

My MEP Projects: Y9

Y9 Project: Qiu Jin: Heroine and Revolutionary Martyr

Name: _____

In this project you'll learn all about Qiu Jin, a woman born in the final years of China's Qing dynasty. Like many young people at that time, Qiu Jin was passionate about changing China for the better, making it a modern, strong country that could resist the Western powers who were colonizing the world. She fought against the restricted lives of women in that era, demanding the right to education and an end to the cruel practice of foot-binding.

Go for it!

Task 1: Who was Qiu Jin?

This task will introduce you to the life and times of Qiu Jin. First, read the following brief account of her life and answer the questions. For some questions, you will find the answers in the text; for others you will have to research further.



The statue of Qiu Jin by the West Lake in Hangzhou.



Qiu Jin was born in 1875. She grew up in the town of Shaoxing in Zhejiang province in a wealthy home in which education was highly valued. She received a good education and also studied martial arts and horse-riding. Like many young women of that time, she was forced to marry at a young age with little choice about her husband. She had a son and a daughter, but it was an unhappy marriage.

China was going through huge political and social changes at the time. The ruling dynasty, the Qing, were in decline, there were wars, rebellions and aggression from foreign powers.

Many people felt that the only way to solve China's problems was to modernize, to embrace scientific methods and to change some oppressive traditions, in particular women's lack of freedom.

Qiu Jin became increasingly interested in these new ideas and joined revolutionary societies that aimed to overthrow the Qing dynasty. In 1903, she went to study in Japan where many young Chinese went at this time to learn modern ideas. She spent 3 years there, studying but also getting involved in feminist and anti-Qing activities. She returned to China and became head of a school, but in 1907 was arrested for her involvement in a plot against the Qing. She was sentenced to death and beheaded at the age of 31.

Answer the following questions (for some questions you'll need to research the answer)

- 1) Write in Chinese characters the year in which Qiu Jin was born _____
- 2) Find out who the British monarch was in that year. _____
- 3) One of China's most famous writers was born in Shaoxing in 1881. Find out his name, the Chinese characters for his name, and the name (in English and Chinese) of one of his books.

4) Who were the ruling dynasty of China at this time? Find out the Chinese character for the name of the dynasty and write the dates in Chinese for when the dynasty began and ended.



5) To which country did Qiu Jin go to study? Write the name of the country in Chinese.

6) How old was Qiu Jin when she was executed? Answer in Chinese.

☆	Task 1 complete	
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Task 2: Qiu Jin – the movie

The most recent movie made about Qiu Jin was filmed in 2011. The title of the film in Chinese is:

《竞雄女侠秋瑾》
jìng xióng nǚ xiá qiū jǐn

The title in English is not a direct translation:

“The Woman Knight of Mirror Lake”

The English title comes from one of the names Qiu Jin was known by. Mirror Lake is a lake near her family hometown of Shaoxing.

Task 2a:

Look up the characters in the Chinese title. What would a literal (word for word) translation of the title be?:

Task 2b:

Now watch the trailer for the movie, it is just two minutes long and has English subtitles:

<http://bit.ly/QiuJinFilm>

Watch it a second time and jot down in the scroll below any words (in Chinese characters or pin yin) that you recognize.



Task 2c: *More about the movie*


Now you're going to listen to and read an article in Chinese about this movie. The article is on the website *The Chairman's Bao*, which your teachers may have used in class. Click on the link below and take the following steps to ensure that you get the most out of this important learning resource.

Tick each step as you complete it on the table on the next page. Remember, **repetition, repetition, repetition** is a key trick for successful language learners. You'll listen to the short audio five times (don't worry it's only two minutes long!) *but don't skimp on it!*

<http://bit.ly/TCBFilm>

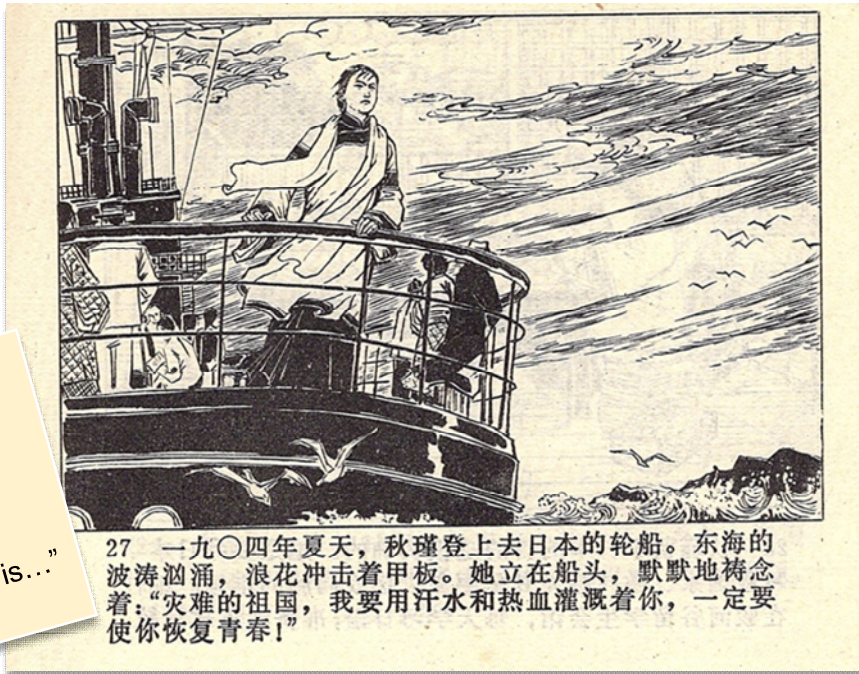
Tick each step as you complete it:

Tasks	✓
Listen to the audio without looking at the text. Jot down in pinyin any words you recognize in the scroll below.	
Listen to the audio again while reading the text.	
Listen to it again while reading the text.	
Hover your mouse over the words you don't know; the website will give you the translation.	
Listen to it again while reading the text.	
Click on 'Comprehension Questions' and do the exercises.	
Choose five Chinese characters that are new to you, use the Stroke Order and Writing Tool to check and practice stroke order for those characters.	
Listen to the audio one more time without reading the text. Enjoy how much better you understand it now!	



☆ Task 2 complete

Task 3: Describing a Picture.



Language Tip!

画上有...

huà shàng yǒu...

"In the picture there is..."

27 一九〇四年夏天，秋瑾登上去日本的轮船。东海的波涛汹涌，浪花冲击着甲板。她立在船头，默默地祷告着：“灾难的祖国，我要用汗水和热血灌溉着你，一定要使你恢复青春！”

Here's a page from a 1970s comic book about Qiu Jin's life. It shows her heading to Japan to study. Write **3 sentences** of your own and **3 questions** in Chinese characters about the picture.

Sentences:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Questions:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

☆ Task 3 complete

Task 4: Qiu Jin in the interview hot seat

Imagine that Qiu Jin is being interviewed by a newspaper journalist. The interviewer starts with a few general questions. How do you think Qiu Jin would answer? Fill in her responses below.

You'll find most of the information you need in Task 1, but you'll probably have to look up some Chinese characters for your answers.



记者：你是哪年出生的？

秋瑾：_____

记者：你在哪儿长大了？

秋瑾：_____

记者：你有孩子吗？

秋瑾：_____

记者：你在哪儿留学？多长时间？

秋瑾：_____

Now it's your turn to guess the question. Here are a few answers by Qiu Jin, your task is to guess what the question might have been.

1.

记者：_____？

秋瑾：除了文学以外，我也学了武术和骑马。我非常喜欢骑马

2.

记者：_____？

秋瑾：因为我觉得如果没有男女平等，中国不能成为一个现代的国家

And finally, if you could have met Qiu Jin, what question would you love to ask her?
You can look up the Chinese for any words you might not know.

☆	Task 4 complete	
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Task 5: A look at Chinese surnames

Task 5a

You probably noticed that Qiu Jin's surname 秋 qiū is the word for autumn.

Not all Chinese surnames have a meaning. Here are a few that do. Look up the characters and write the meanings in English in the table:

姓 <i>xìng</i> (Surname)	Meaning in English
安 (ān)	
宝 (bǎo)	
丁 (dīng)	
胡 (hú)	
雷 (léi)	
毛 (máo)	
王 (wáng)	

Task 5b

As you will have learnt, the Chinese for 'surname' is 姓 *xìng*, and to say what your surname is you say:

我姓...
wǒ xìng...
“my surname is...”

You may have heard the following expression:

老百姓
lǎo bǎi xìng

1. What is the literal (word for word) translation of that phrase?

2. What does the expression refer to?

Task 5c

According to a recent study, the 10 most common surnames in China are the following:

1. Wang (王)
2. Li (李)
3. Zhang (张)
4. Liu (刘)
5. Chen (陈)
6. Yang (杨)
7. Huang (黄)
8. Zhao (赵)
9. Wu (吴)
10. Zhou (周)

Find **3 examples of each** in the wordsearch below. (All the other characters are surnames too)

周	卢	秦	杨	孟	谭	苏	商	丘	刘
明	李	马	吕	林	黄	利	陈	蓝	孔
张	金	蒋	赵	霍	侯	吴	韩	黄	石
海	郭	阮	管	周	方	杜	刁	徐	燕
谢	杨	梅	英	宗	沈	杨	宋	张	禹
闻	华	陈	叶	王	鱼	熊	谷	楚	王
刘	曹	唐	李	宫	白	吴	牛	赵	童
鲁	黄	齐	年	和	吴	冷	周	江	左
桂	姚	赵	古	陈	范	罗	庄	邓	花
张	贾	王	晋	魏	陶	刘	康	苗	李

Did you see some other characters you recognize? Write them in the scroll here and the meaning of that character in English

List any Chinese surnames you have come across, for example your Chinese teachers' names.

There are only a few Chinese surnames that are double-word surnames. The most famous is probably 司马 (*Sīmǎ*). A very famous person in Chinese history had that surname. Research who he was and when he was alive and make some notes about him below.

☆	Task 5 complete	
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Task 6: What was ‘foot binding’?

One very serious form of oppression against women in Chinese history was the practice of foot binding, whereby a woman’s feet were bound tightly with ribbons when she was a child. It was believed that small feet were a sign of beauty and that the smaller a woman’s feet, the better her marriage prospects. In fact, some people believe that the story of Cinderella and her tiny shoes originally came from China.

The practice mainly affected women from wealthy households who were not expected to work. With crippled feet, women had little option but to stay at home. You can still see tiny shoes in museums that were made for women with bound feet.

Qiu Jin’s feet were lightly bound when she was a child but she was able to remove the bindings and walk normally as an adult. She was heavily involved in anti-foot binding societies.

Now you’re going to listen to and read an article in Chinese about foot binding from the website *The Chairman’s Bao*. Click on the link below and take the following steps to ensure that you get the most out of this important learning resource.

Tick each step as you complete it on the table below. Remember, **repetition, repetition, repetition** is a key trick for successful language learners. You’ll listen to the short audio five times (don’t worry it’s only one minute and eleven seconds long!) *but don’t skimp on it!*

<http://bit.ly/TCBFootBinding>

Tick each step as you complete it:

Tasks	✓
Listen to the audio without looking at the text. Jot down in pinyin any words you recognize in the scroll below.	
Listen to the audio again while reading the text.	
Listen to it again while reading the text.	
Hover your mouse over the words you don't know, the website will give you the translation.	
Listen to it again while reading the text.	
Click on 'Comprehension Questions' and do the exercises.	
Choose five Chinese characters that are new to you, use the Stroke Order and Writing Tool to check and practice stroke order for those characters.	
Listen to the audio one more time without reading the text. Enjoy how much better you understand it now!	



★ Task 6 complete

Task 7: A poem

Poetry has always been a highly-valued art form in China. People wrote and shared poems at parties, poetry writing was an important part of the official exams to get government jobs and famous poets became national heroes. It's not surprising therefore that Qiu Jin wrote poetry. Some of her poems were about political causes, some were more personal. Here's a translation of one of her most famous poems:

- 1 *Sun and moon have grown dim, heaven and earth have grown dark.*
- 2 *But who is there to save the deeply submerged world of women?*
- 3 *I have pawned my hairpins and my rings to travel over the ocean,*
- 4 *Taking leave of my own flesh and blood, I left China behind.*
- 5 *Unbinding my feet, I washed away a thousand years of poison*
- 6 *Filled with hot blood, I summon the souls of the hundred flowers*
- 7 *Alas, my scarf woven of mermaid-silk*
- 8 *Is half-soaked by blood, and half by tears.*

(Translation from *The Red Brush: Writing Women of Imperial China* by Wilt Idema, and Beala Grant)

In the table below is the original poem in Chinese **BUT the lines are jumbled up**. Your task is to see if you can work out which line is which by spotting as many familiar characters as you can. There are seven lines in the poem so number them 1 to 8 (one has been done for you) Many of the characters will be unfamiliar to you, of course, but use your knowledge of radicals to try to crack the puzzle!

	Line number
沉沉女界有谁援	
放足湔除千载毒	
日月无光天地昏	
骨肉分离出玉门	4
可怜一副鲛绡帕	
钗环典质浮沧海	
热心唤起百花魂	
半是血痕半泪痕	

☆ Task 7 complete

Task 8: Women warriors in Chinese history

Long before Qiu Jin's time, there was a tradition of women warriors in Chinese history and literature. The most famous is, of course, Mulan (花木兰 *Huā Mùlán*). You've probably seen the Disney movie!



The story of Mulan dates back many centuries and has been the subject of stories and dramas for a long, long time. Here's a short telling of the story in Chinese (with English subtitles). Watch the video (it's just three and a half minutes long) and answer the following questions in English:

<http://bit.ly/MulanVideo>

1. What was the name of the ruling dynasty at that time?

2. What skills did Mulan learn from her father?

3. Why was Mulan upset?

4. How many siblings did she have?

5. How many years did Mulan fight in the army?

Now write the Chinese answers to these questions:

1. What expression is used in the video for 'the oldest child in the family'

2. What expression is used in the video for 'alone' (when she sets out alone for the army)?

3. What is the word used for 'emperor' in the video?

4. What expression is used for 'women's' clothes'?

5. The soldiers' surprise is described with the phrase 目瞪口呆 *mù dèng kǒu dāi*. It is a very commonly-used "four character phrase" or idiom. What do each of the four characters mean?

☆	Task 8 complete	
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Task 9: Reviewing this project

Which tasks in this project did you find most interesting and why? Which tasks were the hardest? Which task did you not enjoy doing and why?

Complete the following three sentences **in Chinese characters**. You'll find some useful vocabulary in the box below:

1. 我觉得最有意思的练习是 task number..... 因为

.....

2. 我觉得最难的练习是 task number..... 因为

.....

3. 我不喜欢 task number..... 因为.....

.....

Language Tips!

练习	<i>liàn xí</i>	“task/exercise”
难	<i>nán</i>	“difficult”
有意思	<i>yǒu yì si</i>	“interesting”
没意思	<i>méi yì si</i>	“boring”



Your Achievements

Congratulations on completing one MEP Project!

- You now know about Qiu Jin, an important figure in Chinese history and about the controversial practice of foot-binding.
- You've learnt lots about Chinese surnames.
- You've deciphered bits of a poem in literary Chinese.
- You've learnt more about the folk hero Hua Mulan.
- And you've added lots of new words and expressions to your knowledge of the Chinese language.

***If your teacher
signs you off,
you will collect
one Badge!***