

# CHINA PROPHECY: SHANGHAI

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These are suggestions for classroom activities for before and after your visit to The Skyscraper Museum. While students can have a constructive and informative visit without any of the background knowledge outlined here, going through some of these activities may help provide context for what they see, and allow for greater confidence when asking questions and participating in discussions as part of their tour.

## BEFORE YOU VISIT

- > Prepare students to compare Shanghai and New York.
- > Provide them with maps of both cities, allowing them to compare their location and place them in their mind.
- > Learn about New York City's buildings and history by looking at our visual archive ([www.skyscraper.org/viva](http://www.skyscraper.org/viva)). Consider focusing on early buildings and landmarks so these can be compared to the newer structures in Shanghai.
- > Students may better enjoy the exhibit if they are familiar with some or all of the following terms:
  - POPULATION DENSITY: the degree to which an area is filled with people; a measurement of the number of people living in a set area.
  - VERTICAL DENSITY: a three dimensional measurement of the number of people living in a set area; a measurement of how many people are stacked on top of each other, as in a skyscraper.
  - LAND RECLAMATION: creating new land in a place where there once was water, such as a sea or riverbed. In the United States this process is known as landfill. It can be done using sand and dirt, as well as garbage.
  - GREEN BUILDING: a Green building is designed and constructed with minimal negative impact to the environment with an emphasis on conservation of resources, energy efficiency and healthful interior spaces.

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## AFTER YOU VISIT

- > Discuss some of the towers prominently represented in the exhibit. Consider letting students perform an exploratory webquest to find images, architects, dates of construction, etc. for each structure. See what students remember from the tour. To refresh their memory you can look at our exhibit website (<http://www.skyscraper.org/chinaprophecy>).
  - JIN MAO TOWER
  - SHANGHAI WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER
  - SHANGHAI TOWER
- > Create a master Venn diagram (or other compare/contrast tool) using students' notes and knowledge of New York and notes and recollections from the Museum visit. Help them to consider population and population density, geography, number of skyscrapers, timelines of expansion, designated green spaces, approaches to preservation, and other urban features as age appropriate.
- > Students should predict what Shanghai may look like in 100 years. In the exhibit New York Modern, the Museum explored what people imagined New York might look like in the future, predictions that were in some ways fulfilled by Shanghai. This theme is explored in the current exhibit to some extent, and in looking at Shanghai Tower students will have had a glimpse of how Shanghai imagines their own immediate future. To structure the activity, give students the same categories outlined in the Venn Diagram activity (above).