



photo by Benh LIEU SONG

## Mini Page Heroes: I.M. Pei

Ieoh Ming (I.M.) Pei's father wanted him to become a doctor, but the sight of blood made him sick. He liked buildings. He thought he could try architecture.

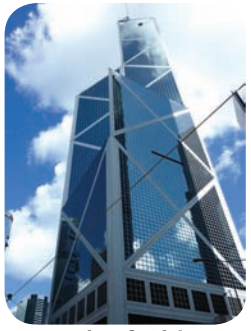
He decided to study in the United States. He thought American movies were cool. Who knew that this teenager from Shanghai, China, would become I.M. Pei, the master builder? His buildings have astonished millions of people around the world. Some of them are:

- The East Building of Washington, D.C.'s, National Gallery of Art
- The "glass pyramid" at the Louvre Museum in Paris (shown above)
- The 74-story Bank of China skyscraper in Hong Kong
- The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland, Ohio

### Young life

I.M. Pei and his family lived in Hong Kong when he was a child. When he was 10, the family moved to Shanghai, China. The city's buildings and gardens attracted Pei's attention and later shaped his work.

He studied architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and got a master's degree in architecture from Harvard University. He loved modern styles and simple forms using glass and steel.



Bank of China tower

photo by MK2010

### His legacy

Almost half of Pei's building designs have won major awards. In 1993, President George H.W. Bush awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Throughout his brilliant career, Pei lived up to his name, Ieoh Ming, which means "to inscribe brightly." What a smashing success story!



I.M. Pei won the Royal Gold Medal from the Royal Institute of British Architects in 2010.

### Solving problems

But like all people who achieve great things, I.M. Pei had his share of failures. The panes that caused him pain were in the John Hancock Tower in downtown Boston, Massachusetts. Built in the early 1970s, this tallest of Boston's skyscrapers was covered by pale blue sheets of glass. The citizens of the city hailed this breathtaking structure ... until the panes of glass started falling out!

Pei knew that every problem has a solution if you don't give up. The panes were replaced with a more reliable type, and the pain of failure gave way to a renewed spirit of confidence. I.M. Pei had proven again what so many other heroes learned in their careers: Never give up. No pain, no gain!



I.M. Pei designed the Fragrant Hill Hotel in Beijing, China.

### Looking to the future

Among the honors that I.M. Pei has won is the Pritzker Architecture Prize. Some people call it the "Nobel Prize of architecture."

Pei used the \$100,000 prize money to set up a scholarship fund for Chinese students wanting to study architecture in the United States. The students then return to China to practice their profession.

When they do, they can visit sites like Fragrant Hill, outside of Beijing. There, they'll see a hotel that Pei designed in the 1980s, nearly 40 years after he left China.

Although he had been in the United States since he was a teenager, Pei had remained tuned in to the relationship between nature and buildings that is important to the Chinese people.

### Resources



*This issue of Mini Page Heroes is based on a chapter from "50 American Heroes Every Kid Should Meet" by Dennis Denenberg and Lorraine Roscoe. To order the book, go to [heroes4us.com](http://heroes4us.com) and click on "50 American Heroes Book" and "Order a Book."*

### At the library:

- "I.M. Pei: Architect of Time, Place and Purpose" by Jill Rubalcaba

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## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of I.M. Pei are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

ARCHITECT, AWARDS,  
CHINA, DEGREE,  
FUTURE, GARDENS,  
GLASS, HARVARD, HERO,  
HONG KONG, LOUVRE,  
MASSACHUSETTS,  
MODERN, PEI, SIMPLE,  
SKYSCRAPER, STEEL,  
TOWER.

W M A S S A C H U S E T T S S  
S R E P A R C S Y K S G V E E  
R S S N E D R A G N R E D O M  
E D S L P A R C H I T E C T X  
W R A F U T U R E L C H I N A  
O A L D G N O K G N O H W A K  
T W G X C S E L P M I S G N U  
J A O E R V U O L M M H E R O  
I E P Q D R A V R A H H C L T  
L E E T S X E E R G E D B T P



## Cook's Corner

### Zapped Apples

#### You'll need:

- 2 large apples
- 1 tablespoon butter or margarine
- 3 teaspoons brown sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons orange juice

- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 3 tablespoons raisins
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 teaspoon chopped pecans (optional)



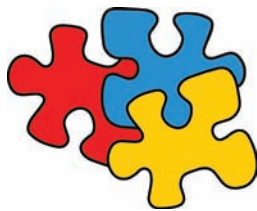
#### What to do:

1. Core apples carefully and make a shallow slit around the middle of each apple to prevent skin from bursting.
2. Melt butter in microwave for 10 to 15 seconds. Stir in brown sugar, orange juice, cinnamon and raisins. Fill each apple core with mixture.
3. Place apples in small baking dish with 1/4 cup water. Sprinkle pecans on top of apples if desired. Cover with plastic. Cook on high in microwave for 4 minutes.
4. Allow to cool for 10 minutes before serving. Cut into chunks for serving. Serves 2.

\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

## Puzzling

Unscramble the words below that remind us of architecture.



idngiblu \_\_\_\_\_  
gsnied \_\_\_\_\_  
ibtlerupn \_\_\_\_\_  
teysl \_\_\_\_\_

Answers: building, design, blueprint, style.

## Mini Jokes



- Ian:** What do you get when you cross a caterpillar and a parrot?  
**Iris:** A walkie-talkie!

## Eco Note



The sudden appearances of giant oarfish, which typically live near the ocean floor, have sparked fears in parts of the Philippines that the fish are warning signs of an impending large earthquake. Three have been found since Feb. 8, with the first appearing just two days before a 6.7 magnitude quake.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

## Thank You



The Mini Page thanks Dennis Denenberg, former teacher, principal, superintendent and university professor, and Lorraine Roscoe, a champion of heroes of every kind, for help with this issue.

## Teachers:

For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: [bbs.amuniversal.com/Everyone\\_content/Teaching\\_Guides/The\\_Mini\\_Page/](http://bbs.amuniversal.com/Everyone_content/Teaching_Guides/The_Mini_Page/)

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