

鄭和

Extraordinary Chinese People

Ancient times

Zheng He

鄭和



Stanford
House

Extraordinary Chinese People ~ Ancient Times Zheng He

This is an authorized English version published under special agreement with the proprietor for sale in Hong Kong SAR, China; Macau SAR, China and Taiwan, China.

Original Simplified Chinese version
©2023 by Hebei Science & Technology Press
Written and illustrated by LANSEXIAOXIANG

English version
©2026 by Stanford House
Rm 611-612, 6th Floor, Citimark, 28 Yuen Shun Circuit, Shatin,
New Territories, Hong Kong
Tel: 852 2330 2533 Fax: 852 2330 3598

ISBN 978-962893319-8

All rights reserved. No part of this book or its images may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means without written permission from the proprietor.

Extraordinary Chinese People

Ancient times

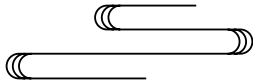
Zheng He



*Stanford
House*



Zheng He (鄭和)
(1371-1433) led seven
great voyages across
Asia and Africa, making
him one of the greatest
explorers in history.



Zheng He's real name
was Ma He (馬和). He
lived during the Ming
Dynasty. He was not only
an adventurer but also
a diplomat, someone
who built friendships
between countries.
His expeditions greatly
expanded China's trade.



Zheng He was born in Kunming, Yunnan, into a noble family. As a child, he was curious about the world and loved stories about the ocean. He dreamed of sailing on big ships, just like his ancestors. Little Ma He folded paper boats and floated them on the river, watching them drift away, imagining faraway lands.



Was Zheng He born into a poor family?



At the age of ten, Ma He built more than thirty wooden toy ships out of scraps of wood. He tied them behind a bigger boat, pretending they were a real fleet.

He climbed aboard and called to his friends, 'Would you like to be my sailors and sail with me?'





His friends eagerly grabbed the oars and joined him. Together, they rowed their little fleet forward.

Adults on the shore were amazed by the children's creativity.



But his peaceful days did not last. After the Ming army conquered Yunnan, many families lost their homes.

At just eleven years old, Ma He was captured and taken to Nanjing. There, he was forced to become a servant in the palace.



Ma He was clever,
strong and brave.
He proved himself in
battle and earned the
trust of the emperor.
The emperor gave him
the surname 'Zheng'
and promoted him to
an important position
in the palace.



*Why did Ma He change his name to
Zheng He?*