

CHINA



China is known as the People's Republic of China. The flag is called the five-star red flag. The red in the flag symbolises revolution. The large star symbolises communism and the little stars represent the Chinese people. The position of the stars represents unity of the Chinese people under the leadership of the Communist Party.

Dear Parents,
Our spring topic is China. Please help your children to prepare for this topic by helping them to learn the key words (in purple) and the facts on this sheet.

There are some homework activities on the back of this sheet. Your child can complete these at any time. Your child's teacher would love to see what they have created.

Thank you for your support.
Kind regards - Year 6

Vocabulary for China

- agriculture** - the science or practice of farming
- climate** - average weather conditions in a place over 30 years or more
- communism** - type of government as well as an economic system (a way of creating and sharing wealth). In a Communist system, individual people do not own land, factories, or machinery. Instead, the government or the whole community owns these things
- infrastructure** - the facilities which support modern human life
- landmarks** - a building of historical importance
- manufacturing** - the making of products by hand or machinery
- monsoon** - a shift in winds that often causes a very rainy season or a very dry season
- one child policy** - program which began in the late 1970s by the central government of China, to limit the majority of family units in the country to one child each to reduce the growth rate of China's enormous population
- population** - all the inhabitants of a particular place.
- sub-arctic** - regions immediately outside of the arctic circle or regions similar to these in climate or conditions of life
- sub-tropical** - have a climate that is warm and wet and are often near tropical regions
- trade** - the buying and selling of goods and services

A brief history of China

China is in the continent of Asia. It is the fourth largest country in the world (after Russia, Canada, and the U.S). It is a country with a very long and rich history, as well as traditions that have stood the test of time. Typically, the history of China is broken down into three sections: Ancient China; Imperial China and Modern China. In Chinese history, there have been many dynasties. A dynasty is when the same family rules over China for a long amount of time.

There was the:

Xia dynasty from 2070 BC to 1600 BC;

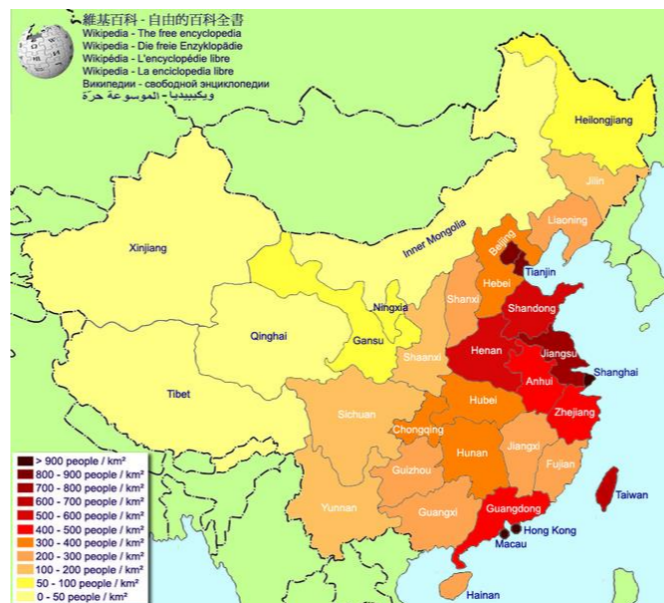
Shang dynasty from 1600 BC to 1046 BC;

Zhou dynasty from 1046 BC ending 256 BC.

The Shang and Zhou dynasties are known as the Bronze Age of China as archaeologist have found many examples of weapons, vessels, tools made from bronze coming from that time.



China's population density



China has the largest population in the world with more than 1.4 billion people. One in every four people in the world is Chinese. Most people live in towns and cities. China's capital is Beijing. It is the second largest city after Shanghai with 21 million people living there - compared with London which has a population of just over 9 million people,

Climate and biomes in China

The weather and temperatures are very different across the country. The climate varies from warm tropical weather (in the south) to subarctic (as low as -30°C in the north).

There are dry seasons and wet monsoons (a seasonal wind that brings heavy rainfall).

In summer, most areas are hot and rainy. In winter, most areas are cold and dry. In northern China, the ground stays frozen for two-thirds of the year. Subarctic conditions keep temperatures below zero for months of a year. Rainfall is scarce.

In southern China, the weather is sub-tropical with lot of rain. The monsoons form in the Pacific Ocean and bring dust storms to the north.



Some Chinese words good to know:

Ni hao! means Hello!

Xie Xie means Thank You

Gong Xi Fa Cai means Happy Chinese New Year.



A very important art of Chinese culture is celebrating Chinese New Year. Celebrated all over the world in late January or early February, it celebrates the Earth coming back to life and the beginning of the growing cycle.



The **highest mountain** on the border of China is Mount Everest. This is also the world's highest mountain, which is 8,848 metres high (29,000ft).

The **longest river in China** is the Yangtze River with over 6,300km (3,914miles) in length. This is also Asia's longest river.



China has the **world's longest sea-crossing bridge**. The Hong Kong to Zhuhai-Macao bridge was opened to traffic in October 2018.



The Gobi Desert which stretches over China and Mongolia is the **largest desert in Asia**.



The Great Wall of China is one of the **wonders of the world!** The longest human-made structure, it is more than 5000 miles long.



The Forbidden City or Forbidden Palace is in Beijing, it used to be **where emperors of China lived and ruled**.



Life in China

Since 1949, China has been ruled by the **Communist** Party of China or CPC. The People's Republic of China was founded in 1949 when the **Communist** Party, led by Mao Zedong, took control.

China is a one-party state. The CPC is not elected but remains in government through its control of the army and police force. The CPC closely controls the newspapers, radio and television stations and limits access to the internet.

China is a country which is changing fast. Sixty years ago, most Chinese people lived in the country following a farming way of life that had not changed for centuries. Today, almost two thirds of Chinese people live in cities. Millions more are expected to migrate to urban areas in the next 20 years. Many people left the countryside to find better paid work in new industries in the cities. In 2019, 25.3% percent of the workforce were employed in the **agricultural** sector, 27.4% percent in the industrial **manufacturing** sector and 47.3% in the service sector (for the government, in shops, etc).

Homework Ideas

- (1) Research a time in Chinese history - create a Ming vase
- (2) Create a Chinese drum. A popular old-fashioned noise-making toy, the Chinese drum (rattle) is twisted in the hand so that the beads bounce of it and make a noise.
- (3) Make a model Chinese bowl out of papier mache.
- (4) Make a Chinese slat book. The slat book was the first kind of Chinese book, make from slats of wood or bamboo and cord. This type of book is the reason that Chinese writing is done from top to bottom, rather than from left to right like Western writing.
- (5) Make a terracotta warrior from clay or brown playdough. The Terracotta Army was discovered in 1974 by a farmer in Xi'an, Shaanxi province, China. Dating from 210BC, there are now believed to be an unbelievable 8,000 soldiers, 130 chariots with 520 horses, and a further 150 cavalry horses - the majority of which are still buried and unseen.



- (6) Create a willow pattern plate. Willow pattern is actually English in origin, designed by a man called Thomas Minton in the late 18th Century, although it was based on traditional Chinese one colour pottery.
- (7) Make a Chinese dragon.

