

1. Record-breaking bridge

This week's lesson is about some of China's spectacular achievements in the field of engineering, in particular the recent opening of a 42-kilometre bridge that has been recognised by *Guinness World Records* as the world's longest bridge over water.

Level

Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Ask the students if they know what are the world's biggest/tallest/longest man-made structures of different kinds (building, dam, bridge, tunnel, stadium etc). What is the biggest building (or other man-made structure) in their country, and what do they know about it? Are there any other examples of construction/engineering in their country that they think are particularly important/impressive? Tell the students that the lesson is going to concern China, then ask them what things they associate China with. If any of your students have ever been to China, encourage them to describe their experiences there to the rest of the class.
2. Give your students between five and ten minutes to read through Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Note that many of the words that might be new are not in the glossary because they form part of Exercise 1.
3. Give each student a copy of Worksheet B, then divide the class into pairs and ask students to work together to complete Exercise 1, in which they have to find the words to match the definitions.
4. Check answers in open class.
5. Keeping the students in their pairs, hand out Worksheet C and ask the students to complete the crossword.
6. Check answers in open class.

Answers:

Exercise 1

1. countless
2. withstand
3. pillar
4. spectacular
5. typhoon
6. entire
7. curved
8. skyscraper
9. record
10. consists of
11. lane
12. engineering
13. power station
14. point out
15. toll

Exercise 2

1. water
2. south
3. ship
4. free
5. stretches
6. bay
7. metal
8. straight
9. opened
10. built
11. Roads
12. railway
13. strong
14. distance

If the sentences have been completed correctly, *thirty thousand* will read from top to bottom.

2. Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/china/8608279/China-opens-worlds-longest-sea-bridge.html>

From *The Telegraph*, an article (30 June 2011) and silent aerial video of the Jiaozhou Bay Bridge. Challenging for Intermediate level.

<http://www.channel4.com/news/is-chinas-bridge-really-the-longest-in-the-world>

From *Channel 4 News*, a news video about the Jiaozhou Bay Bridge and an article (1 July 2011) that describes the recent controversy about which bridge should be considered the longest in the world over water. Challenging for Intermediate level.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_longest_bridges_in_the_world

A list of the world's longest bridges (with links to more information) from Wikipedia. Accessible to Intermediate level.

<http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/>

The *Guinness World Records* website. Accessible to Intermediate level.