West Virginia
Day Eight

Our next stop is the home in Hillsboro where the author Pearl S. Buck was born. There is so much to see and to learn about here. We can discover how her family lived back in 1892, what kind of clothes people wore, how they spent their time, and what kind of work they did on their farms. We can even try our hand at plowing in the field with a team of draft horses.

Pearl didn’t actually grow up in this house. She grew up on the other side of the world, in Chinkiang, China. Her parents were missionaries there, and she was born in West Virginia when they were home on furlough.

Pearl had the rare experience of being raised as part of two cultures. She learned the English language alongside Chinese—both of which she could speak and write when she was four years old. She went to a women’s college in Virginia, then returned to China. She and her husband lived alongside very poor farmers in the village of Nanhsuchou.

All the many experiences in her life influenced what she wrote. The village of Nanhsuchou appeared as one of the main settings in her first books about China, including her best-known novel, *The Good Earth*. That book won Pearl a Pulitzer Prize and a Nobel Prize in Literature. She was the very first American woman to ever win a Nobel Prize in Literature.

Pearl embraced both the worlds she lived in. At her request, her tombstone does not even have her name listed in English, but lists her name only in Chinese characters.

These notebooking pages will guide you through the next two days of our expedition! Explorer Pack 2. And, this website will get you started on your trip!

Explore More

Timeline—We’re getting ready to visit the birthplace of Pearl S. Buck in 1892, on the day she was born. Find another event that was happening in West Virginia, the United States, or the world in 1892! Make a note of it in your Explorer Pack.

Extra Exploration—Pearl S. Buck’s parents were missionaries. Do some research and name other people who are or were missionaries in China.