

Beijing Olympics

August 8 to August 24, 2008

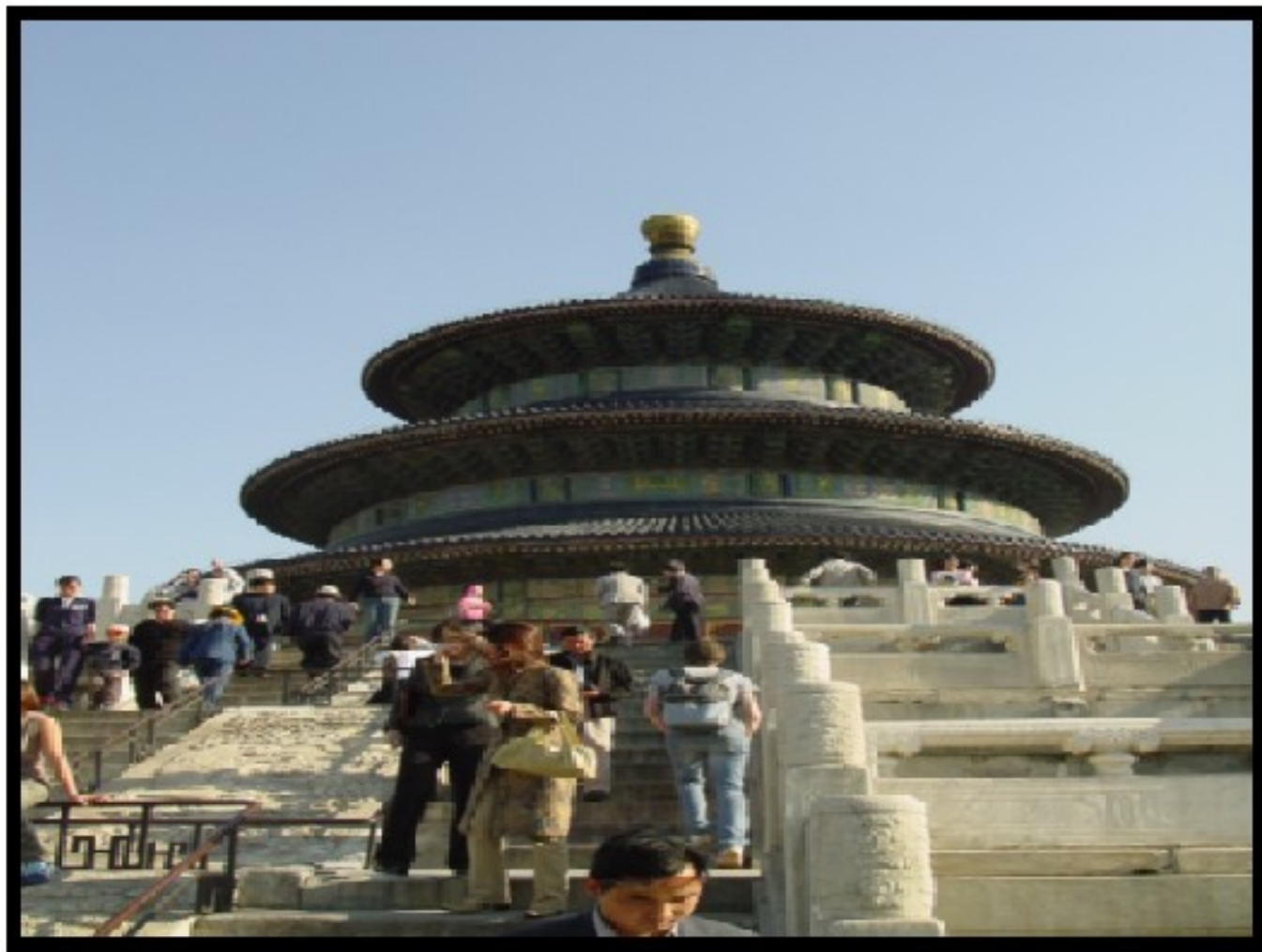
Mark, Catherine, Erik, Grant

Beijing, China

- Beijing is the capital of China.
- It has had more than 30 different names throughout history.
- Beijing has not always been the capital. Past dynasties had capitals in other regions of China.

Temple of Heaven, Beijing



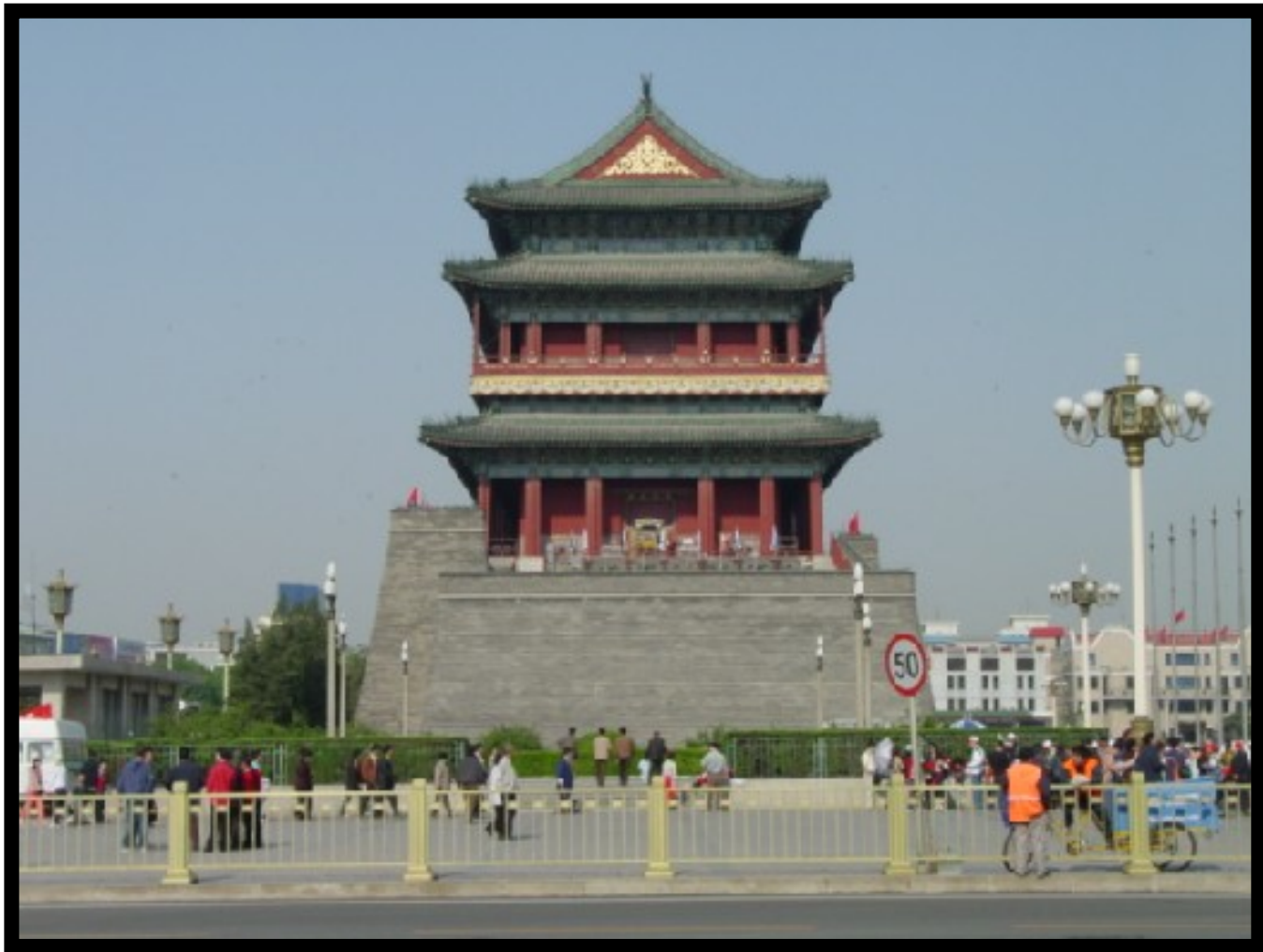


Chairman Mao's Tomb



Tian'anmen Square

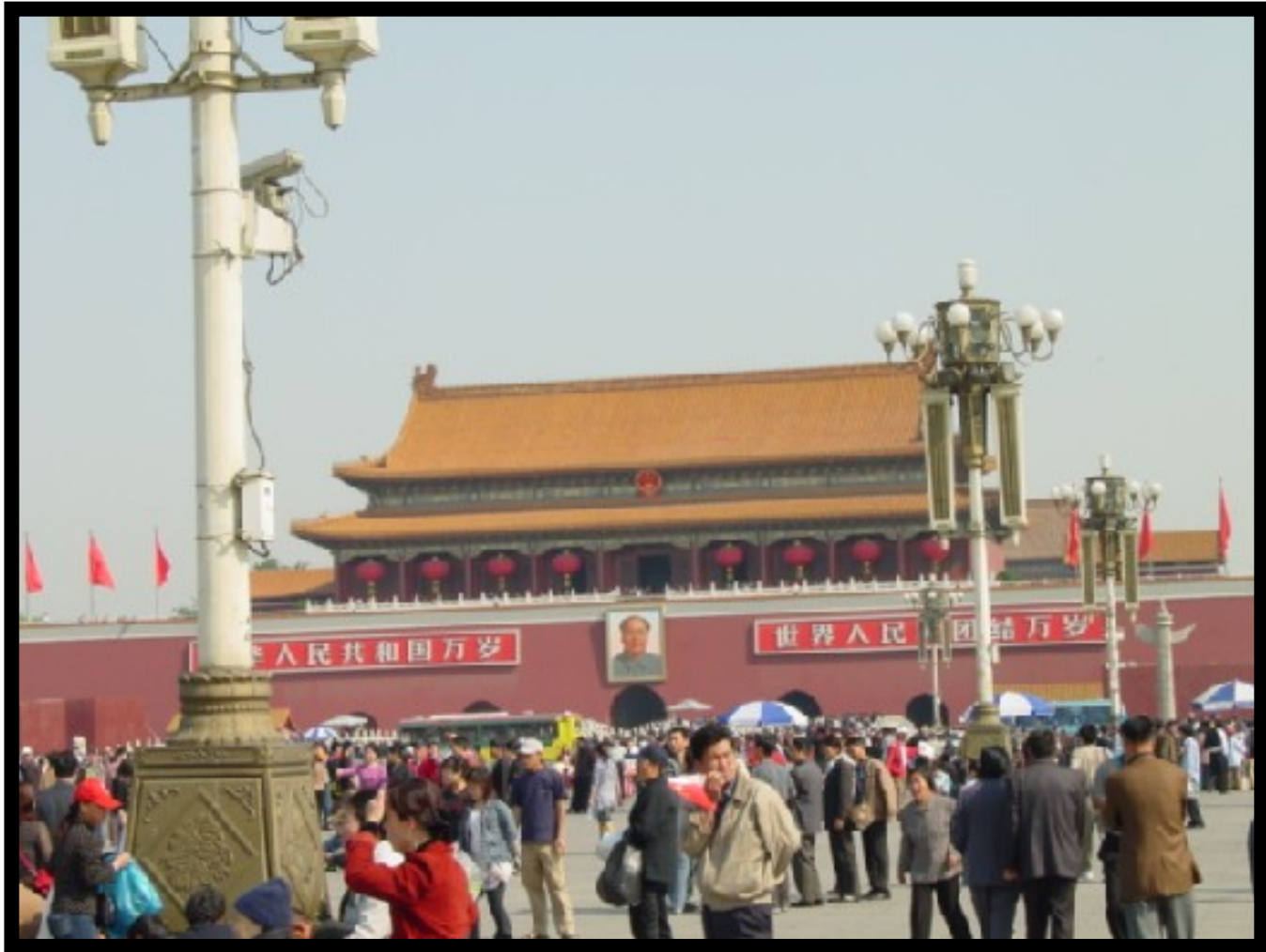
1 million Chinese people fit in this square



The Hall of the People (Erik in 2004)



The entrance into the Imperial City.



Tian'Anmen in 2008



Snapshots

- The Last Emperor was only an Emperor for one year in 1911.
- An uprising ended the dynasties in 1911.
- There were a lot of wars until 1935 in many parts of China. Chairman Mao led the Long March in 1935.
- The cultural revolution was from 1977 to 1986. They didn't teach any English in schools. Many historical places were destroyed. Many minorities in the country were not treated well.
- In the 1970s China realized that their population was too large. They made a rule that each family could only have one child. That rule is still true today. If you have more than one child you have to pay a penalty and the people you work with have to pay as well.
- In the late 1980's many people in China were trying to work on a democratic style of government. For two years this went well.
- Students gathered in Tian'anmen Square to celebrate this and to ask for more democracy. The military responded and many students were killed (1989).
- The reforms since that time have been economic and people haven't been talking much about politics. People didn't talk to us about politics when we visited but they talked a lot about the economy.

The Olympics are Coming

- Beijing won the bid for the 2008 Summer Olympics in 2001
- A time to open up to the world and show what Beijing and China could do...
- In 2004 they started to recruit the 120,000 volunteers (mostly students) who would help make the games a success.
- Ad campaigns were launched in 2008 to discourage loud talking on cell phones, cutting in line, spitting, and to encourage giving the right of way to bikes and pedestrians.

Olympic History

- 1984 – French educator Baron Pierre de Coubertin thought the ancient tradition from the Greeks should be revived.
- 1896 – the first “new” games started in Athens
- There were no games in 1916, 1940, 1944 because of WWI and WWII.
- London will have the summer Olympics in 2016.
- Chicago is on the short list for the Summer Olympics in 2020.

Numbers are important

- Odd numbers are lucky.
- 9 means longevity.
- 8 stands for money because the sound of the number 8 in Mandarin sounds like the word for money.
- Starting the Olympics on 8/8/08 was considered very lucky.

The Olympic Mascots

- We've got a couple of fun activities on printed forms.
- Our quiz on the mascots is fun too.



BeiBei

- Represents fish and water
- Brings the blessing of Prosperity
- Water Sports



YingYing

- Represents the Tibetan Antelope
- Brings the blessing of Health
- Track and Field
- YingYing is yellow



JingJing

- Panda
- Brings the blessing of Happiness
- Strength sports (and fighting)



HuanHuan

- Represents the Olympic flame
- Brings the blessing of Passion
- Ball sports
- HuanHuan is red



NiNi

- Golden Winged Swallow Kite
- Brings the blessing of Good Luck
- Gymnastics
- NiNi is Green



Olympic Torches



Adidas' slogan: Made for Beijing



Adidas and other sponsors had “museums” on the Olympic Green.



Our living room doubled as the boys' bedroom



Shared desk space –thank goodness for the internet and email





We had a hot plate for cooking (mac and cheese in a wok). You always need bottled water.

The washer has a special cycle to give an extra spin. Then you hang everything in the bay window and it's dry in a few hours!



Lots of Olympic Tickets!



Simon and Fei – our evening badminton friends



Ping Pong (table tennis) in the park with our friend Kevin from Peking University



The bike race went all the way out
to the Great Wall



Electronics row featured Erik's favorite store - Lenovo



Flat water canoeing and kayaking



The first event we saw was US Water Polo (winning against China). We met the team, families, and Wolf Wigo (NBC color for water polo and three time Olympian).



Cool drummers during water polo breaks



Layne's Dad – water polo family



A silver medal for the US Water Polo Team



Handball – it's like water polo without the water (the boys cheered for France.

The US didn't have a team in the Olympics.



Mens' marathon went right by our apartment



US woman win the gold medal football (soccer) match



Tunesian pole vaulter



Sabrina – Canadian Rower



US shot putter



We used the subway – they renovated the system for the Olympics. The subway was free if you had an Olympic ticket for that day.



Traditional Chinese games with some volunteers.



Chinese jump rope

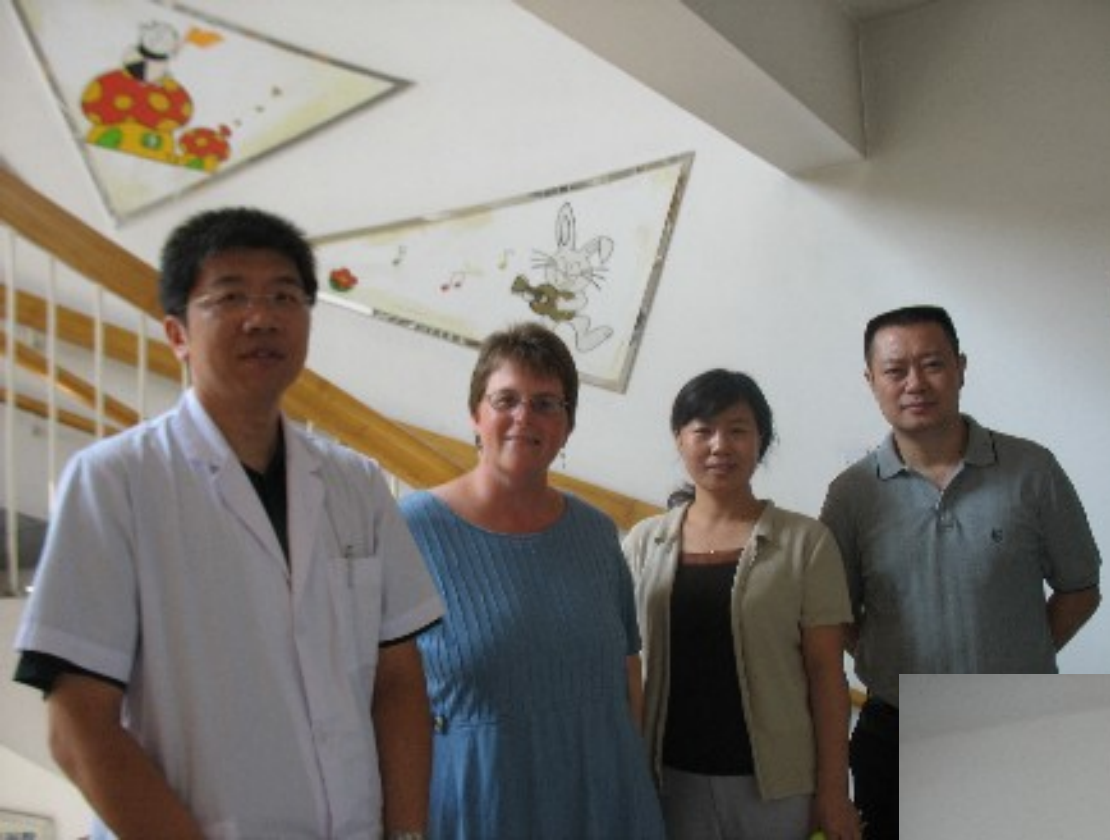




The Womans' marathon went right by our apartment



Catherine worked
with the Speech
and Hearing
Government
Agency while in
Beijing



Olympic symbol



Grocery – very fresh (a bit like the
reptile house at the zoo)



The landlord loaned Mark the pink bike and Catherine, Erik, and Grant bought bikes. (We sold the 3 bikes on our last day.)



Our favorite bike repair “shop”



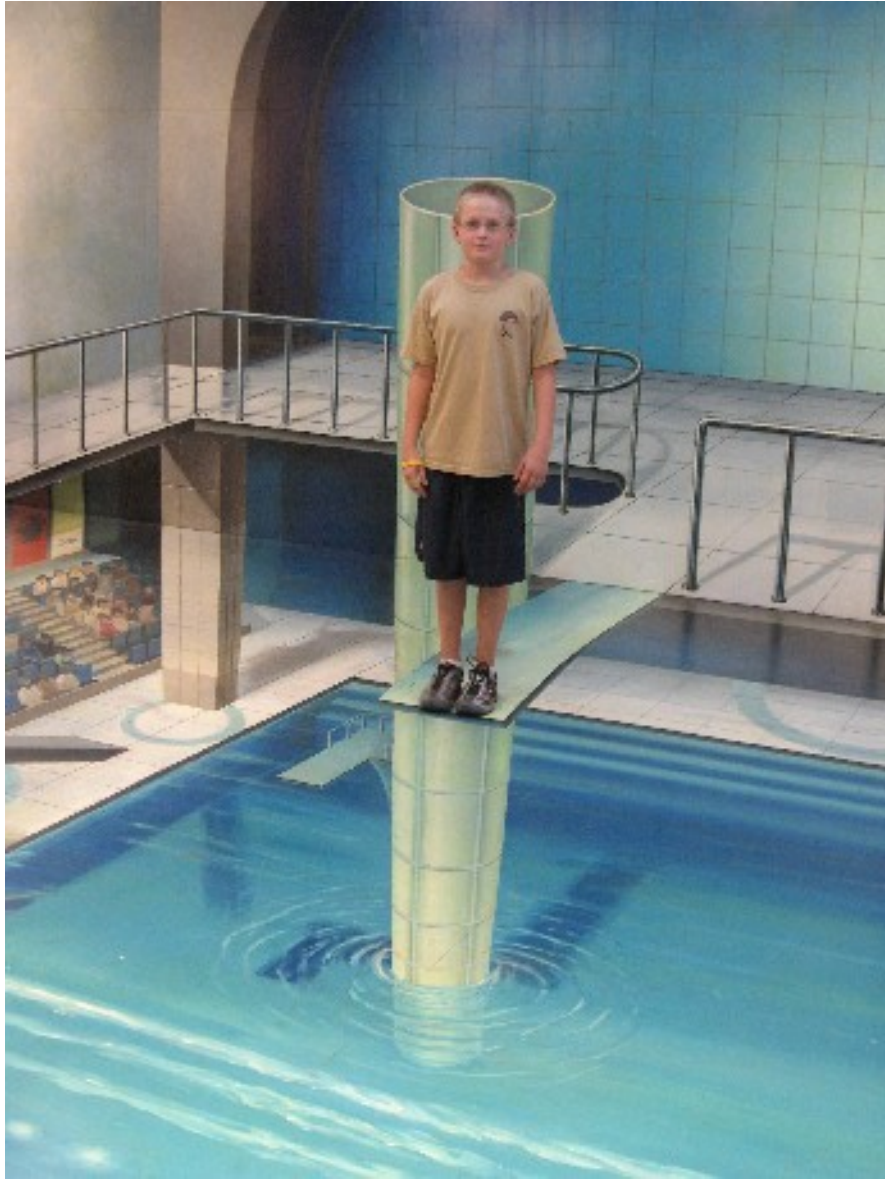
The water cube



Diving in the water cube



Diving venue or shoe store?



The Olympic Flame



The Bird's Nest



The longest lines were at Macs!



Macs delivers!



We'd go out for breakfast sandwiches in the neighborhood every morning.



Grant and Mom saw the Gold Medal Mens' Team competition. (China won. USA 3rd.)



Catherine met the real LeBron James – ask her to tell you the story...



Softball and baseball leave the Olympics after this year. We saw the bronze medal match – Japan won and went on to win the Gold.



One bike ride led us to the “Statue Museum”



White water canoe and kayak (just take the K19 bus for 50k.)



It's all about swimming really fast!



Peter VanDerkay takes a minute to show the bronze medal!



Signs for the Paralympics were flipping the day after the Olympics ended.



One bike ride led to the Beijing Zoo



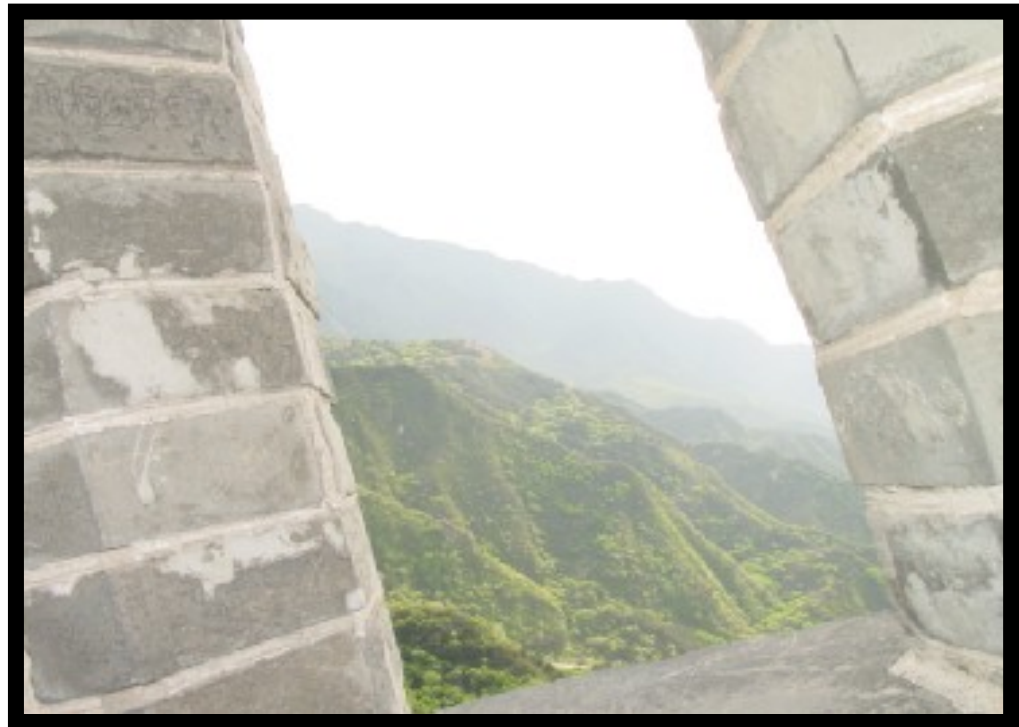




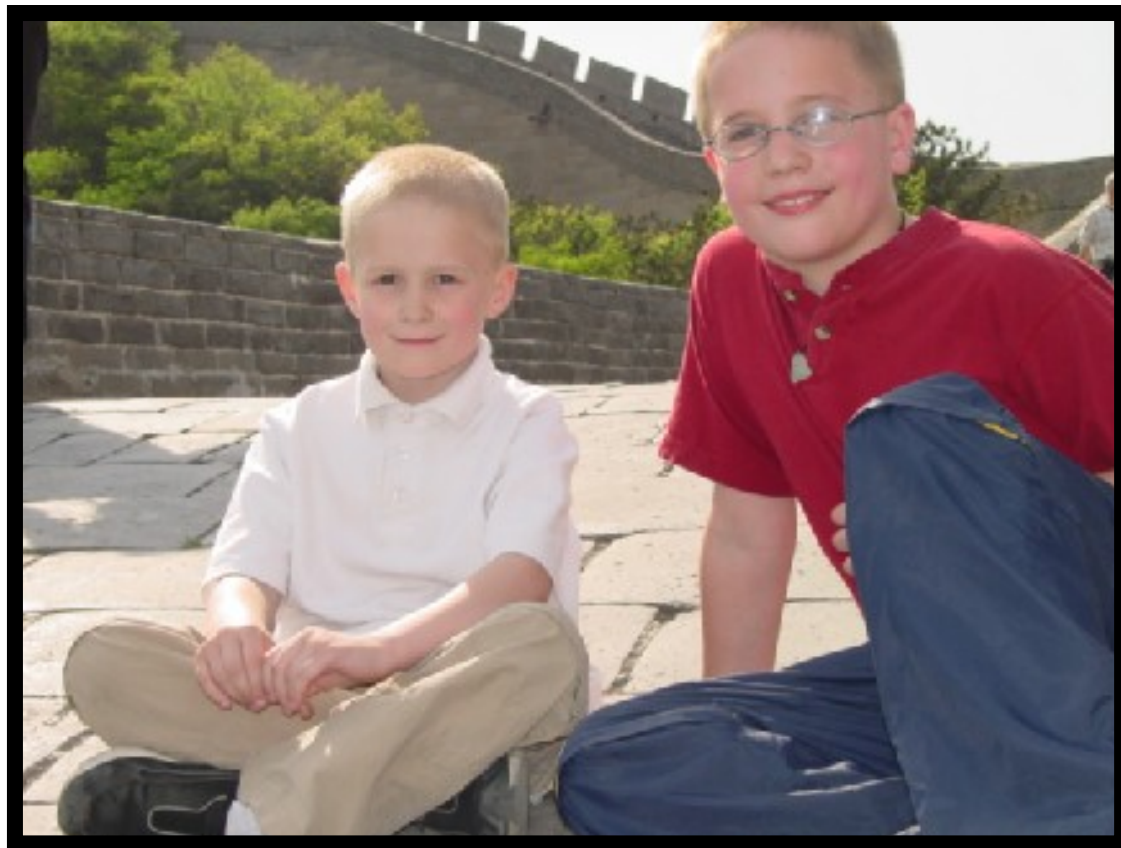
希望您的
为祖国的建设
添砖加瓦



- The Great Wall extends across part of the top of China.
- Many of the dynasties added to it. It is 3,000 miles long.
- It is the only man made thing that can be seen from the moon.



Great Wall in 2004 and 2008



The Great Wall in 2008



Language

- Mandarin is the primary language in China.
- Mandarin has four tones along with the actual sounds. The tones change the whole word.
 - Ma (flat)
 - Ma (rising up, like a question)
 - Ma (going down)
 - Ma (up and down)
- Many people speak Cantonese as well.
 - Cantonese has 9 tones.
- All Chinese children now take English.
- More people speak Mandarin (1 of every 5) than any other language.
- Mark doesn't need to speak Mandarin – he can actually act out everything he needs to communicate!



Did you know?

- All of China is on the same time zone.
- The U.S. which is smaller has 4 time zones.

