

## Facts about China

- ◆ The Red Army began the Long March on October 16, 1934 in Jiangxi Province, and completed it only after 370 days on October 20, 1935, in Shanxi Province.
- ◆ The march was 12,500 kilometers in length.
- ◆ The march began with 100,000 persons; by June 1935, the number had been reduced to 40,000, and only 28,000 reached Yan'an.
- ◆ About 30 women joined in the Long March. Not one deserted, none died along the way, and all managed to make it to the very end.
- ◆ Among the women was Mao Zedong's second wife. He Zizhen, who was pregnant. The Guomindang had executed Mao's first wife, Yang Kaihui, in 1930.
- ◆ Another woman was Zhu De's fourth wife, a young peasant woman. Zhu De's three other wives had all died, one from childbirth, the second at the hands of warlords, and the third had been executed by the Guomindang.
- ◆ Deng Xiaoping and Lin Biao also took part in the Long March.
- ◆ One of the most difficult sections was through the Great Snow mountain ranges where even Mao got sick and had to be carried on a little. Lin Biao found it difficult to breathe in the rarefied air and suffered fainting spells along he way. Others suffered so severely from frostbite that they had to have their limbs amputated.
- ◆ The army marched round the clock, walking for four hours and resting for four hours.
- ◆ Of the 23 members of the Politburo elected at the 11<sup>th</sup> Party Congress in August 1977, 11 had participated in the Long March.