



My MEP Projects: Y9

Y9 Project: The Environment: Individuals Making a Difference

Name: _____

When people talk about environmental issues in China it's easy to get lost in huge numbers and statistics. Yet in China as in other countries around the world, individuals and communities are making a difference in the push to make our world cleaner and greener. In this project you'll focus on these. You'll learn some useful language to do with the environment, encounter individuals in China and around the world who are making a difference, and even dip into a bit of Classical Chinese!

Go for it!

Task 1: Key words and Inspirational Quotes

Task 1a

Here are some key words to do with the environment. Link each word to the correct pinyin and English translation. One has been done for you:

中文		pinyin		English
地球		lǜ huà		environmental protection
环境		wū rǎn		climate; weather
绿化		dì qiú		plastic
气候		huán bǎo		to make (a place) green by planting trees, flowers, etc.
污染		sù liào		environment; surroundings
塑料		qì hòu		the Earth; globe
环保		huán jìng		to pollute; pollution

Task 1b

Now get some practice reading some of these words in context. The following short paragraph is from an article in The Chairman's Bao about schools in China trying to cut down on the use of plastics. Translate the paragraph into English: (Highlighted words are in the box below)



塑料书皮是很多中小學生常常使用的東西。但是我們知道，太多太多的塑料容易污染環境。而且，有些不好的塑料書皮對中小學生的身體健康不好，所以中國開始限制中小學生塑料用品的使用。學校在課內和課外學習中，要教育孩子保護環境。

book covers

書皮

shū pí

besides, in addition

而且

ér qiě

to limit

限制

xiàn zhì

to educate

教育

jiào yù

Task 1c

In the picture, the little boy has an inspirational slogan on the board behind him.

爱护环境从我做起



Think up a good way of translating the slogan into English and write it here:

Below are four examples of inspirational Chinese sayings that could encourage people to take action and work together. Draw a line connecting the Chinese saying with its English translation:

千里之行始于足下

dripping water can wear away a rock

It's hard to clap with just one hand

孤掌难鸣

水滴石穿

以身作则

A journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step.

Set a good example

Choose your favourite one of these sayings, copy the Chinese into the scroll below and illustrate it.

★ Task 1 complete

Task 2: Inspirational Individuals



Task 2a: Transliterating foreign names

The 'big name' in environmental issues at the moment is, of course, Greta Thunberg. Here's what her name is in Chinese. Say it quickly and you'll see why:

格蕾塔·通贝里

gé lěi tǎ • tōng bèi lǐ

When words or names are spelled out in a foreign language according to their sound (not their meaning), this is called TRANSLITERATION. Given-names and surnames are generally separated by a dot •

Sound out the following name and write this person's English name below...he's VERY famous for his commitment to the environment:

大卫·艾登堡

dà wèi • ài dēng bǎo

Here are the Chinese names of three global heroes of the environmental movement. Research on the internet to find their name in English, their nationality and a word or two to describe their key contribution to the environment:

Name in Chinese	Name in English	Nationality	Environmental work
<u>旺加里·马塔伊</u>			
<u>笸妲娜·希瓦</u>			
<u>阿尔·戈尔</u>			

Task 2b China's Greta

The name Howey Ou may not be globally famous, but Howey is sometimes called China's Greta Thunberg. Read the following paragraphs about her:

Howey Ou 欧泓奕 Ōu Hóng yì

In the spring of 2019, 16-year-old Howey Ou from Guilin read about school students around the globe striking to draw attention to the climate crisis. Disappointed that no students in China were taking part in this action, she stood in front of her local government offices for seven days until the police told her that her protest was illegal.



Howey's parents were anxious about her skipping classes but they have agreed to support her by adopting a vegan lifestyle, avoiding plastic bags and not traveling by plane.

Because protesting in China is likely to get one into serious trouble, Howey decided to concentrate on tree-planting. She spends her free time planting seedlings of trees in her local area.

Think of three questions you would like to ask Howey if you ever met her. Write these in Chinese characters in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Copy the Chinese characters in the sign Howey is holding in this picture. Write the pinyin and the English meaning of each of the words:

★	Task 2 complete	
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Task 3: Student Cycles 1,300 km for environmental awareness

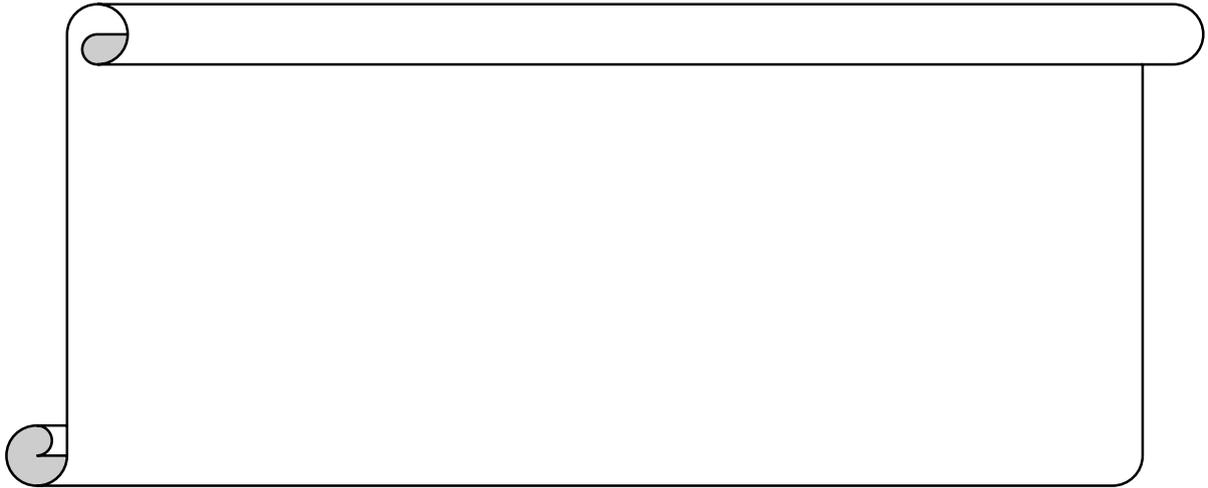
Student Huang Xi decided to take action on the environment by undertaking a gruelling cycle ride from his home town in Hubei to Shanghai, a journey of over a thousand kilometres. Read about his motivation and his experiences in this article from the website The Chairman's Bao. Click on the link below 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 *but don't skimp on it!*

<https://www.thechairmansbao.com/student-cycles-1300km-for-environmental-awareness>

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 the small green scholar's hat at the top left hand corner of the picture. This will take you to some matching and missing word exercises. Do these exercises.	
Choose five Chinese characters that are new to you in this article. Click on each character. This will take you to the Stroke Order and Writing Tool. Use this 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 3 complete

Task 4: Using the word cái 才

Cái 才 is an easy word to write but a tricky word to use confidently. In this task you'll get some practice. First, here are some quite complex sentences on the topic of the environment that contain 才. Don't worry if you don't know all the characters, just look for the ones you know and see if you can link the use of 才 to the English translations.

1. 塑料吸管需要 200 年才能降解。

Plastic straws need 200 years before they decompose

2. 金丝猴是濒危物种，只有中国的秦岭区才能找到他们。

The golden monkey is an endangered species, the only place they can be found is in the Qin Ling region of China.

3. 中国还需要等几十年才能实现电网评价

China still needs to wait several decades before it will be able to achieve a reasonably priced electricity network.

When translating a sentence with 才 in it, there are quite a few possibilities in English, for example 'only when', 'only after' 'not until' or simply 'only'.

If you need some help on Chinese grammar, there's an excellent free website called the Chinese Grammar Wiki. Don't worry if you can't understand some of the technical explanations the site gives, what's often most helpful is to look at the list of examples of the grammar pattern you are stuck on. Here's the page on 才 :

https://resources.allsetlearning.com/chinese/grammar/Expressing_%22only_after%22_with_%22cai%22

Task 4a

Choose one example of the use of 才 from the Chinese Grammar Wiki website. Copy the characters, pinyin and translation into the space below:

Task 4b Some practice using 才 in simple sentences

In speaking and in writing, you are most likely to use 才 to emphasize the 'lateness' of a past action, almost like saying in English "then and only then did X happen". Note that 才 always goes BEFORE the verb. For example:

我弟弟八点半才到学校

(literally)..... My little brother at half past eight 'only-then' arrived at school.

This would be better translated into English as:

"My little brother only got to school at half past eight"

or

"It was already half past eight when my little brother got to school"

学生做了作业才看电视

(literally)..... the student did homework 'only-then' watched TV

This would be better translated into English as:

“The student only watched TV after she/he’d done her/his homework”

or

“It was only after finishing her/his homework that the student watched TV”

NOTE that if there are two verb clauses with this pattern, the verb following 才 usually DOES NOT have a 了

Here are three jumbled-up sentences using that pattern. Write the characters in the correct order and then translate the sentences into good English:

1. 来 点 朋 我 友 四 才 半
2. 才 我 十 钟 到 走 了 们 分 四
3. 懂 才 我 本 书 了 看 这

Now have a go using this pattern by translating these sentences into Chinese characters:

1. The teacher only came into the classroom at half past nine
2. The bus only arrived at 4 o'clock
3. Only when I had done my homework did I go to sleep

1.

2.

3.

Finally, make up a sentence of your own in Chinese using 才

☆	Task 4 complete	
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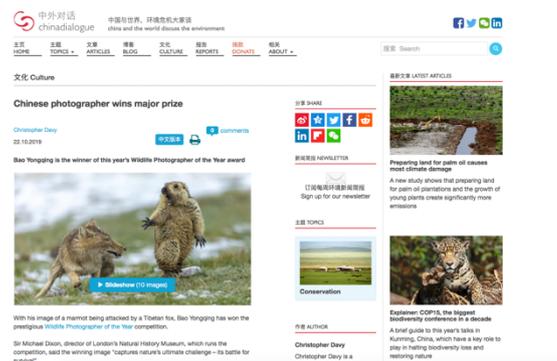
Task 5: China Dialogue: Find an inspirational story

Isabel Hilton is a famous journalist. She studied Chinese at university in Edinburgh and has had a long and successful career covering news from China. More than ten years ago she founded a bilingual website called Chinadialogue 中外对话. The website continues to be one of the most interesting and influential sources of information about the environment.

<https://www.chinadialogue.net>

Go to the home page of the website. Notice the banner slogan 'China and the World discuss the environment'. Copy the Chinese version of that slogan into the space below, add the pinyin and label each word with its literal English translation:

Spend at least ten minutes exploring the website. Look at the menu at the top of the home page, click on topics (主题) for example, or the blog (博客). You may find something that catches your eye on the culture page (文化).



Now choose one article that interests you.

Read it in English and jot down five bullet points in English in the scroll below to summarize what you think are the most important or interesting facts or ideas in your chosen article:

Now find the Chinese version of the same article by clicking on the blue box



Don't worry that it'll be very complicated! Just look at the headline and the first few lines of the article in Chinese. Find five Chinese words that are new to you from that small section of the article. Copy the characters into the table below. Look them up in your dictionary and complete the table with the pinyin and English translation of those words:

中文	pinyin	English

★ Task 5 complete

Task 6: Solving a problem at village level

One village in China managed to reduce its litter problem with a simple bright idea – swapping rubbish for household items. Find out about it in this article from the website The Chairman's Bao. Click on the link below and tick as you progress through the learning tasks.



<https://www.thechairmansbao.com/waste-bank-allows-villagers-to-swap-rubbish-for-everyday-items/>.

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.	
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Task 7: Zhuangzi: An environmental hero from more than 2,000 years ago!

You have probably heard of Daoism (sometimes written 'Taoism' in English), and you will already know the Chinese character that this word comes from -- dào 道. (It's in the word 知道 zhī dào 'to know'.) You've certainly also seen this symbol before:



(you'll find it as an emoji on your phone)

Daoism is a religion or belief system that originated in China thousands of years ago. Central to Daoism is the idea that everything that exists comes from the 'Dao', 'the way' and that within the Dao there are two equal and balancing forces of 'yin' (the female principle) and 'yang' (the male principle). That's why the symbol above is often called the yin-yang symbol.

To live in harmony with the Dao is to live in harmony with nature. In fact, the turtle in the Kung Fu Panda series is meant to be a Daoist! Take a look at this short clip from the movie to get his insight into the Daoist philosophy of life:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JGFUabPWAq>



One of the most important people in the history of Daoism is Zhuang Zi ('Master Zhuang') (sometimes written as Chuang Tzu in English). His writings from the 4th century BCE have had a profound influence on Chinese culture and every Chinese person will know some of his stories. One of the most famous is his dream of being a butterfly. Take a look at this brief cartoon version of the Butterfly Dream.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRhZlyl7944>

Because the 'way' of nature is central to Daoism and living in harmony with nature is the aim of Daoists, Zhuang Zi can be considered an important guide for how we can care for the environment.

Zhuang Zi's writings were in Classical Chinese so they are difficult even for native speakers of Chinese to read. But that doesn't stop you spotting familiar characters and getting the gist of his writings. Here's a challenge: The lines below are an English translation of a passage from Zhuang Zi about how birds are happiest out of cages even if they have to struggle to find food.

"The marsh pheasant manages one peck every ten paces and one drink every hundred steps, but it does not wish to be in a cage. Even if you treated it like a king, it's spirit would not be happy"

(Penguin Classics: The Book of Chuang Tzu)

In the table below are the jumbled-up sentences from the original classical Chinese. Try to number the sentences in correct order just by looking out for one or two familiar words (one has been done for you):

	Line number
不蕲畜乎樊中	3
百步一饮	
神虽王	
不善也	
泽雉十步一啄	



The character 也 which now means 'also' was the verb 'to be' in Classical Chinese, and it came at the end of the sentence!

Taiwanese cartoonist Cai Zhizhong has done wonderful and witty comic versions of most Chinese classics, including Zhuang Zi. English versions are available under the author name C.C. Tsai. Why don't you ask your school library to get some copies of his English-language books!



Task 8: Describing a picture



Here's a colourful poster from China encouraging people to sort and recycle their rubbish. Think up **5 sentences** related to the picture (the sentences can be descriptive or about the need to recycle) then write them in Chinese characters below.

Sentences:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

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.....

task/exercise

练习

liàn xí

difficult

难

nán

interesting

有意思

yǒu yì si

boring

没意思

méi yì si



Your Achievements

Congratulations on completing 1 MEP Project!

- You've learnt lots of vocabulary about the environment.
- You've understood how foreign names are 'transliterated'
- You've deciphered some sentences in classical Chinese.
- You've practised using the grammar particle 才
- And you've encountered environmental heroes from the past and the present.

*If your teacher signs you off,
you will collect 1 Badge!*