

4 CLIL Mountains of rice

Summary

In the mountains of southern China, rice grows in abundance in a place called Long Shen. With a climate conducive for rice farming, workers spend long hours in these fields cultivating the food that is an important staple of the Chinese diet.

Background

Rice is the staple diet of around half the world's population and is particularly important in Asia.

Before you watch

1 Answer the question.

- Ask the class: *Which crops grow in your country?* Explain that a *crop* is a plant, such as a fruit or vegetable, that is grown in large amounts.
- Elicit students' answers and write them on the board. Accept answers in L1.

While you watch

2 Watch without sound.

- Tell students they are going to watch a video about rice farming in China.
- Put students into pairs.
- Turn the sound off on the video.
- One student sits with his or her back to the screen. The other watches half the video and describes the images.
- At the halfway point of the video (01.28) ask students to swap roles.
- Students can then watch the video with the sound on to check their ideas.

3 Watch and find the information.

- Write the following on the board: *mountains, perfect place, hundreds, climate, rain, water, a lot of people, very hard, Chinese people, breakfast, lunch and dinner.*
- Play the video again.
- Put students into small groups.
- Ask them to put the information on the board into full sentences to retell the story of the rice fields of Long Shen.
- At the end, reconstruct the story with the whole class, asking one member from each group in turn to expand on the words on the board.

Suggested answer

There are a lot of mountains in Long Shen. These mountains are the perfect place for rice farming. The rice fields of Long Shen are hundreds of years old. Long Shen has a sub-tropical climate. There is a lot of rain. Rice needs a lot of water. A lot of people work in the rice fields. The work is very hard. Chinese people eat a lot of rice. Some people have rice for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

After you watch

4 Work with a partner. Answer the questions.

- Put students into pairs to answer the following questions:
 - a Do you eat rice? What do you usually eat it with?
 - b What food do you like eating for breakfast, lunch and dinner?
- Ask some students to report back to the class on their partner's ideas.

Extension Activity

5 Write about a day as a rice farmer.

- Tell students to imagine that they are rice farmers.
- Students write about their daily life, e.g. *I work in a field. I grow rice.*
- Students read out their descriptions in pairs at the beginning of the next lesson.

6 Find out about other rice-producing countries.

- Ask students to find out about rice-producing countries, e.g. India, Indonesia, Bangladesh.
- They should find out which regions in those countries produce rice, how much rice is produced each year, and what dishes rice tends to be served with.
- Students can present what they find out to a partner at the beginning of the next lesson.



Mountains of Rice

In the south of China, near Vietnam, there is a place called Long Shen.

There are a lot of mountains in Long Shen. These beautiful mountains are very important to the way of life here. That's because they're the perfect place for rice farming. These are the rice fields of Long Shen. They are hundreds of years old. Some are more than 800 metres above sea level. Long Shen has the perfect climate for rice farming. It's a humid, subtropical climate and it's very hot. From April to October, everything is green and there is lots of rain.

The cultivation of rice needs a *lot* of water, so the workers use an irrigation system here. A lot of people work on the rice fields of Long Shen. The work is very hard. After work in the fields, the families eat together. They eat a lot of rice. They also make special rice dumplings like these.

Rice is a really important food in China. Chinese people do not eat much bread, but they eat a *lot* of rice. Some people have rice for breakfast, lunch, and dinner! They can eat all of that rice thanks to the climate and the workers of Long Shen!