



## Wendy Wu: Homecoming Warrior

A Disney Channel Original Movie  
Study Guide/Grades 3 - 6



### Program Summary:

In the heart of China, Shen, a young Buddhist monk, completes his training and accepts his assignment: He must go to the West and protect an unsuspecting girl from an approaching danger. The girl is Wendy Wu who happens to be living a pampered suburban life in California. She is the most popular girl in school and the frontrunner for homecoming queen -- that is, until classmate Jessica Dawson decides to mount a challenge. Meanwhile, Wendy's mom, who works at a museum, is putting together an exhibit of ancient Chinese relics. A mysterious box arrives containing an evil force with an evil mission -- to wreak havoc across the globe after first destroying the one person standing in the way. That person is Wendy Wu, the next descendant of the Yin warriors.

Shen, dressed in traditional garb, finds his way to Wendy's door and warns her of the danger. The strange visitor unnerves Wendy and when she tries to get rid of him, she discovers she possesses hidden powers. Shen is persistent and at their next meeting he explains to Wendy that she is the warrior who must stop this evil force. He is there to protect her, he says, and train her for battle. Wendy is understandably skeptical but comes to trust Shen. She agrees to prepare while at the same time remaining committed to winning the homecoming crown. Wendy finds an unexpected ally in her grandmother who understands the ancient legends of China. With her grandmother's encouragement, Wendy completes her training with help from mystic monks who teach her the strengths of the leopard (speed), the snake (flexibility), the crane (balance) and the tiger (aggression). Wendy's skills sharpen and Shen agrees she is ready to face the evil. But as fate would have it, the confrontation will coincide with homecoming; if Wendy fights, she must forfeit the crown. Wendy understands where her responsibility lies and fulfills her destiny. The title of homecoming queen goes to Jessica, but Wendy wins self-respect and discovers she has the strength to overcome evil with goodness.

### Objectives:

By viewing the program and participating in the activities, students will:

- Learn about China.
- Explore the importance of family traditions.
- Appreciate the role that grandparents play in a family.



### Pre-Viewing Questions:

- What do you know about China? Where is it located? How many people live there?
- What is a legend? Can you give any examples?
- What is homecoming? Why is it important to some students to be homecoming queen?

### Post-Viewing Questions:

- Why did Shen come to protect Wendy? What did he believe was his destiny?
- Why did Wendy give up her homecoming crown?
- What did Wendy discover about herself?

### Activity #1

#### Where in the World

*Curriculum Connection: Social Studies, Geography*

Wendy's family roots are in China. Display a large world map to the class and point out China. Ask students questions about the map such as: Which continent includes China? What body of water is east of China? What countries border China? Then compare China to the United States. The two countries are approximately the same size but China's population tops 1.2 billion compared to just over 300 million in the United States. How would the U.S. be different if it had four times as many people?

Take the activity further by using the Internet and/or encyclopedias to gather information about China. Have students create illustrations to present their findings and create a bulletin board display. Topics to research include population, economy, government, landmarks, geography, art and legends.

### Activity #2

#### Chinese American Family Traditions

*Curriculum Connection: Cultures, Social Studies*

Wendy's family is Chinese American. Discuss with students what that means. What other ethnic groups are represented in the class? Wendy's mom said she felt guilty about turning her back on Chinese culture. Discuss with students why she felt that way. What did she feel she had missed? Is it important for families to preserve their traditions? Why or why not? What about language, holidays, foods or behaviors?



Have students research their own family ethnicity and background and bring to class an item that represents that culture. Have students write a one-page story about their special item. Encourage them to include its origin, description, history and why it is special. They may add a photo or drawing of the item, if possible. Once complete, ask students to share their stories. You may also want to create a bulletin board display.

### Activity #3

#### The Footprints of Ancestors

*Curriculum Connection: Family, Culture, Social Studies*

Wendy Wu's ancestors included Yin warriors. Tell students that this activity will help them learn more about their ancestral roots. Give each student a copy of the Activity Sheet to take home. Ask them to use the Activity Sheet as a guide to interview a family member about an ancestor. Use the information to write a short story about the ancestor. Have students use maps, encyclopedias and/or the Internet to supplement the information. Invite students to include illustrations or photographs, if available. Create a montage of stories under the heading "The Footprints of Our Ancestors."

### Activity #4

#### The Terracotta Army

*Curriculum Connection: History, Culture, Language Arts*

The terracotta soldiers at the Fair Springs Civic Museum are part of a terracotta (clay) army of nearly 8,000 soldiers that were buried alongside the First Emperor of China over 2,000 years ago. Use books or the website listed in the Resources section to provide students with more information about this archeological treasure. Explain that thousands of people were involved in the preparation of the terracotta army. Have students select a point of view -- of the emperor, a craftsman, a planner of the tomb, a worker or an average citizen. Lead a town hall meeting about the elaborate burial project. Is it worthwhile? How much will it cost? How will the army serve the emperor after death? Will history remember their efforts?

### Activity #5

#### Special Celebrations

*Curriculum Connection: Cultural Legends, Celebrations*

Wendy's family enjoyed moon cakes. Moon cakes are a traditional part of the Chinese Moon Festival, a celebration of the harvest moon. Use the web link in the Resources section to learn



more about the legend behind the festival. Have students research other legends. As a creative writing exercise, have students make up their own legends about the moon. Have them illustrate their legends and share with the class. Create a bulletin board display called "Moon Legends."

**EXTENSION:** If you wish, share the recipe for moon cakes found on the website. To make moon cakes in class, bring in biscuits, cut them in half and spread with bean paste or jam.

### Activity #6

#### All About Grandparents

*Curriculum Connection: Families*

Have students meet with a grandparent (or another elder relative) and write about a favorite experience they shared or a story from his or her grandparent's life. Students may also create a scrapbook page about his or her grandparent. Be sure students share their work with their grandparents. Take the activity further by inviting a grandparent to your classroom to share stories with the students.





## Resources

### Websites:

Disney Channel's Cable in the Classroom web page.

[psc.disney.go.com/disneychannel/cableintheclassroom/index.html](http://psc.disney.go.com/disneychannel/cableintheclassroom/index.html)

Curriculum units on China for all grade levels.

[www.primarysource.org/library/cur\\_china.php](http://www.primarysource.org/library/cur_china.php)

Surfing the net with kids

[www.surfnetkids.com/china.htm](http://www.surfnetkids.com/china.htm)

Text and pictures about the terracotta army of the First Emperor of China.

[www.mc.maricopa.edu/dept/d10/asb/anthro2003/legacy/qin/slide1.html](http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/dept/d10/asb/anthro2003/legacy/qin/slide1.html)

A visual sourcebook for Chinese civilization.

[depts.washington.edu/chinaciv/contents.htm](http://depts.washington.edu/chinaciv/contents.htm)

Chinese myths and more.

[www.cdot.org/history/chinese\\_myths.htm](http://www.cdot.org/history/chinese_myths.htm)

Lesson plans and activities on China.

[k12east.mrdonn.org/China.html](http://k12east.mrdonn.org/China.html)

Celebrating grandparents.

[www.grandparents-day.com/](http://www.grandparents-day.com/)

### Books:

Chocolate. *Talk Talk: Legends of the World*. Publisher: Troll Communications, 1998.

Cotterell, Arthur and Buller, Laura. *Ancient China*. Publisher: DK Children, 2005.

Mead, Lucy. *Grandparents Are Special*. Publisher: Gramercy, 2000

O'Connor, Jane. *The Emperor's Silent Army: Terracotta Warriors of Ancient China*. Publisher: Viking Juvenile, 2002.

Williams, Suzanne. *Made in China: Ideas and Inventions from Ancient China*. Publisher: Pacific View, 1997.



# Activity Sheet

Find out all you can about an ancestor and write a short story.



Name

Where did they live?

Native language?

How did they dress?

What did they do?

Interesting facts or stories.

Anything else you learned?

