

# Mandarin Chinese

## 2018年6月20日

Beginners Class

# Country, continent, nationality

- We began by going over the name of some countries
- Remember that the character for ‘country/land’ is 国 guo2 which is made up of the character for ‘jade’ 玉 (to represent the emperor) enclosed securely within borders
- China is ‘middle land’, America ‘beautiful land’ (with the character for beautiful 美 being made up of ‘big’ 大 and ‘sheep’! 羊)
- Japan 日本 is ‘sun root’ – ie, where the sun originates each morning
- France 法国 is ‘method land’. This is made up of ‘go’ 去 and ‘water’ – because the best method of travelling in ancient times was by water.

# Countries – vocab

英国

yīng guó



中国

zhōng guó



美国

měi guó



日本

rì běn



法国

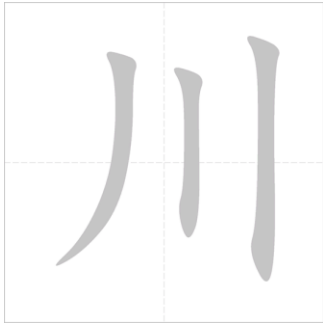
fǎ guó



加拿大

jiā ná dà





1) This character – chuan1 - is one word for 'river'. You'll know it already from the name of the city (often anglicised to 'Szechuan') but which literally means 'four rivers'



2) Here and elongated form of 'small' 州 has been placed to the left of 'chuan' to create the meaning of 'district' or 'region'. It's pronounced zhou1



3) Here the 3-dot water component has been added to zhou to create the character which means 'continent' – a 'region across the water'. The pronunciation stays the same: zhou1

You'll see it in the names of lots of regions, such as the Chinese city of Guangzhou 广州 or the name for California 加州:

## 生词 – new vocab

- 亚洲 Asia yà zhōu
- 洲 continent zhōu
- 美 beautiful (USA) měi
- 南 south nán
- 北 north běi
- 德 de (Germany) dé
- 非洲 Africa fēizhōu
- 欧洲 Europe ōuzhōu
- 南非 South Africa nán fēi
- 来 to come lái

# 生词

- 马来西亚 Malaysia
- 羊 Sheep/goat
- 澳大利亚 Australia (phonetic)
- 国 country

mǎ lái xī yà  
yàng  
ào dà lì yǎ  
guó

## - homework

- Learn the 'geography' words from this lesson using the following quizlet:
- <https://quizlet.com/302992084/geography-vocab-cme-unit-11-flash-cards/>
- Practise it till you can fluently say the word in Chinese from the English prompt and say the English word from the Chinese prompt.