



**Global**  
School Alliance

# China Curriculum

## Module One: Why Visit China?

This module introduces students to the country's impressive achievements the impact of its growth has had on the rest of the world.



## Information Sheet

# Part One: China's Population

China's population of 1.4 billion accounts for around one fifth of the world's population, with around one in five people worldwide being Chinese.

Shanghai is the biggest city in China (25,500,000+) and the third biggest city in the world, followed by Beijing (18,800,000+), the country's capital city. This one city alone has more people than the entire country of Australia.

China is split into 26 provinces and many contain over 50 million people. Over the years the country has experienced the world's largest urbanisation. It's estimated that around 300 million



people have moved from rural areas to cities in the last 30 years. Now nearly 60% of the Chinese population live in urban areas. The big cities host plenty of career opportunities and it has delivered enormous economic benefits for China.

There are 56 ethnic groups officially recognised in China; however 91.51% are Han Chinese. China has four recognised religions that it calls the Four Official Religions of China: Buddhism, Taoism, Islam and Christianity.

It's estimated that 3% of the country's population is Islamic, whereas the Christian population makes up around 5%.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVE

To encourage a genuine interest and curiosity in students for visiting China by highlighting its size, power and crowning achievements.

### ACTIVITY

Research how many people live in your:

- Town/village
- City
- County

This is very different to the UK other Western countries where Christianity makes up around half of the population. However, Christianity is on the rise and is expected to reach 20% by 2025.

### Questions

- 1) What proportion of China's residents live in the countryside/rural areas?
- 2) What is the dominant religion in China?
- 3) What proportion of the world's population does China hold?



## Information Sheet

# Part Two: Life in China

China is one of the Four Ancient Civilizations, with 3,600 years of written history. It boasts the world's richest breadth of culture, both diverse and unique.

It's home to a diverse range of people and an equally diverse range of lifestyles. From a fast-paced working lifestyle in one of China's largest coastal cities, to a relaxed lifestyle in a tiny farming village. The national lifestyle ranges hugely depending on your location.

In country's small towns, life is slow-paced, with family the most important part of the day and manual labour the typical employment choice.



Family gatherings are an important part of Chinese culture and traditional festivals. Very often grandparents will live with their children even after they're married and have their own family.

The Chinese Education System is run by the state and is regularly ranked No.1 in the world across core subjects by PISA. Nowadays most Chinese children can speak British, but it's now a required study at the majority of schools.

Students are extremely hard working and treat their teachers with the up-most respect.

In some parts, the lifestyle is not too

dissimilar from anywhere else in the world due to its Western influence. China's economy and business leaders have adopted various ideas from foreign countries at a high speed to become one of the biggest economies in the world.

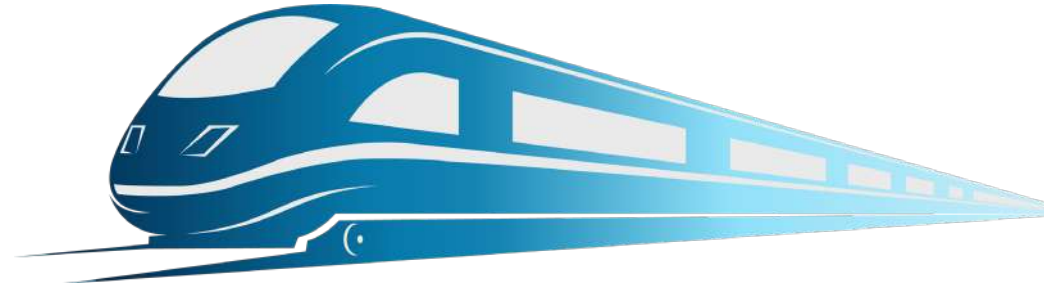
Every year China's streets are filled with millions of tourists, an estimated 62.9 million in 2019. China is one of the most popular destinations for travellers who enjoy a challenge. Many choose to travel to China to experience a completely different culture and find immense satisfaction in overcoming difficulties that you face during the life-changing experience.



### Questions

- 1) What are the common values of people who live in China?
- 2) Who tends to live in one household?
- 3) In your own words, how would you describe life in China?





## Information Sheet

# Part Three: China's Rise and Future

China is rapidly becoming the largest economy in the world. The country is currently regarded as a world leader in electronic goods/devices; electric vehicles, renewable energy and energy storage.

In recent years, China has become the world's new 'land of opportunity' for a variety of industries and sectors, including health products and education.

China has positioned itself as a destination with plenty to offer university students looking to study abroad. Students enjoy the opportunity to pick up Mandarin as a second language.

Most employment opportunities in China are within education,

manufacturing, retail and agriculture. For foreign workers who decide to progress their career in China will usually require some knowledge of Mandarin.



Mandarin has become the most natively spoken language in the world. Due to China's position as a leader in business and tech, more people now see Mandarin as the most important to give them an edge in the business market.

China are the global leaders in technological developments. In 2008, they built the world's first high-speed rail with a designed speed of 236 mph. In addition, it's the longest high-speed railway in the world and the most used. Its railway lines are long enough to

loop around the earth twice!

Since then, the country has launched the world's fastest driver-less bullet train in 2020 to connect the Chinese cities of Beijing and Zhangjiakou. The new service has been launched ahead of the Beijing 2022 Olympics.

China is using their leaps in technological innovations to fill a void in the experts' understanding of the universe. It became first country to successfully land a robotic spacecraft on the far side of the Moon. In the next decades it plans not only to build a new space station, but also a base on the Moon and conduct missions to Mars.

### Questions

- 1) Name an industry that China is a world leader in.
- 2) What are the benefits of speaking Mandarin?
- 3) What are the employment opportunities?



## Activity Sheet

# A Day in China Diary

We challenge you to think about what a day visiting China could be like.

What sights would you like to see?

Do some further research to find out what a typical day would be for someone your age.



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## Module Two: The Wonders of Ancient and Modern China

This module demonstrates to students how Modern China is still a branch of its past, by exploring the importance of China's early rulers and monumental moments.



## Information Sheet

# Part One: China's Ancient History

Ancient China was one of the oldest and longest lasting civilizations in the history of the world - it can be tracked back over 4,000 years.

Until 1912, China was ruled by Dynasties. Each Dynasty represented a powerful family of emperors - the first was Shang and the last was Qing. The Forbidden Palace, a palace complex in Beijing and popular tourist spot, was the imperial palace of Ming and Qing Dynasties.

China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huangdi, built a giant Terracotta (clay) Army of around 8,000 warriors to keep him safe after he died. It took around 700,000 workers and craftsmen about 38 years



to finish carving the army.

The Ancient Chinese invented some of the products we still use and enjoy to this day. They were the first to drink tea, it was however originally used primarily for medicine. The weaving of silk cloth was invented by Lady Shi-Ling-Shih and around 5,000 years ago the earliest chopsticks were used not for eating, but for cooking.

China's ancient history is what tourists travel thousands of miles to visit to this day.

The Great Wall of China is the world's longest wall and structure ever built by humans, at over 6,000km in length - the equivalent of more than 50,000 football pitches laid end to end. It was originally

### LEARNING OBJECTIVE

To examine how China's Ancient History has led to the Modern China we know today.

### ACTIVITY

Choose one of the emperors to research further.

several different walls built to protect the country's most vulnerable borders against attacks. Major rebuilding of the Great Wall took place during the Ming Dynasty in the 14th century - construction during this time around was strong due to the use of stone and brick.

### Questions

- 1) What was the purpose of the Terracotta Warriors?
- 2) How far can Ancient China be tracked?
- 3) How long is the Great Wall of China?



## Information Sheet

# Part Two: Modern China

Much of China's modern beliefs and philosophies are based on the teachings of a government official who lived nearly 3,000 years ago - Kongfuzi, also known as Confucius. He taught people the value of things such as morality, kindness and education.

China is the home of one of the world's oldest civilisations, but it has only recently become a 'modern' nation. In the last 20 years, it has changed faster than any other country to date.

The country's economy has changed rapidly in recent decades. In the past, it was focused around a highly planned economic system with specialised communes and was closed to international trade and foreign relations. It was in the 1970s however, this began to

change and today China is more economically tied to the world's countries.

China has transformed itself from being seen as the 'world's factory' to the hive of technology innovation. The increase development of robots have been at the forefront of their technological advances.

Over the last five years China has lifted over 68 million people out of poverty. Small poorer regions of China have benefited from the tourism infrastructure being built around them, allowing citizens to earn money as well as preserve their historical cultures.

In 2011, China introduced an app that changed how the country does just about everything.



WeChat is a Chinese multi-purpose messaging, social media. Since its launch, WeChat has become the all-in-one tool for Modern China. The app has an estimated 980 million active users in China alone and over 1 billion monthly active users.

In recent years, WeChat introduced the function of payment on the app. Now, over 300 million users have their credit card synced to their accounts on the app to enable payment for purchases in-store, pay for utility bills and even to pay for a taxi.

### Questions

- 1) China's economy has changed tremendous amounts to get where it is today. At what time period did those changes start to happen?
- 2) When did China become a modern nation?
- 3) What is the most popular method of communication in China?



## Activity Sheet

# Discovering Ancient China

Ancient China was one of the oldest civilisations in the history of the world, dating back over 4000 years. But how well do you know the stories that still shape China today?

Discover the wonders of Ancient China with this fun research activity. This exercise will enable you to dig deep into ancient China's history and leave you feeling inspired.

### FORBIDDEN CITY



The Forbidden City is a palace complex in Beijing with over 9,000 rooms. What was the main function of the inner court?

### THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA



The Great Wall of China is the world's longest wall and structure ever built by humans, at over 6,000km in length - stretching further than 50,000 football pitches laid end to end. Research the history of why the Great Wall was built.

### TERRACOTTA WARRIORS



Qin Shi Huangdi, the first emperor in China, built a giant terracotta army of around 8,000 warriors. How were they built?



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## Module Two: China's Geographphy

This module introduces students to the country's impressive geographical features.



## Information Sheet

# Part One: A Diverse Landscape

China has the most diverse and breathtaking geography in the world. It has the highest altitude and temperature differences of any country, vast mountain ranges, mighty rivers, huge deserts and spectacular natural grasslands.

As the fourth largest country in the world, it has a varied geography, making it so unique. Most of the Western parts of the country lie on the Tibetan mountainous plateau. In fact, mountains make up the majority of the landscape, dominating over 70% of the landmass. It's China's mountain ranges that make it have the greatest altitude difference on Earth: 9,002 m. Mount Everest is the highest peak in the world (8,848 m) and Tranquil Ayding Lake is the third lowest area of dry land.

The Himalayas, the highest mountain range in the world, form the natural border in the West of the country. China has the longest land border (border that doesn't include the sea) of any country in the world, totalling over 22,000 kilometres. It shares the border with a good number of other countries. The Pacific Ocean forms the natural border in the East, South East and South West of the country.

When people think of China, many think of the high-rise buildings and busy city life. Many are surprised to find out that deserts cover nearly a fifth of China, with dunes that stretch hundreds of miles. The Gobi, the world's third largest desert, along with the Takalamakan Desert, once separated central Asia from China until the advent of the Silk

### LEARNING OBJECTIVE

To explore China's diverse geography and determine some of the main factors for its unique landscape.

### ACTIVITY

Look at a map of Asia to find out what countries border China.

Road. 40% of China is also covered by natural grasslands. With 4 million kilometres of natural grasslands, China's grassland cover is the second largest in the world. The Hunlunbuir Grassland in the Inner Mongolian region covered about 250,000 sq kilometres, the size of the UK. It's famously written about by classic Chinese poets and historians.

### Questions

- 1) What percentage of China is mountains?
- 2) Why is China's geography so unique?



## Information Sheet

# Part Two: The Major Bodies of Water

As the third biggest country in the world, China has more than 5,000 rivers flowing through its territory. The rivers have helped tremendously with the development of country. The Yangtze River and the Yellow River are among some of the country's major rivers.

The Yangtze River, the third longest river in the world (3,915 miles), stretches from a glacier on the border of Tibet to Shanghai. The river flows through nine provinces and two cities. Along with its network of lakes and tributaries, it's used to generate power, control flooding and store water for drinking and irrigation. There are now tens of thousands of reservoirs in the region, with numerous dams across the river - including the largest damn in the world.

The Yellow River, known as the mother river by all of the Chinese people, is the country's second largest river (3,395 miles) and the fifth in the world. Historical evidence shows that the lower Yellow River basin was where Chinese civilisation began, and the most prosperous region in early Chinese history.

Unlike any other river, the riverbed is up to 10 metres above the surrounding cities and farmlands - the only river where ships sail overhead! Over the years the river has devastated civilisations with its deadly floods and course shifts. However, the country's recent infrastructure boom has fully harnessed the Yellow River for hydroelectricity, reservoirs and irrigation, to the it into a natural resource for civilians.



The Pearl River, located in the south, is the third longest river in Chinese territory (1,243 miles). The river is made-up of four separate river systems: the Xi River, the Liuxi River, the Bei River, and the Dong River. The extensive network of rivers allows inland shipping to flourish. With the modern development of Guangzhou, the river passes through a modern urban area, as well as the natural beauty. The 'night cruise' along the Pearl River is often on the top of a traveller's list of things to do when visiting Guangzhou. The evening cruise hosts beautiful scenery, with spectacular views of White Goose Pool and Guangzhou Bridge.

### Questions

- 1) What is the biggest river in China?
- 2) Name the three main rivers in China.
- 3) How do the river's network of lakes help the local areas?





## Information Sheet

# Part Three: Diverse Climate Zones

China is located in East Asia, facing the Pacific Ocean in the East and South. Due to its geographic position, China has the largest climate differences for a single country. The diverse climate ranges from the tropic zones in the South, to the freezing zones in the North.

Provinces in Northern China experience temperatures well below freezing in winter, with winds coming in from Siberia. Harbin, also called 'Ice City', is located in Northern China and freezes for four months a year - falling to temperatures as low as  $-25^{\circ}$ . Every year the city holds the Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival, the biggest ice festival in the world. Each year 10 to 15 million visitors travel thousands of miles to witness the huge snow sculptures, some

exceed 600,000 sq m.

Southern and Southwestern China have extremely diverse cities, in weather, population and culture. The majority of the Southern areas fall into the humid subtropical climate category. Typically China's southern provinces are wetter with warmer temperatures than the North. The winter months run from January through March, is short but usually a very cold winter. Whereas April through September is the rainy season when temperatures and humidity peak.

During the summer months, Southern China is inundated by monsoon rains sweeping in from both the Indian and Pacific oceans. Typically the monsoons begin in the far southern

provinces in late April and reach all of southern China by June.

Western China is famous for some its highest peaks, breathtaking scenery and deserts. Xinjiang, which is largely desert, and Tibet, which consists of extremely vast plateaus, experiences some of the biggest temperature differences between the summer and winter months.

Besides the wide diversity of climates and regions, many cities have been adversely affected by air pollution. However, Beijing's air quality has improved significantly and is being monitored very closely. The United Nations have praised the Chinese capital's rapid progress.

### Questions

- 1) China's Southern regions differ tremendously. Name two cities with very different climates.
- 2) Where is the Ice Festival held every year?



## Activity Sheet

### Mapping

Using coloured pencils or pens, draw the natural barriers, oceans and rivers.

Try your best to label the Chinese provinces.

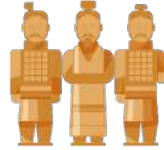
Do some further research to discover more about three provinces in China.



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Great Wall of China



Terracotta Warriors



Forbidden City



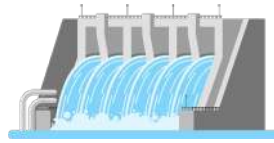
Gobi Desert



St Sophia's Church



Mount Everest



Three Gorges Dam



Leshan Giant Buddha



Yellow River

China 

## Landmarks

Cut out and stick the landmarks onto the map of China.

Use what you have learnt so far and research any landmarks you are unfamiliar with.