the Grand Canal, the world's longest human-made river. Explain some goals of the inspection tours that you imagine the Emperors would have been looking to accomplish while they journeyed along these extensive water journeys.