



My MEP Projects

Project: Olympic Games and Sports Stars
Series: Sports

Name: _____



In this project, you will learn about the Olympic Games and review the 2008 and 2012 Games that took place in Beijing and London. We will talk about favourite national sports and introduce a sporting celebrity, Sun Yang. You will then have a chance to describe your favourite sports star.

Go for it!

1. Olympic Games

The modern Olympic Games are the world's leading international sporting events, featuring summer and winter competitions. The games see thousands of athletes from more than 200 nations participate in a variety of competitions. They are held every four years, with the summer and Winter Games alternating by occurring every four years but two years apart.



How do you say "Olympic Games" in Chinese?
Games in Chinese is _____

Olympics in Chinese is 奥林匹克 (àolínpǐkè), it shares the same sounds with Olympics.

So "Olympic Games" in Chinese is _____

Now, how do you say "Beijing Olympic Games"?

And, how about "London Olympic Games"?



Task A: Matching: There are many games in the Olympics. Look at the following sports, can you figure out by yourselves what they are and link the pictures with the characters below?

(B) 	 ()	 ()	 ()	 ()
 ()	 ()	 ()	 ()	 ()

A 跳高 tiàogāo	B 滑冰 huábīng	C 单板滑雪 dān bǎn huáxuě	D 轮椅竞速 lúnyǐ jìng sù	E 曲棍球 qūgùnqiú
F 划船 huáchuán	G 跨栏 kuàlán	H 轮椅橄榄球 lúnyǐ lǎn qiú	I 滑雪 huáxuě	J 标枪 biāoqiāng

★ Task A complete

Task B: Where does it go?



Look at the characters box above. Different sports belong to different disciplines.
Which group do the sports below belong to? Write the sports in the correct group.

Athletics 竞技运动 jìngjì	Team sports 团体运动 tuántǐ yùndòng	Winter sports 冬季运动 dōngjì yùndòng

★	Task B complete	
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2. Beijing Olympic Games 北京奥林匹克运动会

The following article contains some facts about the Beijing Olympic Games. Read the article and check the statements in Chinese. See whether the statements in Chinese are correct.

First Olympic medals and titles

Two hundred and four National Olympic Committees (NOCs¹) took part in the Beijing Olympic Games - a record! Some 87 of them celebrated their medal-winning athletes.

For some NOCs, it was the first time that one of their representatives had won a medal or was crowned an Olympic champion: Tajikistan won its first medals in the judo and in the wrestling; Afghanistan stepped up on to the podium thanks to Rohullah Nikpai in taekwondo; Badar-Uugan Enkhbat in boxing and Tuvshinbayar Naidan in judo. For the African continent, Bruno Julie in boxing and Benjamin Boukpeti in canoe/kayak offered Mauritius and Togo respectively their first Olympic medals, while Panama took its first gold medal in athletics.



¹ NOCs are responsible for organizing the participation of their country in the Olympic Games



The oldest world record smashed in swimming

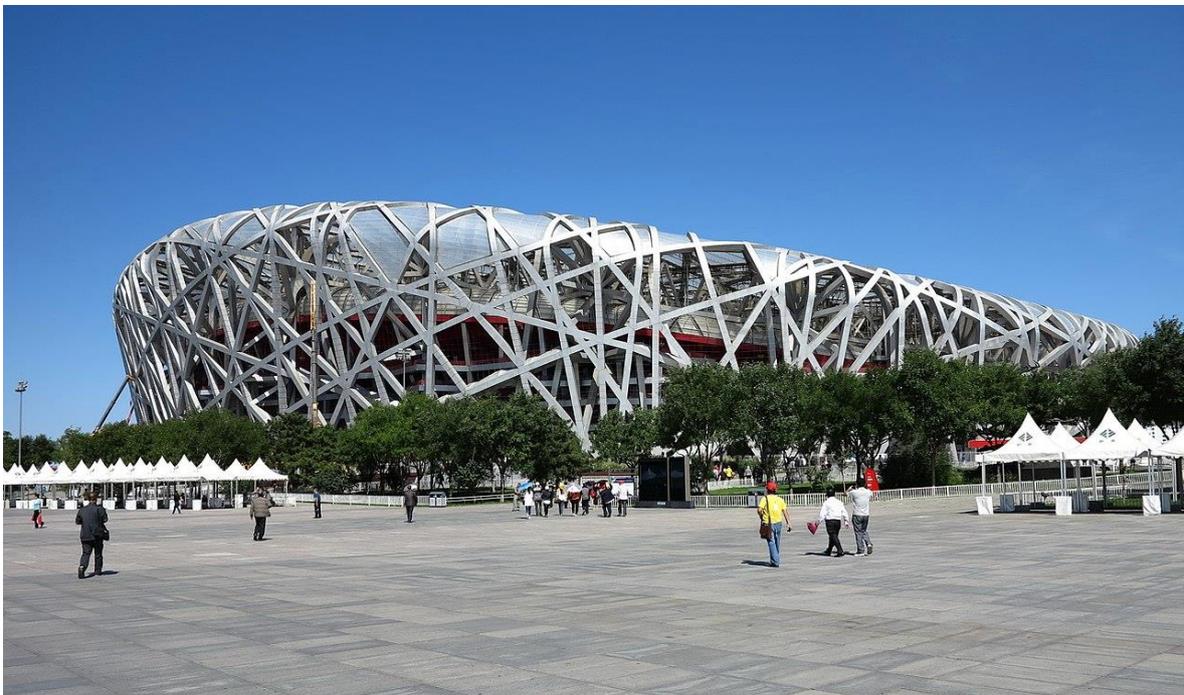
The women's 800m record had been held by Janet Evans (USA) for almost 20 years. But in Beijing, Great Britain's Rebecca Adlington smashed this record, which had been set in 1989 when she was only six months old. In 2008, in the 800m final, Rebecca Adlington improved on the previous time by more than two seconds, with a new time of 8:14.10. She took the gold medal in the 800m and in the 400m, and became the first British gold medallist in women's swimming since 1960.

The oldest and the youngest participant in the Games

In Beijing, almost 50 years separated the oldest from the youngest athlete: Japanese horse rider Hiroshi Hoketsu took part in his third Olympic Games at the age of 67, whilst Cameroon swimmer, Antoinette Joyce Guedia Mouafo participated in the Games for the first time at the tender age of 12.

Age is not necessarily a disadvantage

With his ninth participation in the Games and at the age of 61, Canada's Ian Millar won his first medal in the team jumping event. At 33, and with her fifth participation in the Games, Germany's Oksana Chusovitina won the silver medal in artistic gymnastics, while US swimmer Dara Torres took three silver medals at the age of 41.





Ultramodern sports facilities and thousand-year old history

The National Stadium, re-named the “Bird’s Nest”, and the National Swimming Centre, known as the “Water Cube”, were avant-garde models of sports architecture and the symbols of the new Beijing.

In cycling, for the road race, the organisers chose to follow the Great Wall and pass in front of the “Forbidden City” - two symbols of the thousand-year-old history of the city.

Thirty-seven venues, six of which were outside Beijing, hosted the competitions: namely Hong Kong for the equestrian events and Qingdao for the sailing; and Tianjin, Shanghai, Qinhuangdao and Shenyang for the football matches. Six of the sports facilities located on the city’s university campuses will be used by students after the Games.

Ceremonies

Beijing, 8 August, 2008, Opening Ceremony of the Games of the XXIXe Olympiad. The last runner of the Olympic Torch relay Li Ning prepares to light the Olympic cauldron.

(from <https://www.olympic.org/beijing-2008>.)

Task C: Read the article and check the statements.

There are some mistakes below. Find the mistake, underline it and write the correct answer about the Olympic Games in Beijing

1. 200 个国家参加了北京奥运会。200 gè guójiā cānjiāle běijīng àoyùnhuì.

2. 800 米的游泳纪录保持了 10 年。800 mǐ de yóuyǒng jìlù bǎochíle 10 nián.

3. 最年轻的运动员是 16 岁。zuì niánqīng de yùndòngyuán shì 16 suì.

4. 北京举办了 30 场比赛。běijīng jǔbànle 30 chǎng bǐsài.

5. 北京奥运会是 2008 年 8 月 1 日开始的。běijīng àoyùnhuì shì 2008 nián 8 yuè 1 rì kāishǐ de.



3. London Olympic Games 伦敦奥林匹克运动会

The following article contains some facts about London Olympic Games. Read the article and check the statements in Chinese. See whether the statements in Chinese are correct.

London 2012 by numbers

The Olympic Games are one of the biggest and most complex events in the world, as highlighted by some of these mind-boggling facts and figures:

- 26 sports, featuring 39 disciplines, were contested during the Games across 34 venues
- The Olympic Park, which held nine venues, was 2.5sq km in size – equivalent to 357 football pitches
- 8.8 million tickets were available for the London 2012 Olympic Games
- About 10,500 athletes from 204 National Olympic Committees took part in the Games, with 302 medal events being held
- Over 21,000 accredited media communicated the Games to a potential worldwide audience of 4 billion people
- There were also 2,961 technical officials and 5,770 team officials
- A total workforce of around 200,000 people, including more than 6,000 staff, 70,000 volunteers and 100,000 contractors, were involved in the Games
- LOCOG had sourced over one million pieces of sport equipment for the Games, including 510 adjustable hurdles for athletics, 600 basket balls, 2,700 foot balls and 356 pairs of boxing gloves
- During the Games, 20 million spectator journeys were made in London, including three million on the busiest day of the Games
- Approximately 14 million meals were served at the Games, including 45,000 per day in the Olympic Village





<https://www.olympic.org/london-2012>

Task D: Read the article and check the statements. There are some mistakes in them. Find the mistake, underline it and write the correct answer about the Olympic Games in London

1. 伦敦奥运会有 20 种运动比赛。lúndūn àoyùnhuì yǒu 20 zhǒng yùndòng bǐsài.

2. 奥林匹克公园有 8 个运动场所。Àolínpǐkè gōngyuán yǒu 8 gè yùndòng chǎngsuǒ.

3. 伦敦奥运会有 5, 770 技术人员, 2, 961 比赛官员。lúndūn àoyùnhuì yǒu 5,770 jìshù rényuán,2,961 bǐsài guānyuán

4. 伦敦奥运会有一百万张票。8.8 万张票。lúndūn àoyùnhuì yǒu yībǎi wàn zhāng piào.8.8 Wàn zhāng piào.

5. 伦敦奥运会有一百万份饭。一千四百万份饭。lúndūn àoyùnhuì yǒu yībǎi wàn fèn fàn. Yīqiān sìbǎi wàn fèn fàn.

☆	Task D complete	
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4. Why China is so staggeringly good at table tennis

Source: [Gus Lubin](#) Aug. 19, 2016, 12:51 AM

At least 44 table tennis players in Rio were Chinese-born, even though only 6 of them are playing for China—as the New York Times reported this week.

China went on to take gold in all four table tennis events at the 2016 Summer Olympics, meaning it has won 28 of 32 gold medals since the sport was introduced in 1988.

How is China so good at this sport? It's pretty simple really.



China has way more table tennis players than any other country.

This much is clear when you consider China's unmatched population of 1.4 billion and how extremely popular the sport is there.

The country has embraced table tennis since at least the 1950s, when Chairman Mao declared it the national sport. For the communist leader, it was a logical choice—a sport that could be played cheaply without much space and one that wasn't particularly popular in the West.

Today there are said to be tables in nearly every park, while almost every school has a team that trains regularly, and table tennis champions are famous.

"In China, there is a joke, do not say you play table tennis well, because you do not know among your friends, whether there is some guy who is retired from Province team," Mark Luo writes on Quora.

A reported 10 million Chinese play competitive ping-pong regularly, with some 300 million who play on occasion. Although we don't have numbers on the rest of the world, we can assume no one comes close.



Table tennis also seems to be a sport where body type matters relatively little—as opposed to, say, basketball and sprinting—meaning that a higher share of those players might stand a chance at high level play.

China has an extremely intensive training programme.



The country begins recruiting table tennis talent at a young age and then does everything possible to make them succeed.

Take it from former pro Cheng Yinghua who, as described in a USATT article by Larry Hodges, was put in a specialized school at age 5 after testing highly for racket sport skills. According to the same article:

—China is ruthless in selecting its national team, focusing all its efforts on players likely to medal now or in the future, rather than blindly including all the top players at a given time.

—Chinese players train for at least 7 hours a day. Top players work with specialized practice partners and sometimes even play against two at a time—something you won't see on most teams.

—Chinese teams have extensive strategic analysis about competition around the world and are pioneers in new table techniques.

Of course, China has famously intense training programs for lots of sports. Why it pays off so well here is because of that unmatched pool of high level players.

(from Business Insider UK: <http://uk.businessinsider.com/why-china-is-so-good-at-table-tennis-2016-8>)

Task E: Can you write at least five sentences about table tennis in China? The vocabulary below can help you frame your thoughts.

中国的乒乓球很棒。	zhōngguó de pīngpāng qiú hěn bàng.
很多运动员打乒乓球。	hěnduō yùndòngyuán dǎ pīngpāng qiú.
他们打的很好。	tāmen dǎ de hěn hǎo.
中国的乒乓球运动员很多。	zhōngguó de pīngpāng qiú yùndòngyuán hěnduō.
运动员的训练很严格。	yùndòngyuán de xùnlìan hěn yángé.



★	Task E complete	
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Task F: Write and draw!

Schools in China usually organize an annual sports day event in their school when all students assemble together to do various sports games. Watch this video to have a glimpse of how a middle school in Beijing organized their mini-Olympic Games. The video is here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/znbwmp3> (4 minutes long)

Think about whether you would you like to take part in the Olympic Games. The 2018 Winter Olympic Games were held in PyeongChang in Korea and in 2020, the Olympic Games are going to be held in Tokyo, Japan. If you had the opportunity to join the games, what sport would you like to do? Draw a picture and write about it!

You can say something based on the below questions:

你喜欢什么运动？ nǐ xǐhuān shénme yùndòng?

你经常做这个运动吗？ nǐ jīngcháng zuò zhège yùndòng ma?

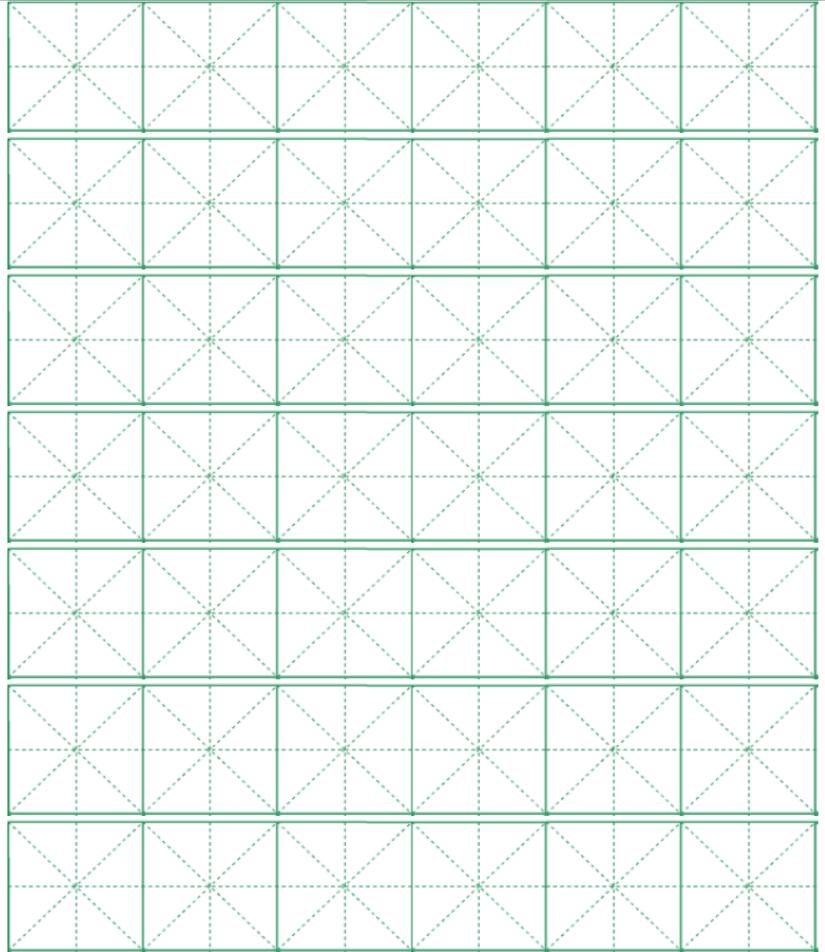
你参加过比赛吗？ nǐ cānjiāguò bǐsài ma?

你们国家的人都喜欢做什么运动？ nǐmen guójiā de rén dōu xǐhuān zuò shénme yùndòng?



☆ Task F complete

You can draw a picture of the sport here!



5. Chinese sports stars

Task G:

Now you will be introduced to a famous top athlete in China – Swimmer Sun Yang. Read this introduction of Sun Yang in Chinese and try to translate it into English.





Sun Yang, the swimming star in China	Translation into English
<p>孙杨,1991年12月1日在杭州出生。</p> <p>sūn yáng, 1991 nián 12 yuè 1 rì zài hángzhōu chūshēng.</p>	
<p>他是中国游泳明星。</p> <p>tā shì zhōngguó yóuyǒng míngxīng.</p>	
<p>中国人都为他骄傲。</p> <p>zhōngguó rén dōu wèi tā jiāo'ào.</p>	
<p>他2米高, 92公斤重。</p> <p>tā 2 mǐ gāo, 92 gōngjīn zhòng.</p>	
<p>他7岁开始学习游泳。</p> <p>tā 7 suì kāishǐ xuéxí yóuyǒng.</p>	
<p>2007年开始参加游泳比赛。</p> <p>2007 Nián kāishǐ cānjiā yóuyǒng bǐsài.</p>	
<p>他在伦敦奥运会获得两枚金牌。</p> <p>tā zài lúndūn àoyùnhuì huòdé liǎng méi jīnpái.</p>	
<p>在巴塞罗那, 他还成为男子400米,800米和1500米自由泳世界游泳锦标赛冠军。</p> <p>zài bāsèluōnà, tā hái chéngwéi nánzǐ 400 mǐ,800 mǐ hé 1500 mǐ zìyóuyǒng shìjiè yóuyǒng jǐnbiāosài guànjūn.</p>	
<p>孙杨在2013年世界锦标赛被授予最佳男运动员,成为亚洲第一个游泳历史上获得这一奖项的人。</p> <p>sūn yáng zài 2013 nián shìjiè jǐnbiāosài bèi shòuyǔ zuì jiā nán yùndòngyuán, chéngwéi yàzhōu dì yī gè yóuyǒng lìshǐ shàng huòdé zhè yī jiǎngxiàng de rén.</p>	
<p>孙杨喜欢听音乐。</p> <p>sūn yáng xǐhuān tīng yīnyuè.</p>	
<p>他希望2020年在东京奥林匹克运动会上取得好成绩。</p> <p>tā xīwàng 2020 nián zài dōngjīng àolínpǐkè yùndònghuì shàng qǔdé hǎo chéngjī.</p>	



Some words which could be useful in your translation:

杭州 hángzhōu Hangzhou

明星 míngxīng star

骄傲 jiāo'ào be proud of

开始 kāishǐ start

参加比赛 cānjiā bǐsài joining games

获得金牌 huòdé jīnpái win gold medals

巴塞罗那 bāsèluōnà Barcelona

成为冠军 chéngwéi guànjūn becoming champions

自由泳 zìyóuyǒng freestyle

世界锦标赛 shìjiè jǐnbīāosài World Championships

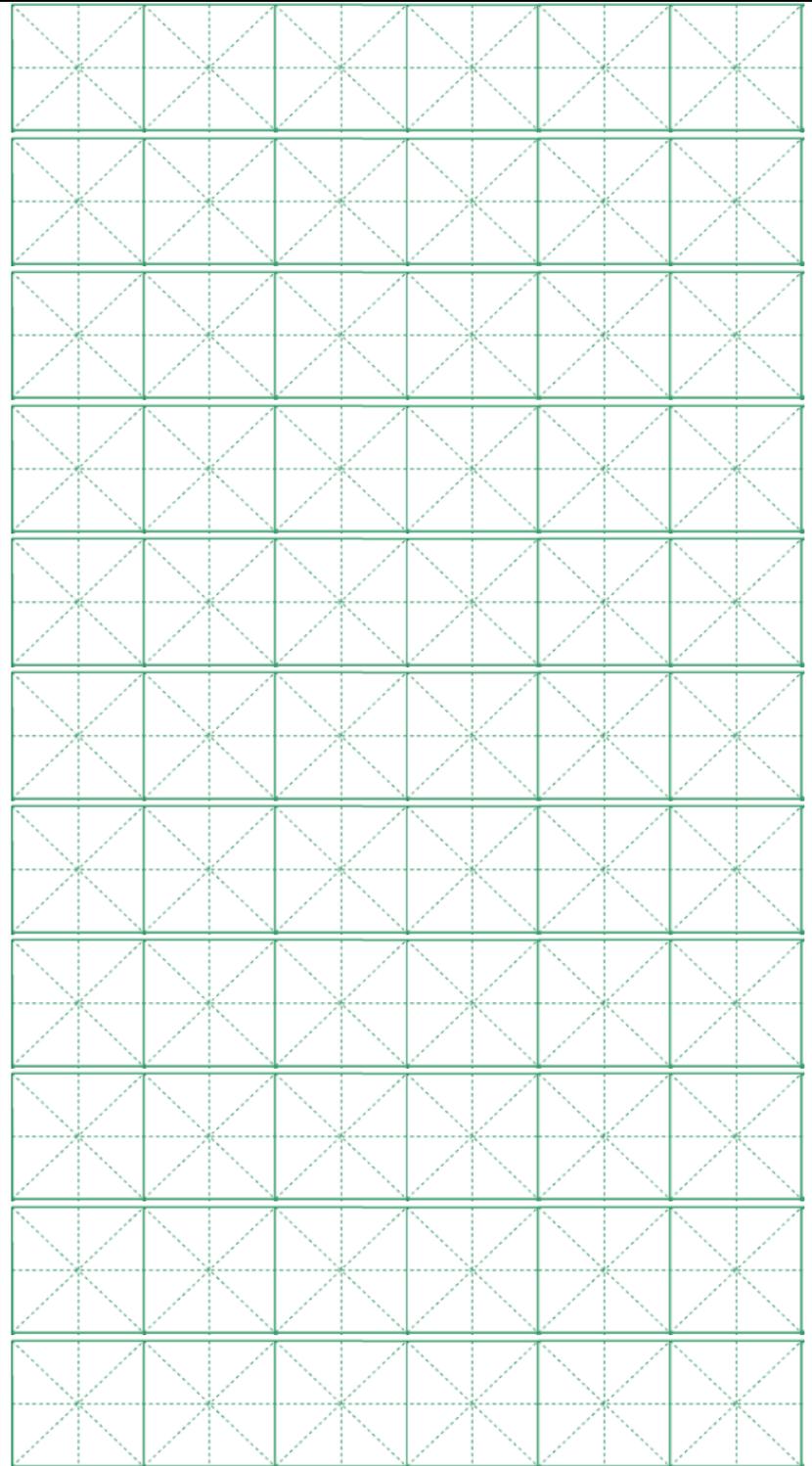
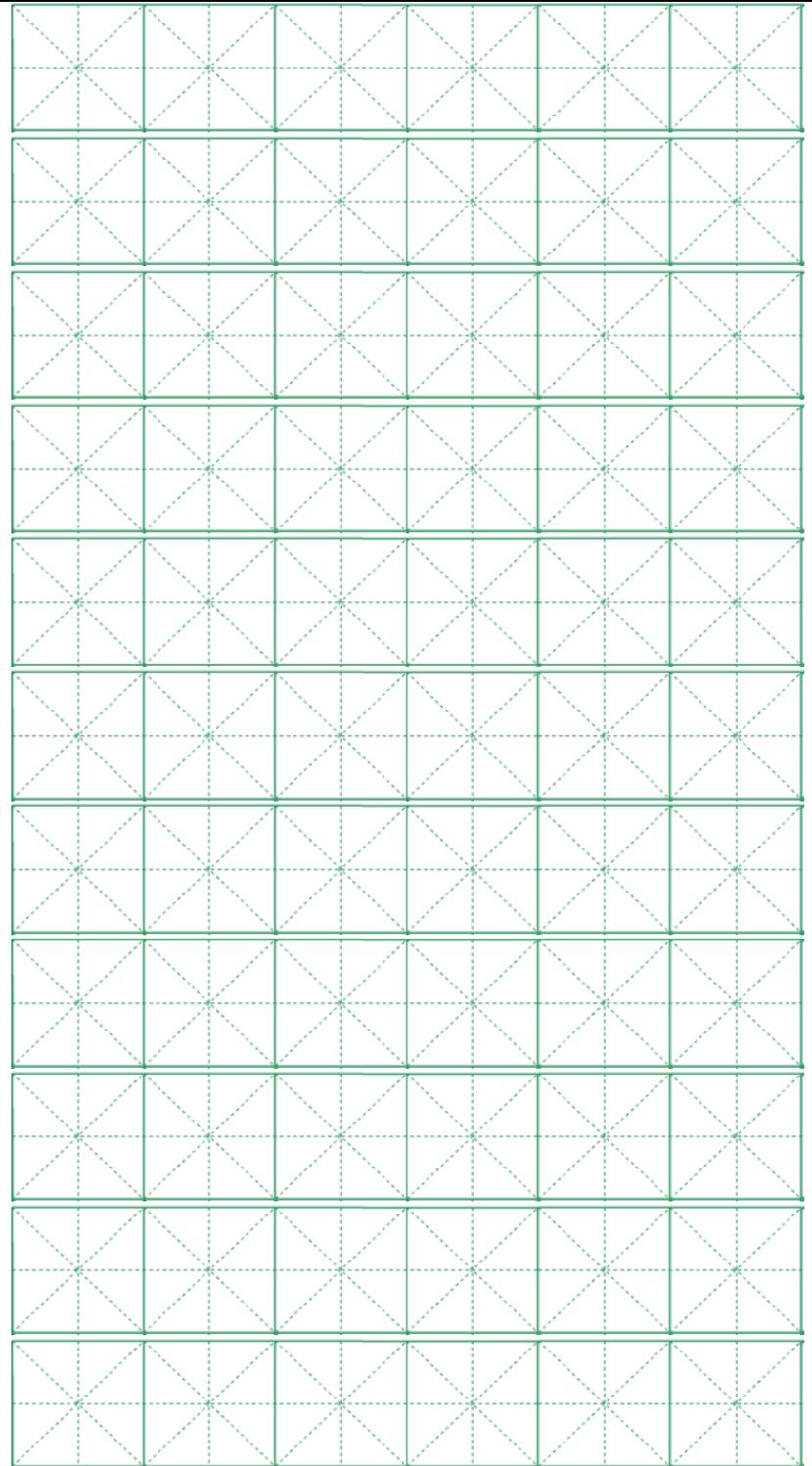
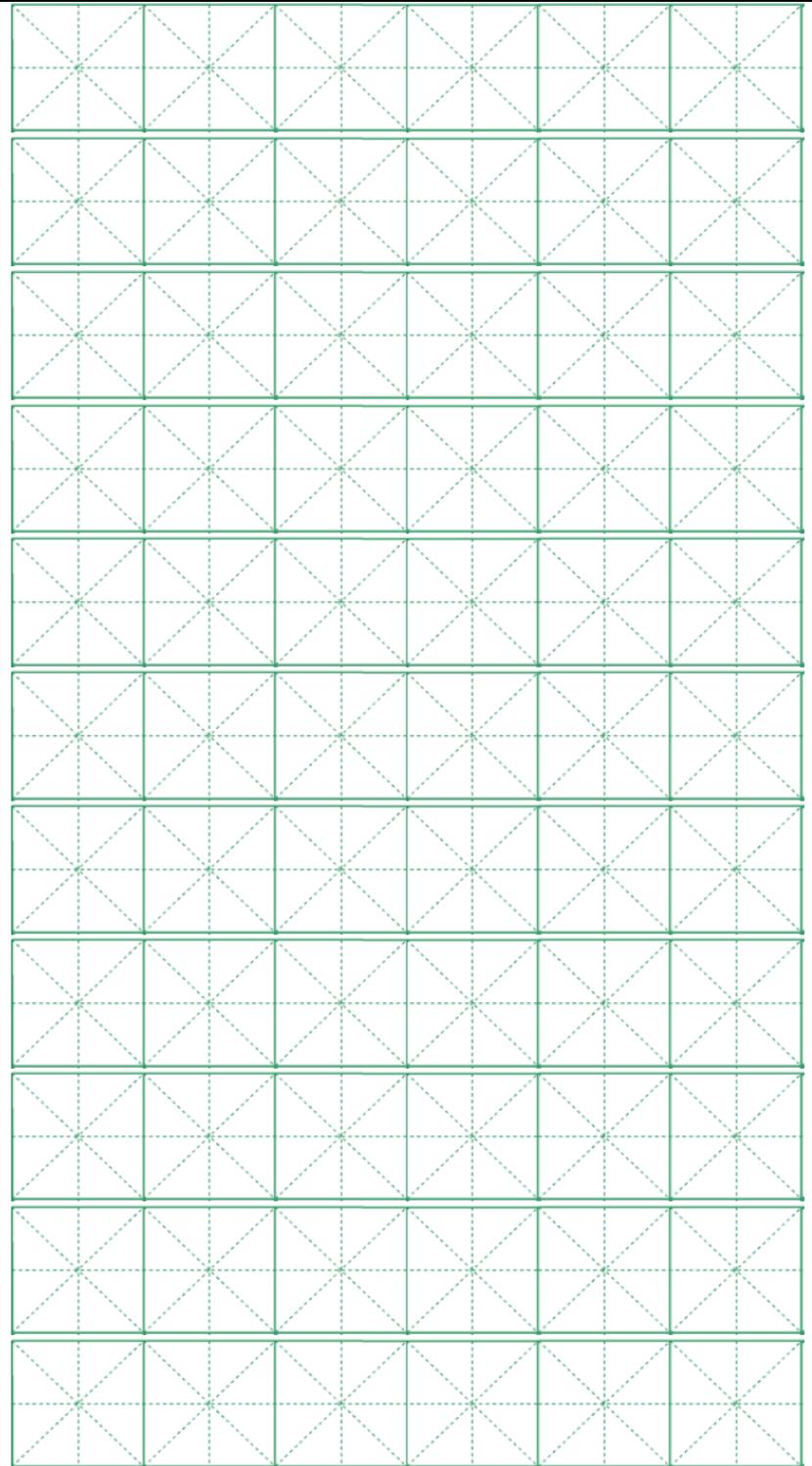
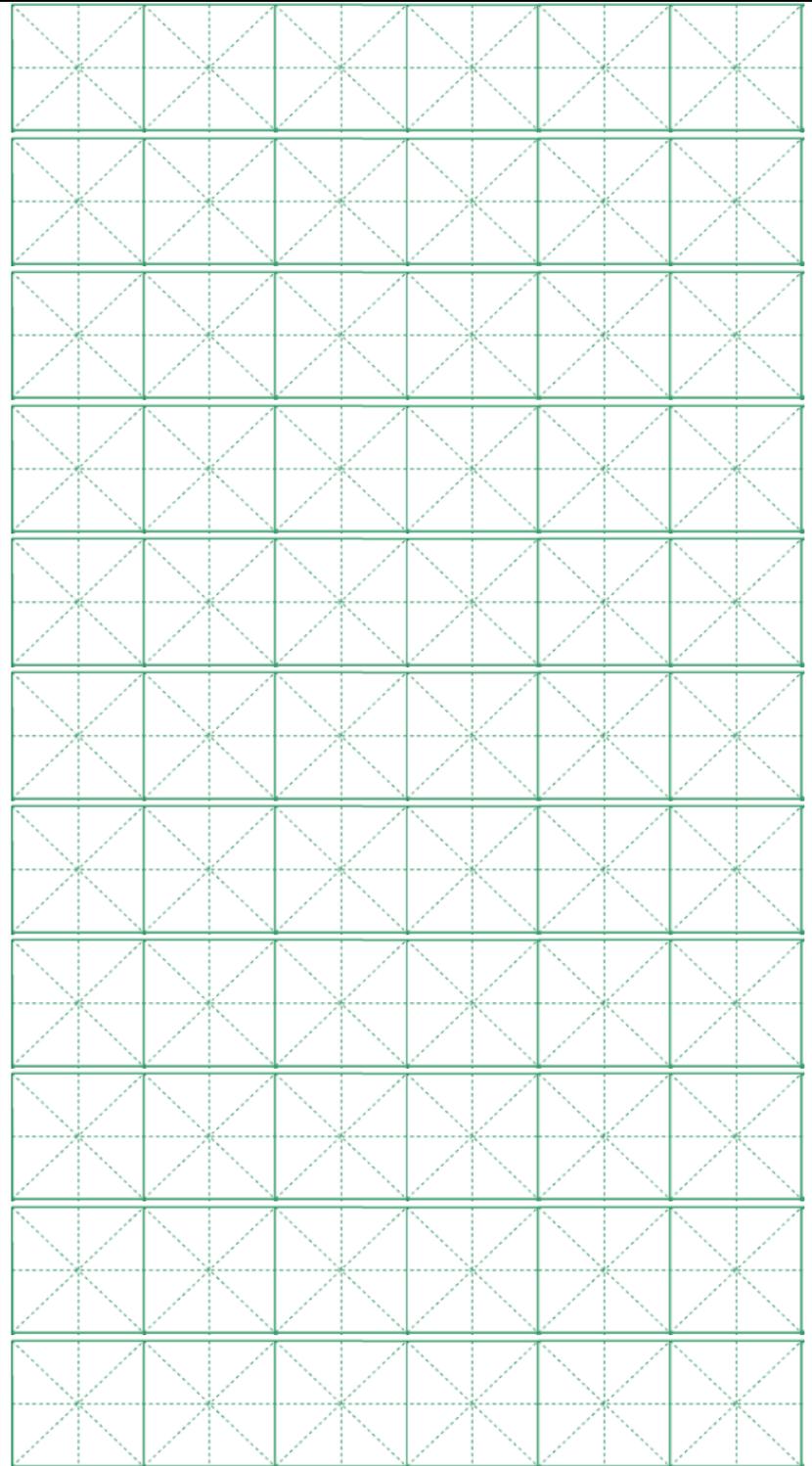
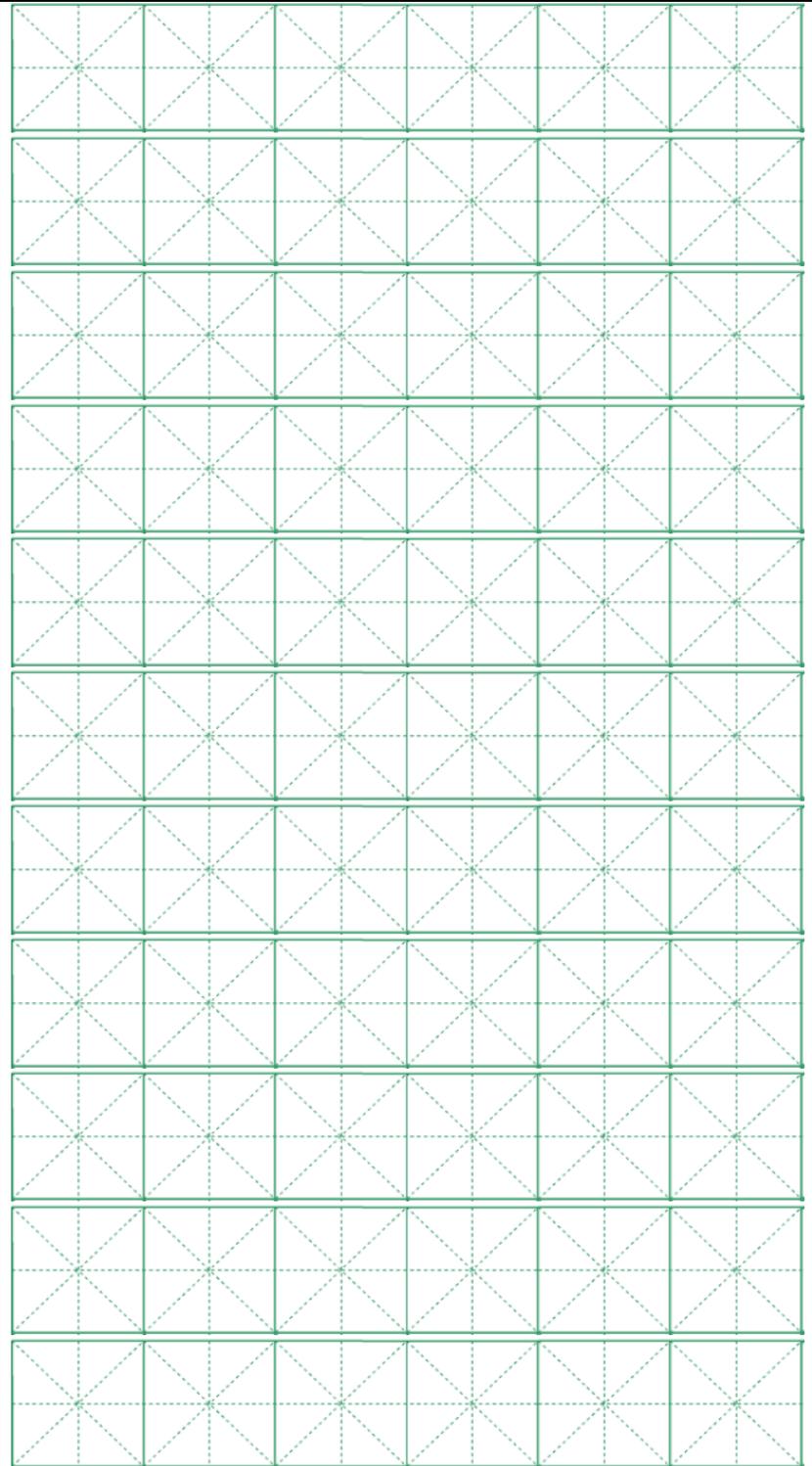
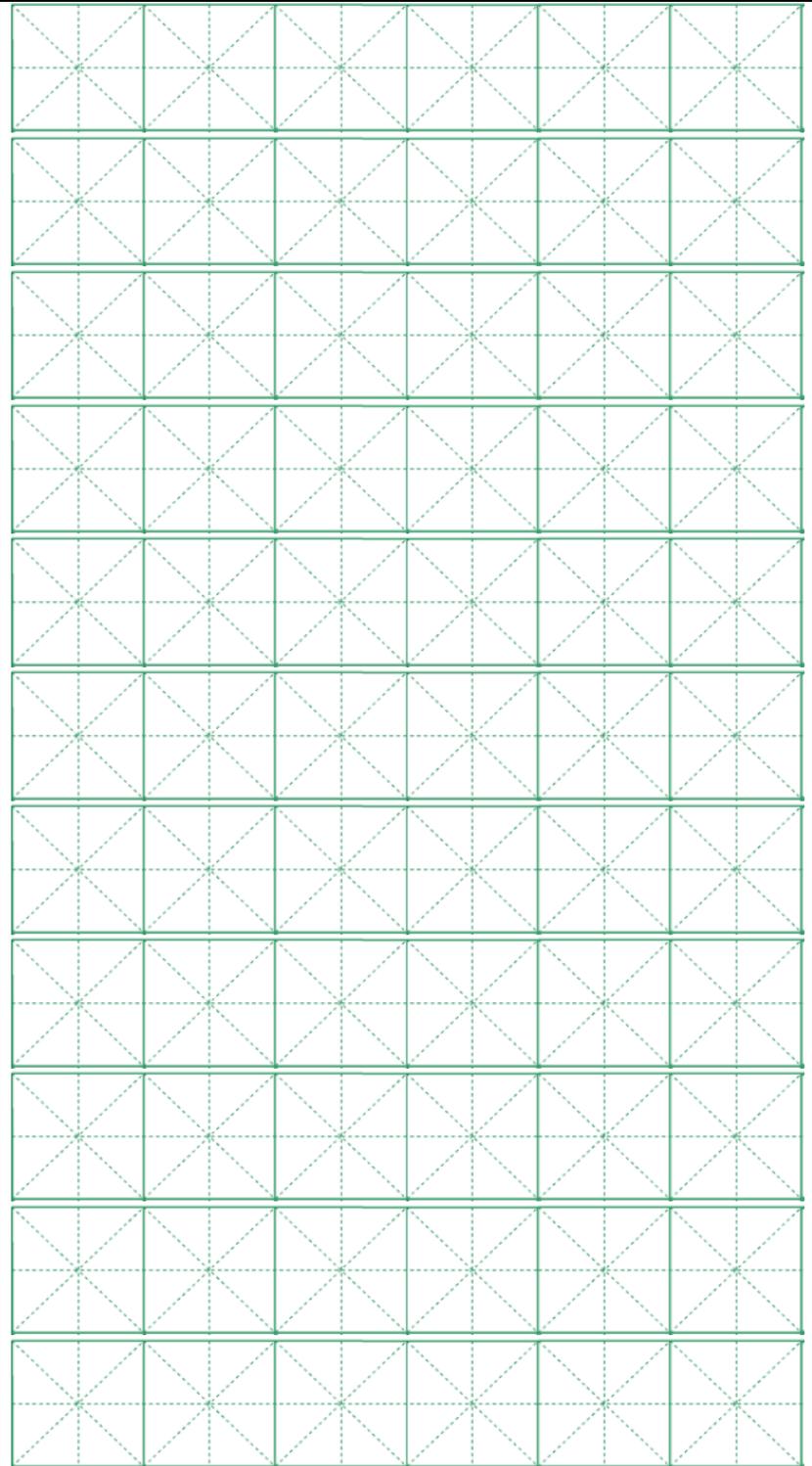
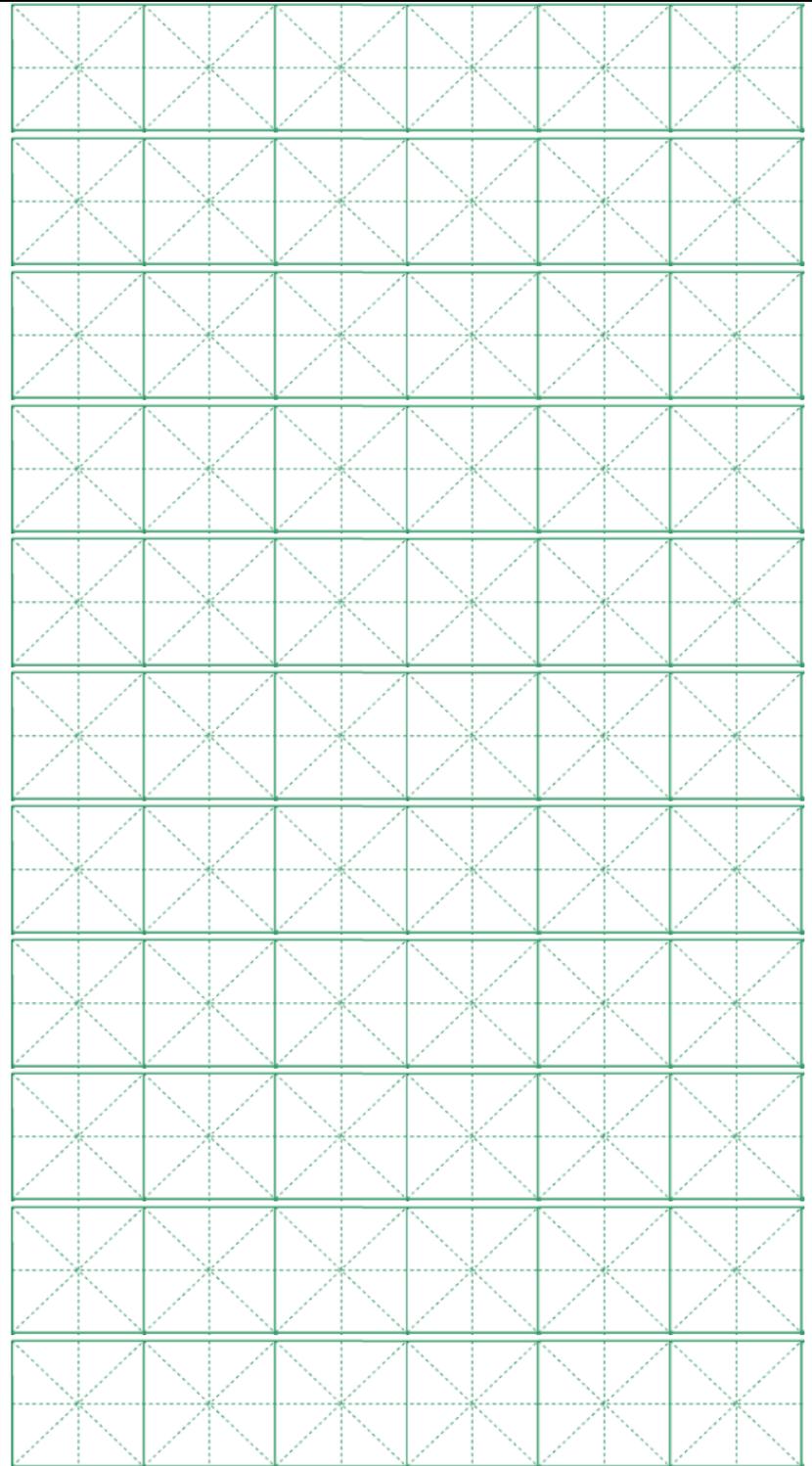
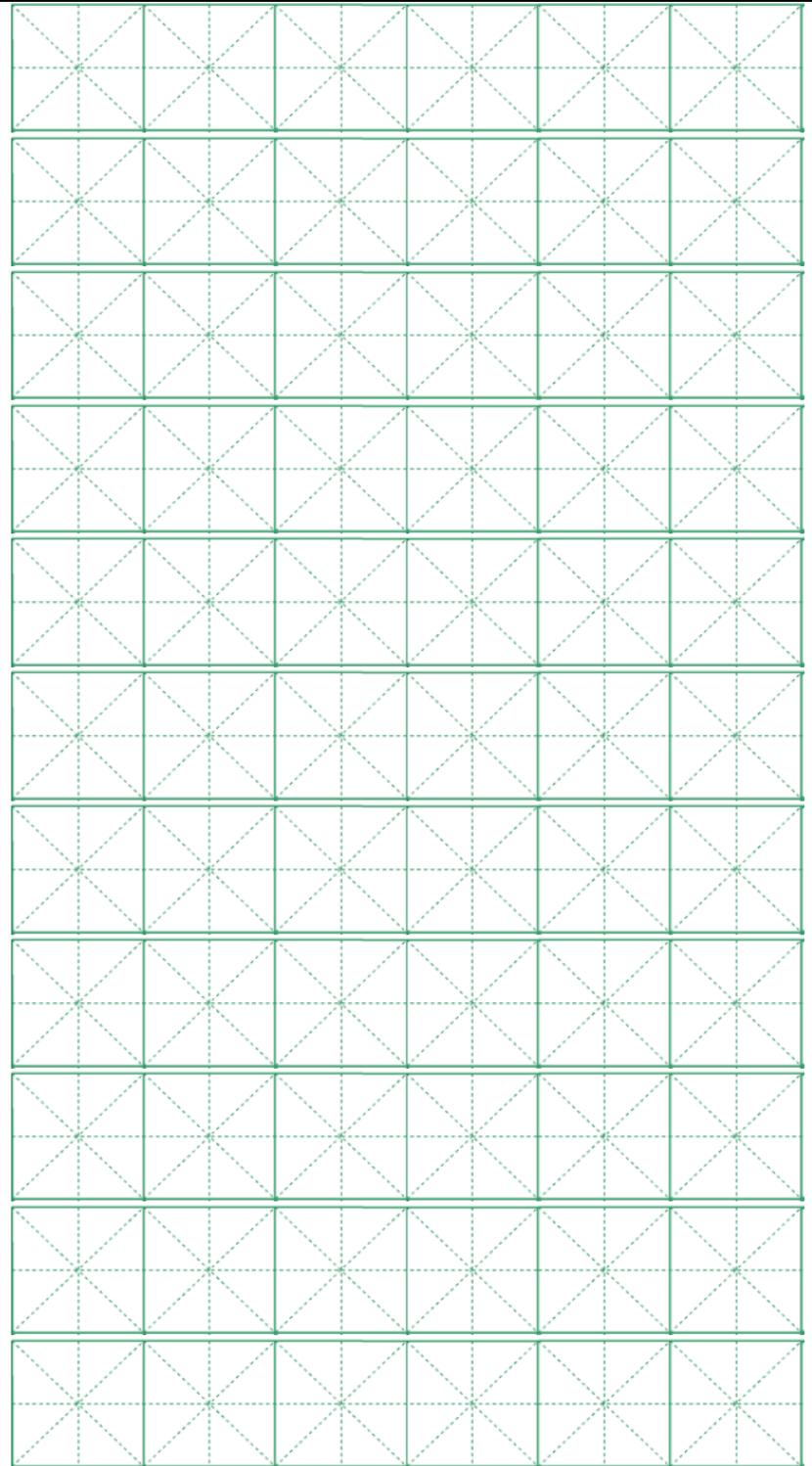
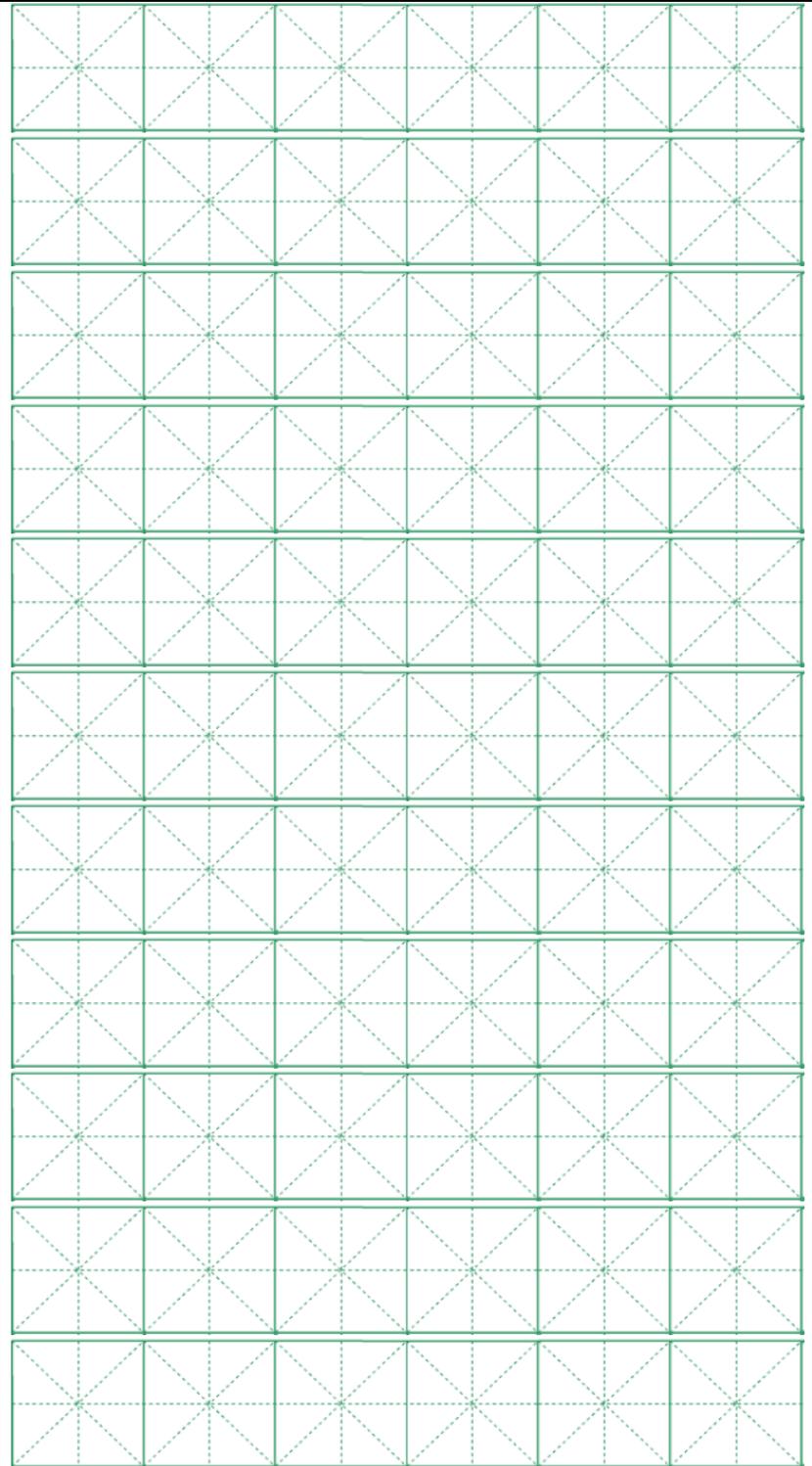
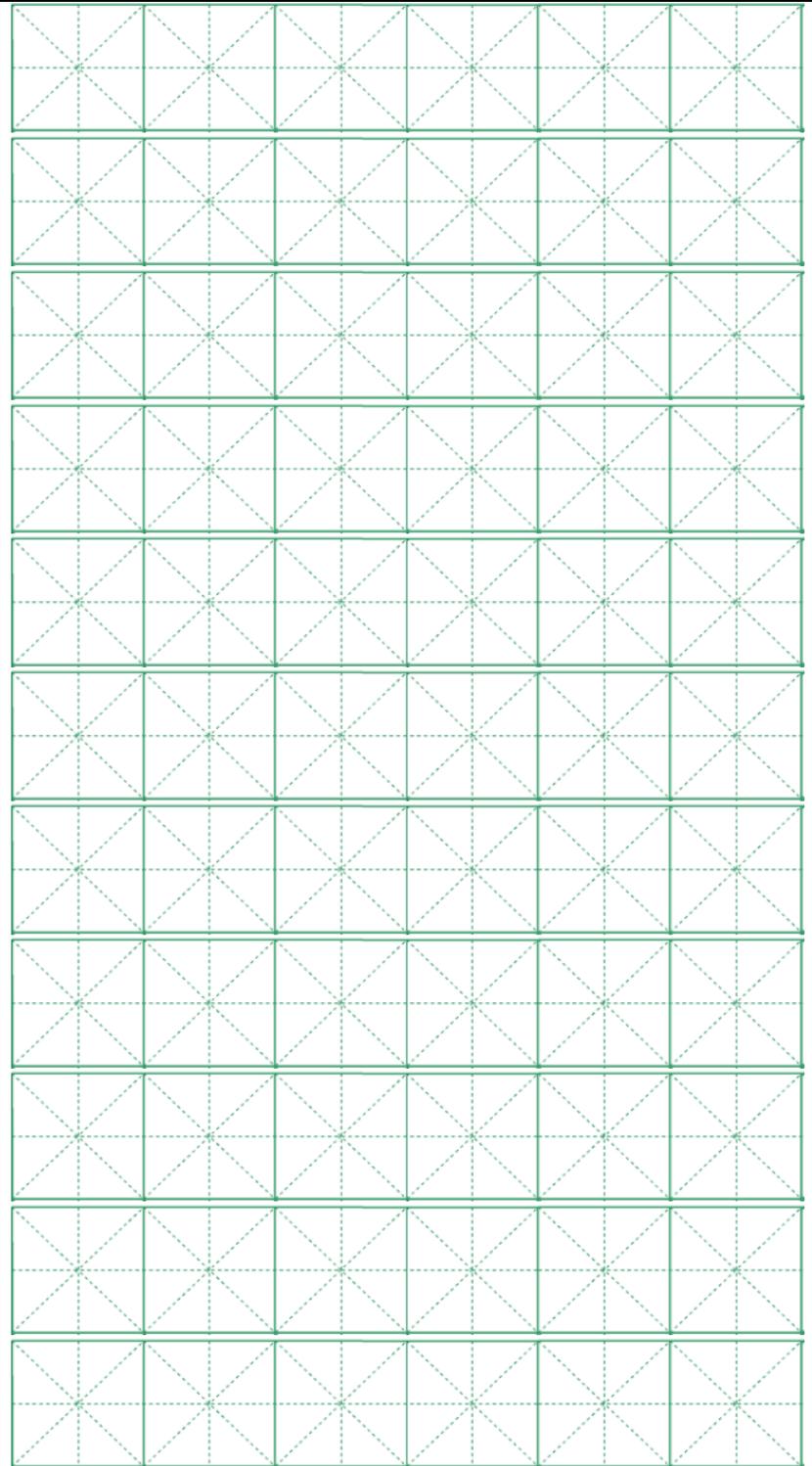
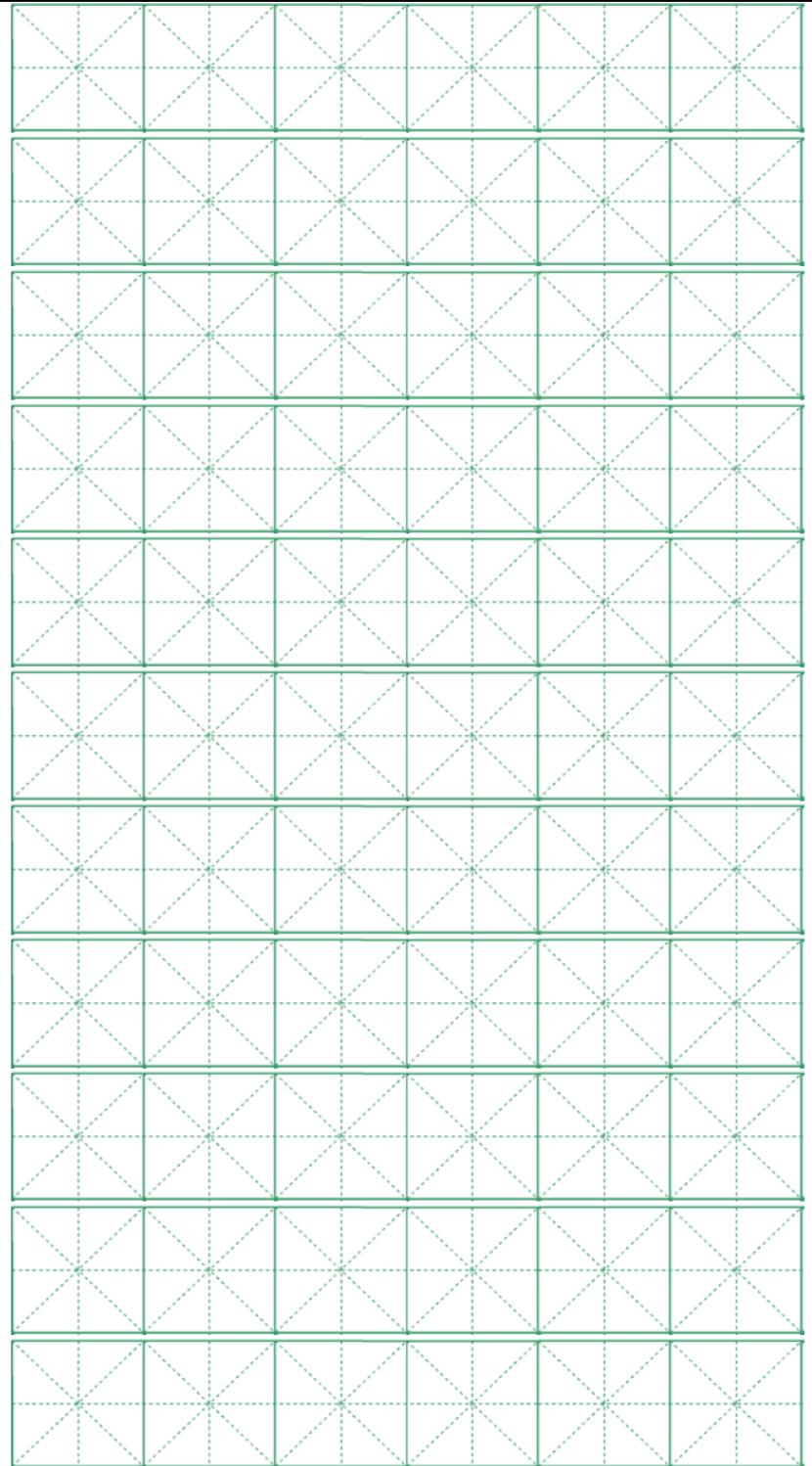
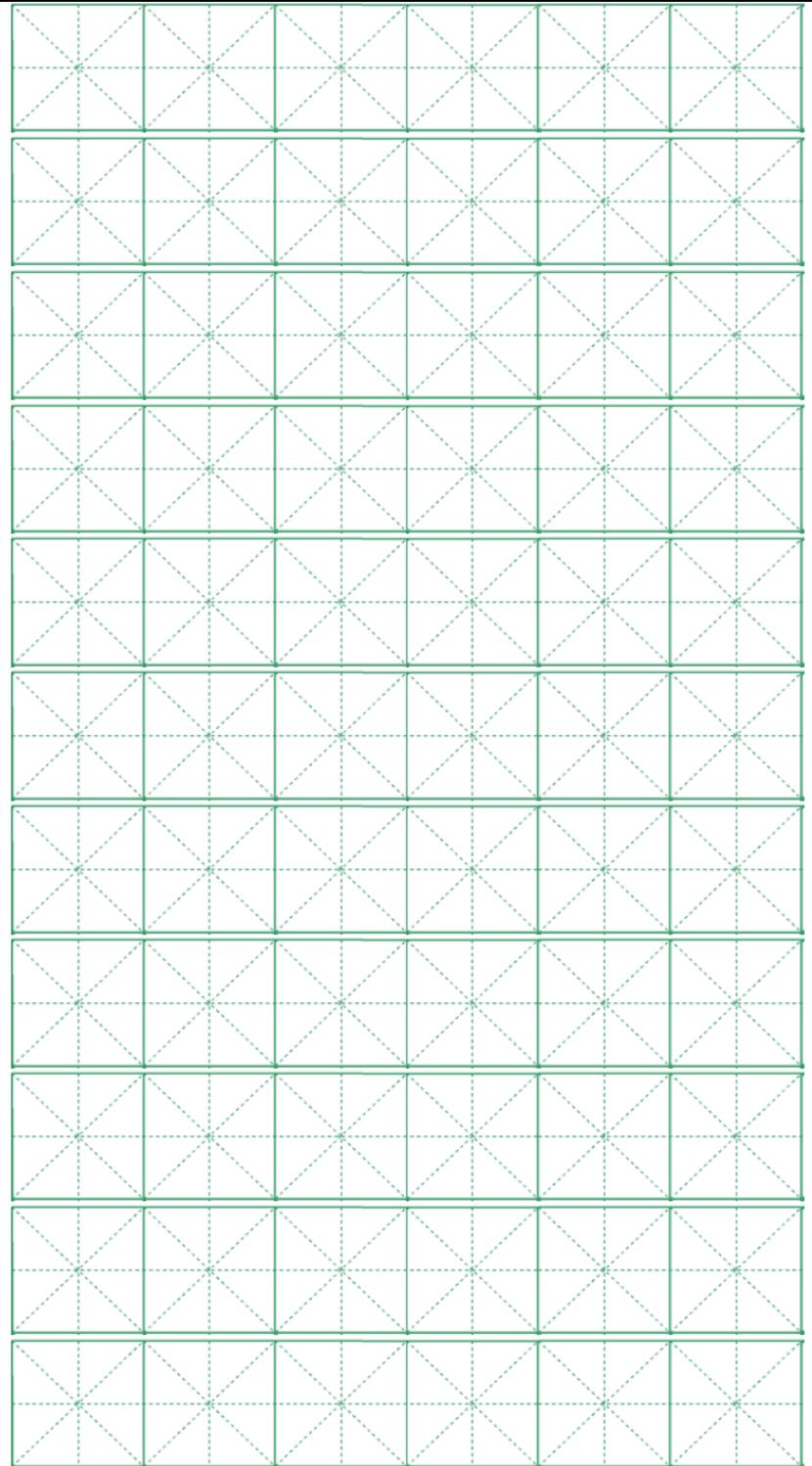
历史上 lìshǐ shàng in history

好成绩 hǎo chéngjī good results

★	Task G complete	
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Task H: We have just learnt about a famous Chinese athlete, Sun Yang. Do you like any athletes in your country? Could you draw a picture of him or her, and then describe the athlete and their backstory in Chinese? Challenging?! You can do it!



☆	Task H complete	
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Well done!



太棒了!

You're

Achievements

Congratulations on completing 1 MEP Project!

- You've got to know more sports in Olympic Games
- You are clear about some facts about Beijing and London Olympic Games
- You have learnt about a Chinese sports celebrity and you have also described your favourite sports star to your audiences.

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