

Enrichment Activity 1

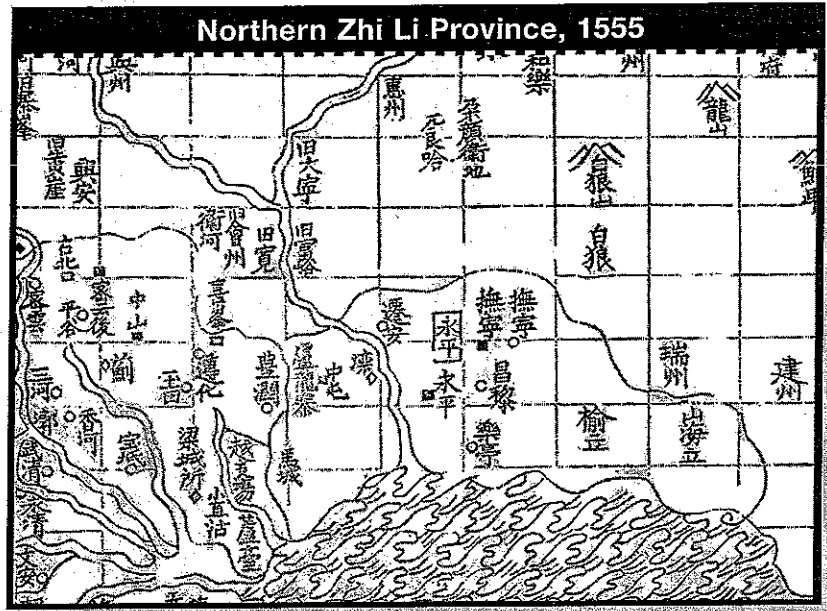


Chinese Mapmaking

The people of China have been making maps since ancient times. Their first maps were copied by hand. Archaeologists found two remarkable examples of hand-copied maps in 1973 while studying a 2,000-year-old Han dynasty tomb in the Hunan province. By A.D. 1155, printed maps had appeared in China.

At the right is a detail of a map included in the *Guang Yu Tu*, an important Chinese atlas by Luo Hongzian printed in 1555. The atlas covered all Chinese geographical knowledge of that time and served as China's major reference for cartographic information for the next 250 years. It included information

on population, taxation, and trade. Luo's maps of Chinese provinces and other countries were extremely accurate in the scale and shape of landforms because of the grid system developed by earlier Chinese cartographers. They also used symbols to represent geographic and human features, and the list of these symbols in the *Guang Yu Tu* is an early example of a map key. On this map rivers are depicted flowing into a sea, represented by waves.



DIRECTIONS: Use the article above and study the map to answer the questions below.

- What three physical features are found on the map? _____

- Why do you think Luo used 3 different symbols—circles, squares, and diamonds—to represent settlements? _____

- What might the single curved lines represent? _____

- In what century was the *Guang Yu Tu* published? _____

- Why were rivers prominently featured in maps of ancient China? _____

- Why would early Chinese leaders have felt that it was important to make maps of their territory? _____
