

LiangLiang's World of Pottery

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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Liangliang's pottery
world!



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The Liangzhu Kingdom



About 5,000 years ago, a powerful civilization called the Liangzhu Culture thrived in the lower Yangtze River region surrounding Lake Taihu. It became one of the earliest state-level societies in China. Over 1,000 sites have been discovered, like Liangzhu City, Sidun Settlement, Fuquanshan Settlement, and Miaoqian Village. Liangzhu City was the heart of the Liangzhu kingdom's power and beliefs. The city was built with a three-part layout: a palace area, an inner city, and an outer city. Just 5 kilometers away was Miaoqian, a typical village. Studying this site helps us understand the daily lives of the Liangzhu people.

Does life in the Liangzhu period sound mysterious?

Let's meet Liangliang, a girl from the Miaoqian Village. Her name "Liang" is also the first character in "Liangzhu." In Chinese, "Liang" means "good," while "Liangzhu" means "beautiful islands surrounded by water." Through the stories of Liangliang, you'll discover their lives were not so different from ours!



Mom, I'm hungry!
What's for dinner?

A Family of Potters

Liangliang's family lived in Miaoqian Village outside Liangzhu City. Her grandfather was a respected pottery master. While her father was away building dams, her mother stayed busy spinning thread and weaving cloth.





The Liangzhu people thrived in a warm and humid climate, with rivers flowing everywhere and resources all round. They built homes near water, farmed rice, crafted pottery and jade, and wove textiles. Their life were full and happy.

Not yet, sweetie! I need to spin the thread first, then weave it together to make the cloth.

Mom, look how tall I've grown! Can you make me some new clothes?



Liangliang loved visiting her grandfather's pottery workshop.
One day, she playfully balanced a freshly made clay bowl on her head... until it crashed to the ground!



Silly girl, let's make a new one.

Grandpa, I broke the bowl... What should we do now?

I'd like to make a prettier one!

Three Ways Liangzhu People Made Pottery



1 Hand-shaping

This is the oldest and simplest method. A potter shapes the clay directly with their hands.



2 Coiling

With this method, the potter rolls clay into rope-like shapes and coils them on a slow-turning wheel.



3 Fast Wheel Throwing

This was the main method used by the Liangzhu people. A potter would use a rapidly spinning wheel to quickly shape soft clay, creating symmetrical pottery.

