

# AROUND THE WORLD TALES: MULAN IN BRIEF



**Mulan** in Issue 67 of *Storytime* is based on a famous old Chinese story. The first version of the story of 'Hua Mulan' dates back to the sixth century AD, over 1,400 years ago. It is one of many stories from around the world in which a woman dresses as a man so they can do something that women are traditionally not supposed to do!



## 1

## LITERACY LESSON IDEAS

- When reading the story, use the **Storytime Glossary** to make sure you understand the words used. Where relevant, discuss other words that are synonyms for words in the story.
- Use the **Class Discussion Sheet** to start a discussion about 'Mulan' and its meaning.
- Complete the **Multiple Choice Quiz** to test how well you have understood the story.
- Use the **Story Sequencing Sheet** to put the events of the story into the correct order.
- Using the images on our **Simple Storyboard Sheet**, retell the story of Mulan in your own words.
- Read the **Reading Comprehension Sheet** and answer the questions to explore words and the way they are used.
- Use the **Story Structure Sheet** to analyse how 'Mulan' works as a story.
- Print and cut out the **Storytime Storyteller Cards** and use them to tell a new story about what happened to Mulan after she left the army to go home to her family. What do you think happened next?

Continued on page 2...

## 2

## GEOGRAPHY LESSON IDEAS

- Use our **China Map Sheet** to learn about its geography. Label five of the country's most famous landmarks on it, and then colour the map in.
- Read and discuss our **10 top facts** on the **China Fact File** sheet.
- Modern China produces an amazing amount of the things we use every day. Check your clothing tags or pencil cases to see if you can find anything labelled MADE IN CHINA. Why do you think China is so successful at making things?

## 3

## ART LESSON IDEAS

- Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of China, was buried with over 8,000 clay models of soldiers, called the Terracotta Army. Why not create your own terracotta warriors out of modelling clay? You can use images of the Terracotta Army from the Internet, or use pictures from the 'Mulan' story to design a terracotta soldier of the female hero!
- In the traditional Chinese form of painting called *shan shui*, artists paint misty scenes of mountains, rivers and lakes with only black ink. Why not paint your own *shan shui* with black ink, watercolour, or thinned acrylic paint? The trick is to use the brush to create different textures for bushes, water and rocks. We have a traditional frame on our **Storytime Picture Frame**.

## 4

## P.E. LESSON IDEAS

- Mulan used her skill and quick thinking to win in battle. Playing a game of 'dodgeball' is a great way to have a safe 'battle' that uses throwing, catching and dodging skills. A game requires a large open area (a netball court is ideal) and six netballs or large foam balls. Find out how to play the game here:  
<https://howtheyplay.com/team-sports/how-to-play-dodgeball-a-beginners-guide>

Continued on page 3...

## AROUND THE WORLD TALES: MULAN



- Mulan and her soldiers did so well in battle because they trusted each other and communicated well. Blindfold-based PE activities are a fun way to develop trust and communication. Check out these links for ideas:

<http://www.ssww.com/blog/5-pe-blindfold-activities-for-elementary-school/>

<https://www.theteambuildingactivitiesshop.co.uk/blindfoldgames.htm>

## 5 DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY LESSON IDEAS

---

- Chinese cuisine mixes sweet and savoury tastes in a way that is quite different to European cuisine! In class, cook this easy noodle dish that uses typical Chinese ingredients (including soy sauce, honey and sesame oil):  
<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/sweet-sticky-chicken-noodles>  
With supervision, the vegetables can be gently fried in a very small amount of oil before being added to the rest of the ingredients. Minced garlic and grated ginger can also be gently fried and added for a more zingy flavour.
- Chinese food is very popular all around the world. Ask other students to think about the type of food their family eats most often – how does it compare to Chinese food? Are there any ingredients they consider to be distinctively Chinese? What are their favourite Chinese dishes? Have they tried anything recently? Start a discussion about flavours and ingredients that make this cuisine so unique.

## STORYTIME GLOSSARY

1 OF 3

### Daddy Bear's Hair (Page 6)

- ▷ **Groaned** – made a moaning sound
- ▷ **Shrieked** – screamed suddenly
- ▷ **Shaggy** – very hairy
- ▷ **Extremely** – very
- ▷ **Exclaimed** – said loudly
- ▷ **Salmon** – kind of fish
- ▷ **Dipping** – putting something into
- ▷ **Ponytail** – hairstyle made by pulling hair into a bunch
- ▷ **Plaits** – lengths of hair woven together
- ▷ **Plaited** – made into plaits
- ▷ **Bramble** – blackberry bush
- ▷ **Wood anemones** – kind of wildflower
- ▷ **Daffodil** – yellow trumpet-shaped flower
- ▷ **In flower** – having flowers on
- ▷ **Puffing** – blowing powerfully
- ▷ **Hair salon** – business where you can get your hair cut
- ▷ **Whipping out** – quickly pulling out
- ▷ **Enormous** – very big
- ▷ **Reflection** – image made in a mirror-like surface

### Edith the Inventor (Page 10)

- ▷ **Inventor** – someone who creates something new and original
- ▷ **Cat flap** – small swinging door for a cat
- ▷ **Judge** – someone whose job it is to decide something
- ▷ **Masterpiece** – impressive creation
- ▷ **Gasp** – make a surprised sound
- ▷ **Sparked up** – lit up

Use our glossary to check the meanings of words in Storytime Issue 67.

- ▷ **Flicker** – little flash
- ▷ **Slumped** – flopped
- ▷ **Exhausted** – very tired
- ▷ **With a heavy heart** – with a sad feeling
- ▷ **Failure** – someone who has failed
- ▷ **Burst** – came in suddenly
- ▷ **Strode** – walked confidently
- ▷ **Gulped** – swallowed
- ▷ **Muttered** – said quietly and not clearly
- ▷ **Delightedly** – happily
- ▷ **Furiously** – quickly or angrily
- ▷ **Horribly** – awfully
- ▷ **Whine** – make a moaning sound
- ▷ **Gloomy** – dark and sad-feeling
- ▷ **Spokes** – bits of wheel running between the hub (middle) and rim (outside)
- ▷ **Cleared her throat** – coughed quickly

### Sir Lancelot's Quest (Page 14)

- ▷ **Quest** – a special journey or mission
- ▷ **Mount** – get on
- ▷ **Pursued** – chased
- ▷ **Reins** – leather straps used to control a horse
- ▷ **Battered** – dented and worn
- ▷ **Weakling** – weak person
- ▷ **Lance** – long, heavy spear
- ▷ **Bound** – tied
- ▷ **Dungeon** – basement prison in a castle
- ▷ **Eventually** – after a while
- ▷ **Menacing** – scary
- ▷ **Bashed** – hit
- ▷ **Gong** – disc of metal hit to make noise

## STORYTIME GLOSSARY

2 OF 3

- ▷ **Overthrow** – beat
- ▷ **Follower** – someone who does what I say
- ▷ **Swear** – promise
- ▷ **Lifted his spirits** – made him feel happier
- ▷ **Damsel** – young lady
- ▷ **Boasting** – talking proudly
- ▷ **Galloped** – rode quickly on his horse
- ▷ **Draped over** – laid over
- ▷ **Challenged** – asked to take part in a contest with
- ▷ **Breathless** – out of breath
- ▷ **Imprison** – lock in prison
- ▷ **Overjoyed** – very happy
- ▷ **Reclaimed** – took back
- ▷ **Valiant** – brave and heroic

### The Clothes Line (Page 20)

- ▷ **Hither and thither** – this way and that
- ▷ **To and fro** – back and forth
- ▷ **Fluttering** – gently flapping
- ▷ **Restive** – restless
- ▷ **Caper** – dance
- ▷ **Prance** – move around in a showy way
- ▷ **Gleam** – shine

### Mulan (Page 22)

- ▷ **Invaders** – people who take over a place
- ▷ **Emperor** – ruler of an empire
- ▷ **Decreed** – ordered

- ▷ **General** – person in charge of an army
- ▷ **Martial arts** – ways of fighting, especially without weapons
- ▷ **Archery** – how to shoot a bow
- ▷ **Horrified** – shocked and upset
- ▷ **Nimbler** – quicker and more skilful
- ▷ **Shame** – a loss of respect
- ▷ **Reported** – presented herself
- ▷ **Deception** – trick
- ▷ **Remarkable** – especially good
- ▷ **Battalion** – a group of several hundred soldiers
- ▷ **Charged** – ran forward to attack
- ▷ **Battlefield** – place where a battle is fought
- ▷ **Identity** – who she was
- ▷ **Challenging** – difficult
- ▷ **Approaching** – coming towards us
- ▷ **Summoned** – called for
- ▷ **Advantage** – something that will help them
- ▷ **Fled** – run away
- ▷ **Surrendered** – given up
- ▷ **Emerged** – came out of
- ▷ **Muttering** – speaking quietly and unclearly
- ▷ **Disbelief** – surprise at coming across something he could not believe
- ▷ **Steed** – horse
- ▷ **Stables** – buildings where horses are kept

continued on page 3...

## STORYTIME GLOSSARY

3 OF 3

### The Ape King (Page 29)

- ▷ **Intruding** – coming in when uninvited
- ▷ **Vain** – having a very high opinion of himself
- ▷ **Flattered** – pleased
- ▷ **Escort** – guide
- ▷ **Lodgings** – place to stay
- ▷ **Subjects** – people ruled by a ruler
- ▷ **Pit** – deep hole in the ground
- ▷ **Chuckling** – laughing quietly

### The Incredible Crow (Page 32)

- ▷ **Baron** – kind of nobleman
- ▷ **Meadow** – grassy field
- ▷ **Grazing** – eating grass
- ▷ **Pecked** – poked with his beak
- ▷ **Squawked** – made a loud, harsh, birdlike noise
- ▷ **Enchanted** – under a magic spell
- ▷ **Wrinkled** – scrunched up
- ▷ **Shrieked** – screamed
- ▷ **Splendid** – fantastic
- ▷ **Carriage** – wagon for carrying passengers
- ▷ **Offend** – upset
- ▷ **Encouraged** – persuaded
- ▷ **Scowled** – frowned angrily
- ▷ **Gloomy** – shadowy and sad-feeling
- ▷ **Eager** – excited
- ▷ **Horrified** – very upset

- ▷ **Turned away** – told to go away
- ▷ **Ragged** – messy and worn out
- ▷ **Appearance** – way she looked
- ▷ **Was desperate for** – urgently needed
- ▷ **Hesitantly** – as if not sure
- ▷ **Nevertheless** – despite all that
- ▷ **Decision** – choice
- ▷ **Regret** – wish she hadn't made
- ▷ **Chambers** – rooms
- ▷ **Weeping** – crying
- ▷ **Quill** – pen made from a feather
- ▷ **Thrilled** – happy and excited
- ▷ **Butler** – servant in charge of a big house
- ▷ **Daybreak** – dawn
- ▷ **Sweeping** – long and impressive

### The Singing Seamstress (Page 38)

- ▷ **Seamstress** – lady who sews clothes
- ▷ **Long hours** – for a long time
- ▷ **Fine** – nice
- ▷ **Earned** – worked for
- ▷ **Glared** – stared angrily
- ▷ **Anxious** – worried
- ▷ **Snapped at** – spoke angrily to
- ▷ **Irritable** – angry
- ▷ **Fretted** – worried
- ▷ **Pale** – light-coloured
- ▷ **Relieved** – no longer upset
- ▷ **Thrust** – pushed

## CLASS DISCUSSION SHEET

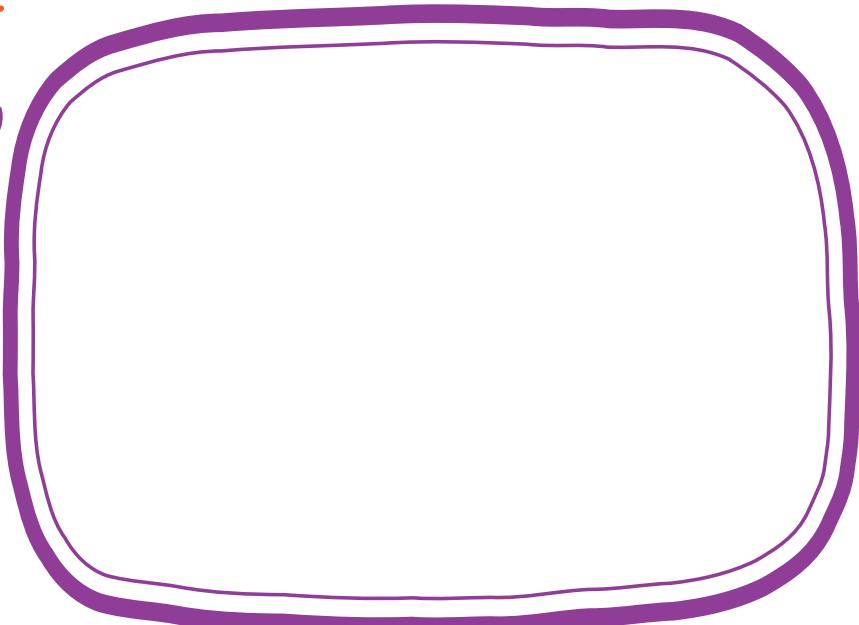
### TEXT QUESTIONS

Discuss 'Mulan' with your class with the help of these questions.

1. Why do you think the Emperor asked for one man from each family to join his army? Can you think of any problems that might come from this?
2. What are the things that Mulan does to hide that she is a woman?
3. Apart from her skill at fighting, what are the things that make Mulan a good general?
4. Can you come up with a list of reasons why Mulan chose to go to war?
5. What do you think the message of the story of Mulan is?

### PICTURE QUESTION

What was the Emperor thinking when he met Mulan?



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

# AROUND THE WORLD TALES: MULAN

Storytime™  
TEACHING RESOURCES

## MULTIPLE CHOICE QUIZ

How well do you know 'Mulan'? Take this quiz to find out!

1

**Why did Mulan's father teach her archery, swordsmanship and martial arts?**

- A) For self-defence
- B) For exercise
- C) So she could become a soldier

3

**What does Mulan cut as part of her disguise?**

- A) Her fingernails
- B) Her skirts
- C) Her hair

5

**What did Mulan wear as part of her disguise?**

- A) Her father's armour
- B) Her mother's dress
- C) Her brother's hat

7

**Why did the Emperor visit Mulan?**

- A) Because he heard she was beautiful
- B) Because she defeated the invaders
- C) Because he heard she was a woman in disguise

2

**What was Mulan's father's job before he retired?**

- A) Emperor
- B) General
- C) Noodle seller

4

**How old was Mulan in this story?**

- A) An adult
- B) A child
- C) A teenager

6

**What did Mulan do to finally beat the invaders?**

- A) Charge
- B) Retreat
- C) Launch a surprise attack

8

**What did the emperor give to Mulan?**

- A) A horse
- B) A sword
- C) A medal

Answers: 1. A, 2. B, 3. C, 4. C, 5. A, 6. C, 7. B, 8. A

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

# AROUND THE WORLD TALES: MULAN



## STORY SEQUENCING SHEET

Number the sentences from 1 to 10 to put them in the right order.

When she joined the army, Mulan proved to be very skilful at fighting and strategy, and impressed the army's commanders.

The Emperor arrived to thank the great Mulan who had saved China, and he was surprised to find out that she was a woman.

Mulan was promoted to general and managed to finally drive the invaders out of China by tricking them with a surprise attack.

When The Emperor asked what Mulan wanted as a reward, she said to return home, and for women to be allowed to join the army.

Huan Hu would have to join the army, because he had only a young son and a teenage daughter named Mulan.

When China was attacked by invaders, the emperor ordered that one man from every family had to join the army to help defend the country.

Mulan returned home, and her little brother wished he could be as brave and strong as his sister when he grew up.

Huan Hu's daughter Mulan convinced him that she should go to war in his place, because he had taught her how to fight and ride very well.

Mulan cut her hair, put on her father's armour, and went to join the army as a boy.

Huan Hu's family were worried, because he was old and frail and would not survive if he had to go and fight in a war.

# MULAN: SIMPLE STORYBOARD SHEET

Write the story of Mulan in your own words, using these four pictures.



1



2



3



4



# AROUND THE WORLD TALES: MULAN

Storytime™  
TEACHING RESOURCES

## READING COMPREHENSION SHEET

Read the extract below and then answer the questions to see how well you understood it!

Mulan leapt to her feet and summoned her troops. “We cannot give them an advantage. Abandon your tents and grab your weapons. We will hide in the forest and creep up behind them. We will surprise them while they try to surprise us.”

The soldiers cheered and followed Mulan’s instructions closely. The plan was a huge success, the invaders had no idea they were coming and, within hours, they had either fled or surrendered.

1. What do you think ‘**abandon**’ means? Can you tell from the way it is used?
2. Circle **three movement verbs** in the extract above. Can you come up with three different verbs that could replace them?
3. Find **three nouns** in this extract that indicate that Mulan is in the army.

### LIST IT!

What are the five instructions Mulan gives her soldiers as part of her plan?

---

---

---

---

---

*List it:* abandon your tents, grab your weapons, hide in the forest, creep up behind them, surprise them.

*Answers:* 1. ‘Abandon’ means ‘leave behind’; 2. troops, soldiers, weapons; 3. Leapt, creep, fled.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

## STORY STRUCTURE SHEET

Where is the story set?

When is the story set?

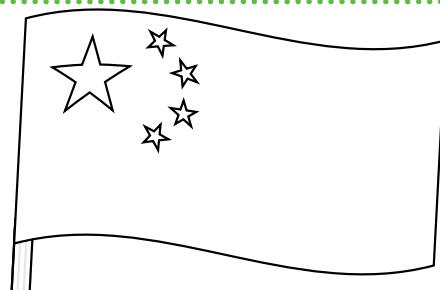
Who is the main character in the story?

What is the conflict?

How does the story end?

COLOUR  
IT!

Do you know which  
colours are on the  
Chinese flag? Colour the  
flag in when you find out!



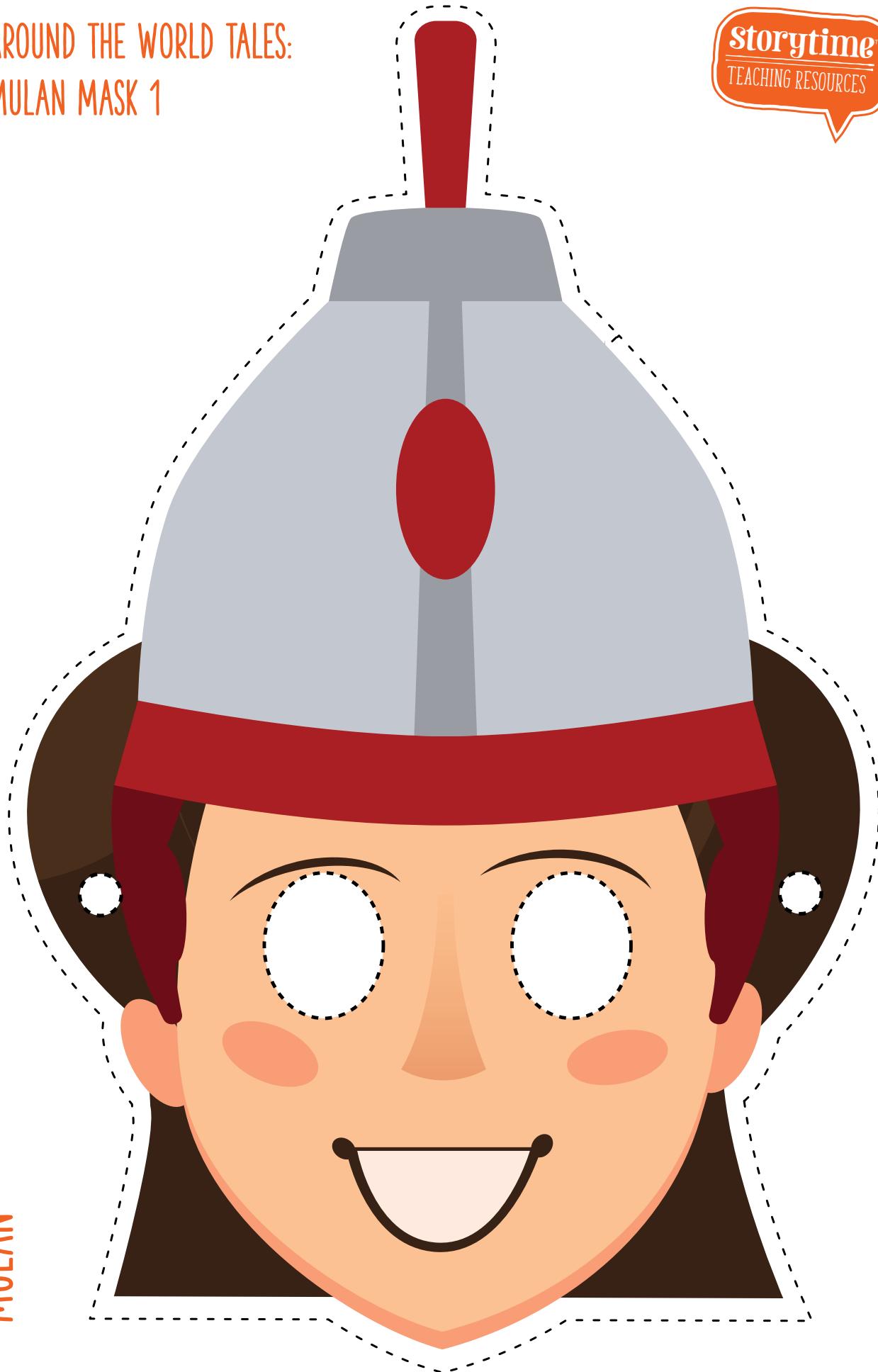
NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

# AROUND THE WORLD TALES: MULAN MASK 1

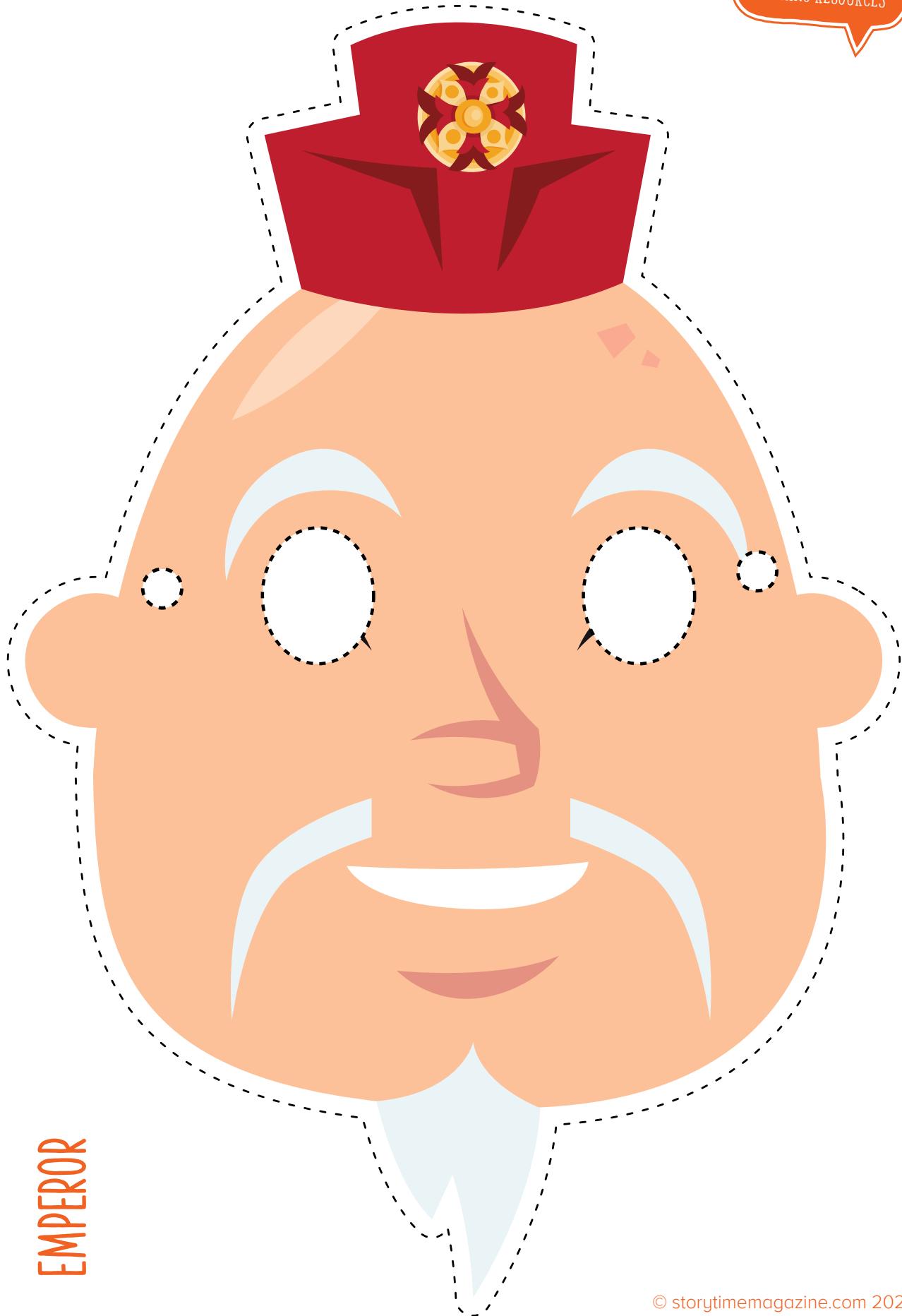
storytime™  
TEACHING RESOURCES

MULAN



# AROUND THE WORLD TALES: MULAN MASK 2

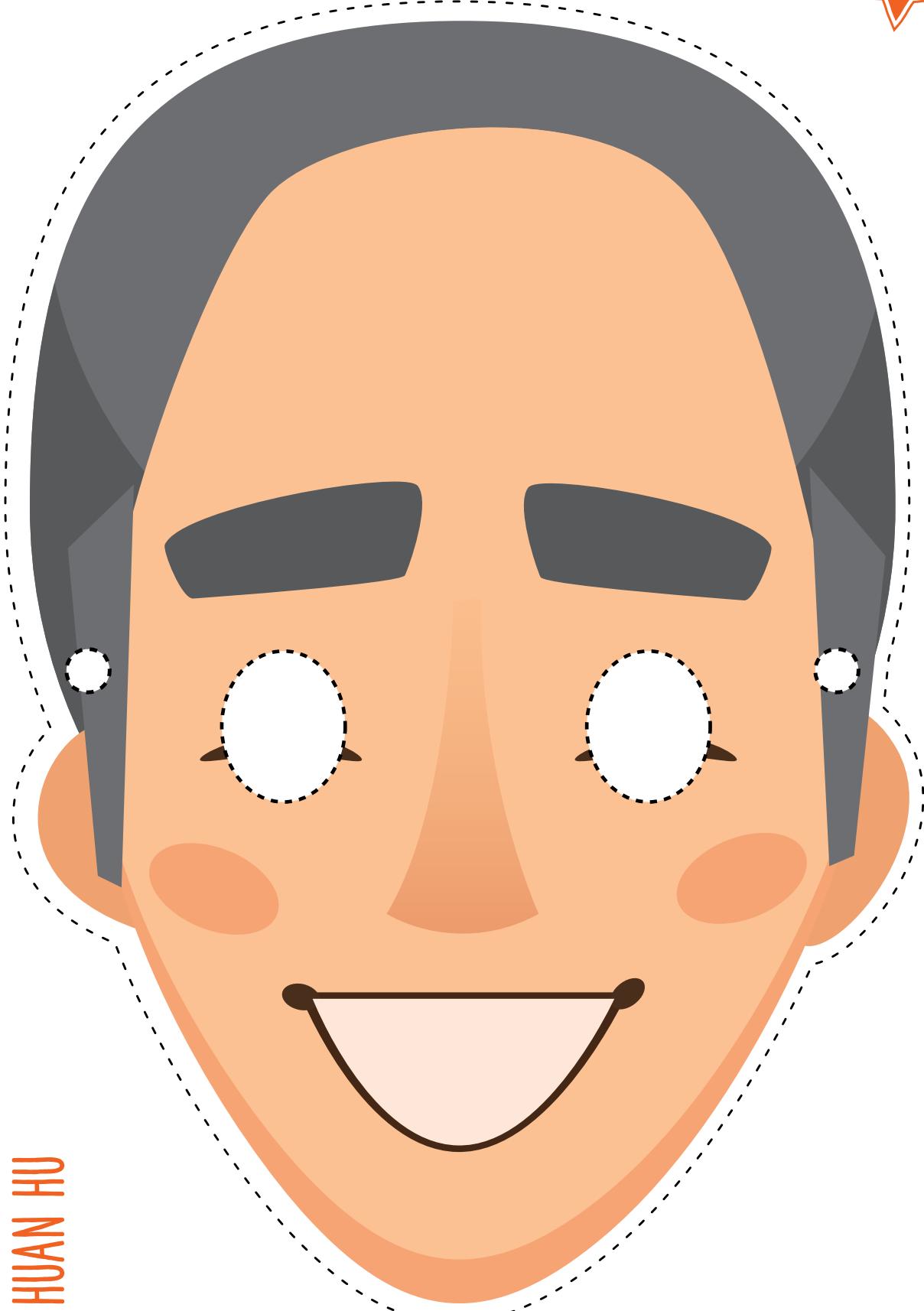
storytime™  
TEACHING RESOURCES



EMPEROR

# AROUND THE WORLD TALES: MULAN MASK 3

storytime™  
TEACHING RESOURCES

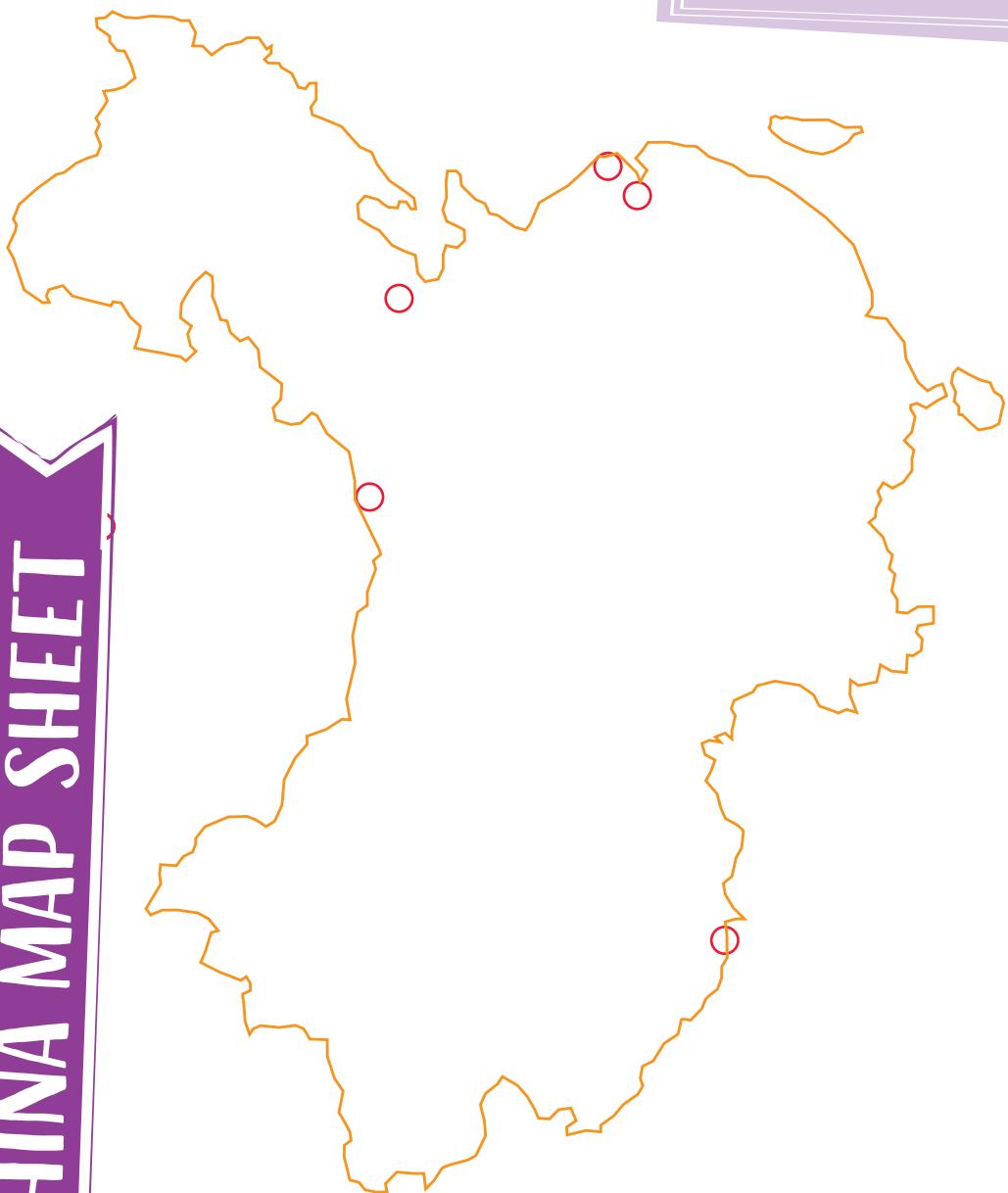


# CHINA FACT FILE

- 1 China has more people than any other nation on Earth – more than 1.3 BILLION of them!
- 2 More than half of the world's pigs are in China, as pork is a very popular food there!
- 3 The Great Wall of China is perhaps its most famous landmark. It was built to protect the country against invaders from the north, and stretches for roughly 8,850km (5,500 miles).
- 4 China is the third-largest country by area in the world, measuring 9,596,961 square km (3,705,407 square miles). It is also the largest country that is entirely in Asia.
- 5 Many important inventions came from China. They include paper, silk, gunpowder, printing, the magnetic compass, the wheelbarrow and even toilet paper!
- 6 China is home to the world's longest-lasting civilization – some historians think civilization there started around 6,000 BC!
- 7 The main language of China is called Mandarin. It is the second most widely spoken language in the world after English, with more than a billion people speaking it – but most of them live in China!
- 8 China has become the country that produces the most goods in the world. Its many factories make all kinds of things, from electronics to steel to clothes. It is sometimes called 'the workshop of the world'.
- 9 The longest river in China is the Yangtze River, which is about 6,300 km (3,900 miles) long. The peak of Mount Everest, the highest point on Earth, is on the border between China and Nepal.
- 10 China is home to many wonderful creatures, such as the clouded leopard, the giant salamander, and the finless river porpoise. However, the most famous Chinese animal is the Giant Panda!

## CHINA MAP SHEET

China is the one of the world's largest and most varied countries! Each of the five dots on this map marks the spot where one of the important places listed in the box is. Find out where each place is in an atlas, label each dot correctly, and then colour in the map!



NAME

CLASS

**SPOT IT!**  
Beijing (China's capital)  
Shanghai (China's largest city)  
Mount Everest  
Great Wall of China  
Yangtze River delta

# AROUND THE WORLD TALES: MULAN



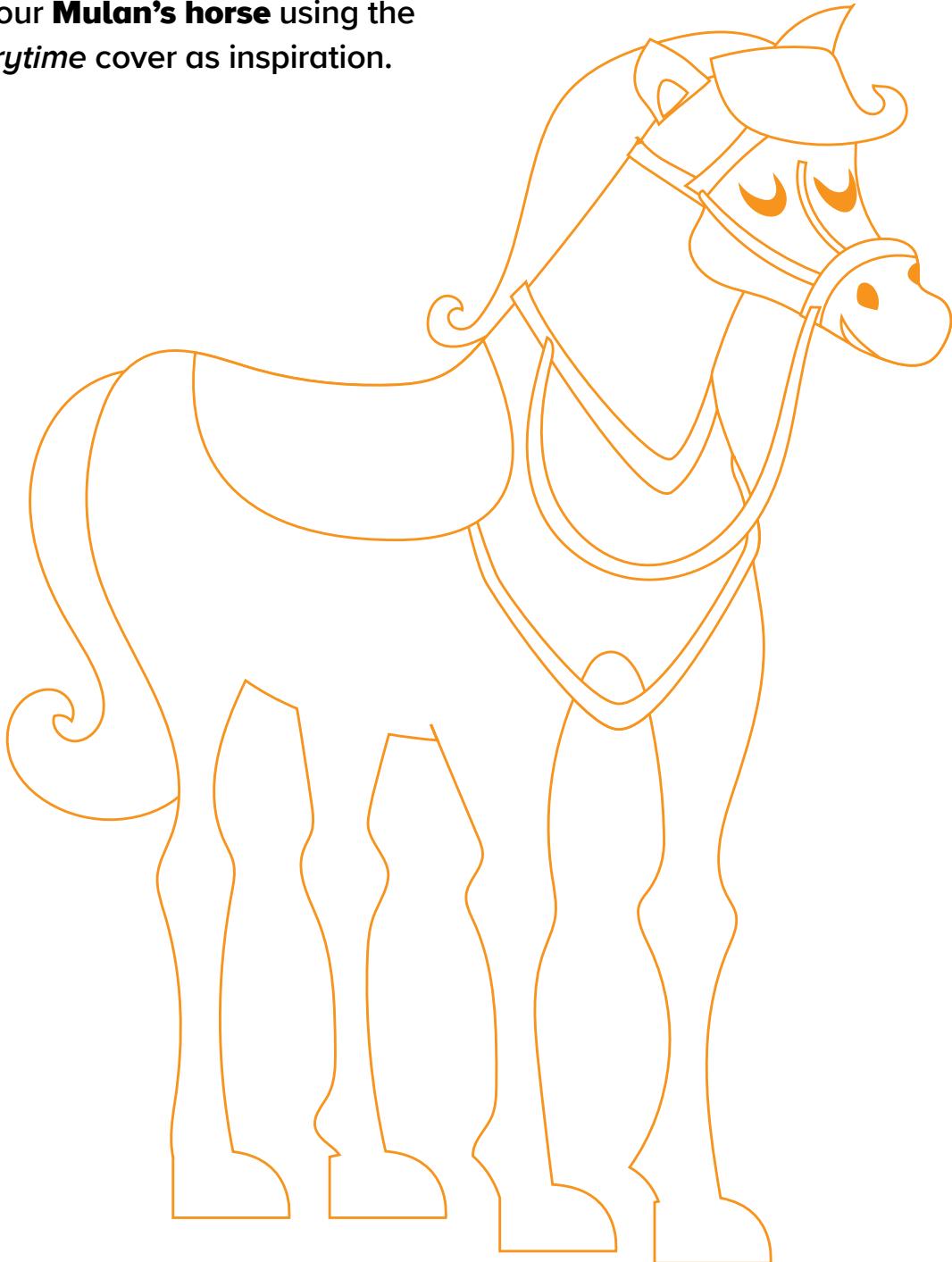
## STORYTELLER CARDS

Use these cards to help you tell the story of Mulan - shuffle them and then pick them up one at a time as inspiration for your own Mulan adventure!



# COLOURING SHEET

Colour **Mulan's horse** using the  
*Storytime* cover as inspiration.



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

# PICTURE FRAME



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS \_\_\_\_\_