

LiangLiang's World of Jade

By Liangzhu Museum
(Liangzhu Research Institute)



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Preface

Welcome to "Liangliang's World"!

This picture-book series unfolds through the eyes of Liangliang, a young girl who journeys through the ancient Liangzhu Kingdom to discover its life and beauty.

The Liangzhu Culture, which existed from around 5,300 to 4,300 years ago, flourished around the Lake Taihu basin in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River. During this period, people had already developed advanced rice farming, clear social organization, and a shared spiritual belief. As the culture's center of power and belief, the Archaeological Ruins of Liangzhu City show us a clear picture of what Chinese civilization looked like 5,000 years ago, and provide an outstanding example of early urban culture in human history.

This series aims to help readers gain a deeper understanding of the Liangzhu Culture and the origins of early Chinese civilization through vivid and informative stories. The English edition marks the first step in sharing the story of Liangzhu with readers around the world. In the translation process, we have sought to preserve both the scientific accuracy and the engaging spirit of the original, while bridging cultural differences so that the charm of Liangzhu may be appreciated by families and children everywhere.

Now, please turn the page and join Liangliang on a journey across time and space, into the heart of an ancient civilization that continues to inspire us today.

Liangzhu Museum

November 2025



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to Liangliang's
world of jade!



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A Special Mission

After holding a big feast for the master potters of Miaoqian Village, Liangzhu King was full of joy. He was glad that his people could use the fine pottery made by these skilled hands. With the pottery well cared for, the king turned his thoughts to jade. Soon after, he called the young prince and gave him a special task.



• Gaochengdun Cemetery

• Yangtze River


Lake Taihu

• Zhongchuming Workshop

■ Liangzhu City

• Miaoqian Village

Qiantang River



My child, jade is sacred. It is the bridge that lets us speak with the divine. As a prince, you must learn how jade is made. I will send you to the Zhongchuming Workshop to study jade making. Work hard and do your best.


Yes, Father.




The Zhongchuming Site is in Zhejiang, about 18 kilometers southwest of Liangzhu City. It was a cluster of jade workshops, showing how the Liangzhu people made jade on a large scale and transported it over long distances.

The Gaochengdun Site is in Jiangsu, about 200 kilometers from Liangzhu City. The grave goods found there show that Gaochengdun and the city kept close ties.

Accompanied by guards, the young prince boarded a canoe bound for Zhongchuming Workshop. As they passed Miaoqian Village, he remembered Liangliang, who had promised to craft a grand *ding* for him. He decided to stop by for a visit.



That looks like Liangliang's house up ahead. I wonder how my *ding* is coming along. Let's go check on it.

A colorful illustration of a man in traditional Chinese attire standing in a wooden boat on a pond. The man has a mustache and is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, a brown woven vest, and brown boots with white laces. He holds a long wooden pole with a blue arrowhead. The pond is filled with green lily pads, pink and purple lotus flowers, and several white swans. In the background, there are green hills, a small village with traditional houses, and a blue sky with white clouds. A speech bubble is positioned above the man.

Yes, Your Highness.
Zhongchuming is still
far away, so please
pay attention to time.



This *huang* is so pretty!
It's the most beautiful
jade I've ever seen.

Um... it's... it's
made by hitting
it with rocks!

Liangliang, jade
is so hard. How
can anyone make
something like
this?

In Miaoqian Village, everyone heard that Liangliang had received a jade *huang* from the queen. The villagers gathered to admire her precious gift. As the children gazed at it, new questions popped into their minds.




Archaeologists have unearthed large numbers of jade at Liangzhu Culture sites, which is classified into two main types: true jade and jade-like stones. True jade is mostly found in the tombs of kings and nobles. Jade-like stones are more common in mid-status burials.



Pfft! You're just making that up. I don't believe you!

Hmph! It really is!



Just then, the village came alive with excitement as the young prince and his companions arrived. The arguing children immediately rushed to his side.

Look, the prince is here!