



Non-Fiction  
age 9 & under

# New Tales of the South China Sea

*Jordan Chan, 8, Beacon Hill School*

**T**he South China Sea is part of the Pacific Ocean and one of the largest bodies of water after the five oceans. The main countries surrounding the South China Sea are mainland China, and Taiwan, the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam. I am going to take you on a tour of the different regions and share with you their special culture, religion, food, music, sports, and art. Hope you enjoy the tour!

We will first go to China. I am going to tell you how interesting and fun China is. First, we are going to see some interesting art work. Pottery is one of them; they use clay to make beautiful pots and statues in all different shapes and sizes. They also have paintings which are really interesting and beautiful because of all the fascinating colours and styles. Hooray!

On to martial arts. People use a lot of strength when they perform martial arts. Kung fu and wushu are my favourites; they also use weapons. WOW! THAT IS AMAZING!

We now move on to leisure, some of the popular games in China are mah jong and the yo-yo. Lots of people play mah jong for pleasure and sometimes for money. But I'm starving now!

We are moving on to food. People in China like to eat rice, chicken, shrimp, tofu, fish, vegetable, duck, and so on. My favorite are vegetables. The best part is when all the delicious sauce drips out after I take a bite. YUM YUM! We need to say bye-bye to China now. Off to Vietnam!

We are going to check out some of the popular music in Vietnam. There are high-pitched operas, trong dong drums, cong chieng gongs and dan da lithophones. I saw a terrific show filled with energy from all the different instruments and songs!

Now we are going to look at some charming artwork at the galleries. I love the pottery, ceramics, calligraphies, traditional architecture and paintings! Wish I could bring some home with me!

Finally, I'm going to have some nice food in Vietnam. I enjoy eating the vegetables, rice, and the noodles with special fish sauce.

Now, let's watch another show after the heavy meal. The famous shows I have watched in Vietnam are lantern dances, fan dances, and platter dances.

Now on to Singapore. I am really fat now after all the delicious food from the other countries! This is going to get me moving! In Singapore, there are great sports like football, rugby, swimming, badminton, basketball, table tennis, squash, gymnastics and volleyball. Since swimming is my favorite, I will join their team for a race!

Lastly, in the Philippines, I learnt about their different religions. I saw people go to churches and to temples to pay respect to their god.

Their cultural music and dancing include tinkling, rondalla, harana, kundiman and kulintang which were being performed by different groups.

During their free time, people enjoyed sports like volleyball, football, soccer, billiards, ten-pin bowling, badminton and sipa (a traditional native sport).

I had a lot of fun and learned so many new things when I visited these countries around the South China Sea. Hope you also had a nice ride with me; I am going back to Hong Kong! Until next time...



# Non-Fiction

age 10 to 11

# Hong Kong

*Joshua Ellis-Einhorn, 10, Carmel School*

**M**y first day in Hong Kong was the best day of my life. It was the day I was born. Since then I have explored a lot of Hong Kong, and even though it is a small place, I haven't seen all of this big city. One thing about Hong Kong I don't understand is how such a small island has so many big buildings, so many types of transportation and SO MANY PEOPLE.

The first thing you will notice in Hong Kong is that there are a lot of modern buildings. Many of them are skyscrapers and a few of them are famous. The IFC in Central used to be the tallest building in Hong Kong, but people are already building a new skyscraper that is even taller. I can name two famous buildings that are both modern: the Bank of China and the HSBC building. The HSBC building is famous for its exoskeleton. By having an exoskeleton, it can be torn apart and reconstructed really easily. The famous architect I.M. Pei designed the Bank of China building. Personally, I think it is the best modern building in Hong Kong. To me, it looks like a huge knife stabbing in to the ground.

In between seeing all these buildings you will need to take some sort of transportation. If you want a cheap and reliable way to get from one place to another, you could always use the Mass Transit Railway (MTR). Although almost every big city has its own subway system, the MTR is unique. To get from one side of Hong Kong to the other taking the MTR, you only need to switch trains three times. If you don't like being underground and you want to cross the sea, I would recommend using the Star Ferry. I love the Star Ferry because it bobs around and it is pretty fun. If you get seasick and love a good hike, use the Peak Tram. I recommend taking a hike down because it is a long hike. The Peak Tram is a good experience because it is very steep. The only thing I remember doing at the Peak is taking the tram up to the top. My favourite method of transport is by using the escalators. This long escalator system is located outside. I think we are the only country that has them.

Did you know there are about seven million people in Hong Kong? Once you begin walking around Hong Kong, you will see many different nationalities of people from all over the world. If you are coming to Hong Kong for the first time, I bet you want to have some sort of Chinese experience. Try Chinese food like Dim Sum. There are also many other people like Indians and Jews in Hong Kong and you can try their food too.

If I were leaving Hong Kong, I'd be sad, but I don't have to worry about that for seven years, until I go to college. Hong Kong is pretty nice. After all, who doesn't like lots of nice architecture? And who doesn't enjoy having many choices of transportation? And who doesn't want to meet people from around the world? You can do all that in Hong Kong. Hong Kong is a great place.