

East Asia National Resource Center

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People's Republic of China

Here are some basic facts about China:

- **Capital:** Beijing (北京市)
- **Currency:** Renminbi (¥)
- **President:** Xi Jinping (5th)
- **Government:** Unitary Marxist-Leninist one-party socialist republic
- **Official Language:** Mandarin (Chinese; 普通话); note that there are numerous prominent localized dialects throughout the country
- **Population:** 1,438,782,909 (as of 2020)
- **Land Area:** 9,388,210 sq km (2% larger than the United States)
- **Population Density:** 153 per Km² (about 5 times larger than the United States)
- **Writing Systems:** Contemporary standard script: Simplified Chinese (简体字); historical writing script: Traditional Chinese (繁体字)

China is the world's most populous country - first in population and fifth in area. It has a continuous culture stretching back nearly 4,000 years, and it is one of the world's oldest civilizations. The land in China varies greatly and includes flat grasslands, deserts, thick forests and mountains. The world's tallest mountain is Mount Everest. Mount Everest is found on the border between China and its neighbor Nepal. China is also home to the Yangtze River - the third largest river in the world!

China emerged as one of the world's earliest civilizations. China's political system was based on hereditary monarchies, or dynasties, beginning with the semi-legendary Xia dynasty in 21st century BCE. Since then, China has expanded, fractured, and re-unified numerous times. The invention of gunpowder and movable type in the Tang dynasty (618–907) and Northern Song (960–1127) completed the Four Great Inventions (papermaking, printing, gunpowder and compass). Tang culture spread widely in Asia, as the new Silk Route brought traders to as far as Mesopotamia and the Horn of Africa. Dynastic rule ended in 1912 with the Xinhai Revolution, when the Republic of China replaced the Qing dynasty. The People's Republic of China was founded in 1949 after the Chinese Communist Party defeated the nationalist Kuomintang, who retreated to Taiwan. This created a complex socio-political reality of the People's Republic on mainland China and the Republic of China based on Taiwan that still exists today. In this resource guide, whenever we refer to China in the contemporary context (1949 to present day), we are referring to the People's Republic of China.

China introduced the economic reforms in 1978 and since then its economy has been one of the world's fastest-growing with annual growth rates consistently above 6 percent with few

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exceptions (according to annual GDP growth rates reported from the [World Bank](#)). China's current president since 2012 - Xi Jinping - simultaneously serves as the General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, among several other top posts. Contemporary China has a rich history, impressive economic performance, and growing global presence.



[China in the world](#) by [TUBS](#)



Xi'an Zhonglou Bell tower in the middle of Xi'an City, China.
Photo'd by Jamguo

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K-12 RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

HISTORY, CULTURE, LANGUAGE, AND TRADITIONS

- **[China Culture: Customs and Traditions by China](#)**
Ancient Chinese Culture is older than 5000 years. Chinese cultural history has enormous diversity and variety. *China Culture: Customs and Traditions by China* introduces China's religion, language, food and more. Good resource to start learning about China!
- **[History of China](#)**
History of China is an E-Book provides China's history from The Ancient Dynasties to People's Republic Of China.
- **[Heilbrunn Timeline of History](#)**
The Met's Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History pairs [essays](#) and [works of art](#) with [chronologies](#), telling the story of art and global culture through the Museum's collection. Authored by The Met's experts, the digital publication is a reference, research, and teaching tool conceived for students and scholars of art history.
- **[Chinese Food](#)**
China is the country with not only the largest population, but also the largest and one of the most impressive cuisines in the entire world. Here you can get informed about the history of their cuisine and the way their tradition, medicine, expansion and fashion changes influenced the creation of new food recipes.
- **[Chinese Learning Resources](#)**
Whether you're new at learning Mandarin or speaking fluently, there is a wealth of online materials to help you support your learning. *Chinese Learning Resources* provides some initial suggestions for enriching your Chinese studies online. Asia Society's China Learning Initiatives has also developed and collected a trove of resources over the last 10 years. Whether you're new at learning Mandarin or speaking fluently, there is a wealth of online materials to help you support your learning.
- **[Human Rights in China](#)**
Human Rights in China (HRIC) is a Chinese non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in March 1989 by overseas Chinese students and scientists. They actively engage in case and policy advocacy, media and press work, and capacity building. Through their original publications and extensive translation work, HRIC provides bridges and uncensored platforms for diverse Chinese voices.
- **[Travel China Guide](#)**
The China Guide is a Beijing-based travel agency that customizes private tours, educational student tours, and incentive trips in China. The resource tailors the most authentic and hassle-free China tours that reflect each client's interests and preferences.

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POLITICS AND CONTEMPORARY TOPICS

- **[The Center for Advanced China Research \(CACR\)](#)**
The Center for Advanced China Research (CACR) is a non-profit research organization that conducts Chinese-language research on China's domestic politics, foreign affairs, and security policy. CACR engages with US and partner-country policymakers, China specialists, and the broader public through the production of high-quality analysis of Chinese politics in the form of regular reports, blog posts, and contributions to scholarly publications.
- **[China Power Project - Center for Strategic & International Studies \(CSIS\)](#)**
The China Power Project at CSIS is committed to providing interactive visualizations and expert analysis in order to facilitate informed discussions of the complexities, capabilities, and potential outcomes of China's rise. The project examines five key areas of China's capabilities: military, economic, social, technology, and international image and engagement. Their team analyzes available data on Chinese capabilities, and provides expert analysis to contextualize facts and figures for users.
- **[The Freeman Chair in China Studies - CSIS](#)**
The Freeman Chair in China Studies is a leading source of insight and analysis on China's evolving political system and the dynamics that impact its domestic policy agenda and external behavior. Our mission is to shape the public policy debate by providing timely and objective analysis that challenges the status quo and informs policymakers, the public, and corporate executives on the most important issues impacting China's political trajectory.
- **[U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission \(USCC\)](#)**
The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission was created by the United States Congress in October 2000 with the legislative mandate to monitor, investigate, and submit to Congress an annual report on the national security implications of the bilateral trade and economic relationship between the United States and the People's Republic of China, and to provide recommendations, where appropriate, to Congress for legislative and administrative action.
- **[MarcoPolo](#)**
MacroPolo is the in-house think tank of the Paulson Institute in Chicago. They have decoded China's economic arrival with incisive, market-relevant analysis and creative research products.
- **[Fairbank Center Blog](#)**
Fairbank Center Blog was published by the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University. It includes articles covered by academics and current graduate students covering a variety of topics including history, literature, environment, politics,

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and business. It also includes Podcasts, which offers expert discussions on a diverse range of subjects, from Chinese history to recent political developments.

- **[Made in China Journal](#)**

The Made in China Journal is an open access quarterly on Chinese labour, civil society, and rights. The Journal stems from the belief that these transformations call for more serious analysis from both scholars and practitioners in a format that can facilitate critical engagement with a broader international audience interested in forging international solidarity.

- **[China Currents](#)**

The China Research Center promotes understanding of greater China based on in-depth research and experience. The Center publishes an online journal, China Currents, with research articles, commentary, current events and information about study, business and public programs. You can disseminate insights and information about developments in contemporary China.

NEWS, MAGAZINES AND JOURNALS

- **[China Daily](#)**

China Daily, established in 1981 as the national English-language newspaper, has developed into a multi-media information platform combining newspapers, websites and apps with a strong presence on Facebook, Twitter, Sina Weibo and WeChat. The group plays an important role as a channel for information exchanges between China and the rest of the world.

- **[The Global Times](#)**

The English-language Global Times is your key to understanding China's changes. Founded in April 2009, the paper is one of the most dynamic players among Chinese media, and has rapidly become the major English newspaper in the nation.

- **[China Global Television Network \(CGTN\)](#)**

CGTN is an international media organization launched on December 31, 2016. It is the international division of CCTV, which - along with CNR and CRI - will collectively be known as the China Media Group. As a multi-language and multi-platform media organization, CGTN operates in television and online. It also incorporates a video news agency CCTV+.

- **[China File](#)**

ChinaFile is a project of the [Center on U.S.-China Relations](#) at the Asia Society. It is a great resource for those looking for politically inclined resources.

- **[Tea Leaf Nation: Decoding Modern China](#)**

Tea Leaf Nation decodes Chinese media, analyzes social trends, and features Chinese voices, all to illuminate the country from within.

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- [**South China Morning Post**](#)
South China Morning Post is an english-language newspaper based in HongKong. “This Week in Asia” section brings together news and commentary related to current affairs in China and other parts of Asia.
- [**China Newspapers and Magazines**](#)
 Founded by Teri Schure in January 1997, *China Newspapers and Magazines* contain articles reprinted from the press outside the United States, as well as originally written material. Their goal is to foster a globally engaged citizenry, which acts not only in its own country's interest, but also in the interests of the world community.

LESSON PLANS AND ACTIVITY IDEAS

Elementary (Prek-5)	Middle School (6-8)	High School (9-12)
SAMPLE LESSON PLANS		
Silk Road & Trade	Chinese New Year	Chinese Food
Confucius, Confucianism, and the Analects	The Silk Road	Chinese Culture & Life
Exploring China	Influence of Buddhism (Cultural Diffusion)	Economic Development in China
Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism	Symbolism in China’s Material Goods	China-US Trade Relations
Chinese Folk Tales & Literatures	Women in China	Introduction to Confucianism
Arts & Crafts Activities	Chinese Inventions	Manufacturing in China: The Toy Scandals
	China – Land of Dragons and Emperors	
LESSON PLAN RESOURCES		
China 360: Learning Resources & Materials	China Now	
PBS: The Story of China		High School Resources by

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		Carolina Asia Center
Ancient China: Dynasties		
Lesson Materials by East Asia Gateway		
EXCHANGE PROGRAMS		
		<p>China Internship Placement Program Description: CIP provides immersive High School Programs in China exposing High School students to global and critical thinking. The China High School Study Abroad Program is based in Beijing and Shanghai. As part of immersion, Participants will learn with their colleagues in High Schools and also Chinese Languages. Depending on your expectations, we combine Internship, Volunteering, Intensive Chinese language, and Travel Packages.</p> <p>Eligibility: High School Students Fee: Packages Scholarship: Available</p>
		<p>CIEE: High School Abroad in China Program Description: CIEE's High School Abroad program provides you the experience to live and learn</p>

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		<p>immersed in the heart of an ancient culture, thousands of miles from what you've known. You will be placed in the first year of high school (year 10) at a boarding school, with all courses taught in Mandarin. Although the Chinese learning environment is intense, CIEE has got your back, providing 80 hours of group tutoring sessions per semester.</p> <p>Eligibility: High School Students (9th to 12th) with minimum 3.0/4.0 GPA Fee: \$13,500 Scholarship: Available</p>
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For Teachers:

- [The China Educational Association of International Exchange \(CEAIE\) program](#)
The China Educational Association of International Exchange (CEAIE) program is an opportunity for teachers from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom or the United States of America to live and work in China for twelve months. The aim of the program is to promote language exchange and mutual understanding among young people at home and abroad, and to improve foreign language education in Chinese schools.

GENERAL MATERIALS FOR CLASSES

- [Asia for Educators](#)
An initiative of the Weatherhead East Asia Institute at Columbia University for students and educators at all levels. Includes chronological outlines of China history, central themes and key points, and lesson plans.
- [Around the Globe: China](#)
The Around the Globe: China collection allows students to take a virtual trip to China to learn more about China's society and culture, as well as the art of China through the centuries. Explore significant events in Chinese history, the history of U.S.-China relations, and the experiences of Chinese Americans through videos, images, documents, and lesson plans.
- [Lesson Plans on China](#)

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Each NCTA participant works with Ohio faculty members to create three lesson plans on East Asia as the final product of their seminar. NCTA-Ohio makes these lesson plans available to teachers around the world in their lesson plan bank.

- **[A Visual Sourcebook of Chinese Civilization](#)**

The goal of this "visual sourcebook" is to add to the material teachers can use to help their students understand Chinese history, culture, and society. It was not designed to stand alone; we encourage teachers who use this resource to supplement it with other relevant and appropriate resources and information about China.

INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE DMV AREA

- **[China Documentation Center \(CDC\) at the George Washington University](#)**

CDC was established as an international scholarly resource and a national central repository of Chinese language publications concerning military, national security, politics, society, economy, law, and foreign relations of the People's Republic of China. The initial strengths of the CDC were in the areas of military, national security and foreign affairs, but over time it has grown to include a range of materials concerning contemporary Chinese politics, economy, law, and society.

- **[Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United States of America](#)**

The Chinese Embassy building is located in the northwest of Washington DC. The Chinese Embassy is committed to promoting the ties and cooperation between the two countries and two peoples and the long-term, stable and sound growth of China-US relations.

- **[Center for Strategic & International Studies \(CSIS\)](#)**

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) is a bipartisan, nonprofit policy research organization dedicated to advancing practical ideas to address the world's greatest challenges.

- **[The Brookings Institution](#)**

The Brookings Institution is a nonprofit public policy organization based in Washington, DC. Our mission is to conduct in-depth research that leads to new ideas for solving problems facing society at the local, national and global level.

- **[The Wilson Center](#)**

The Wilson Center, chartered by Congress in 1968 as the official memorial to President Woodrow Wilson, is the nation's key non-partisan policy forum for tackling global issues through independent research and open dialogue to inform actionable ideas for the policy community.

- **[The National Bureau of Asian Research \(NBR\)](#)**

Our mission is to conduct advanced independent research on strategic, political, economic, globalization, health, and energy issues affecting U.S. relations with Asia. Drawing upon an

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extensive network of the world's leading specialists and leveraging the latest technology, NBR bridges the academic, business, and policy arenas.

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- **[The Project 2049 Institute](#)**

The Project 2049 Institute is a nonprofit research organization focused on promoting American values and security interests in the Indo-Pacific region. We specialize in open-source research using Chinese language sources to inform policy debate and advance public education. Our core mission is to create and disseminate knowledge that makes the region more peaceful and prosperous.

- **[The East-West Center](#)**

Established by the U.S. Congress in 1960, the Center serves as a resource for information and analysis on critical issues of common concern, bringing people together to exchange views, build expertise, and develop policy options. The Center is an independent, public, nonprofit organization with funding from the U.S. government, and additional support provided by private agencies, individuals, foundations, corporations, and governments in the region.

- **[The US-China Business Council](#)**

The US-China Business Council (USCBC) is a private, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization of approximately 200 American companies that do business with China. Founded in 1973, USCBC has provided unmatched information, advisory, advocacy, and program services to its members for over four decades.

- **[The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#)**

In an increasingly crowded, chaotic, and contested world and marketplace of ideas, the Carnegie Endowment - a global think tank with offices in Belgium, China, India, Lebanon, Russia, and Washington, D.C. - offers decisionmakers global, independent, and strategic insight and innovative ideas that advance international peace.

- **[The Heritage Foundation](#)**

The mission of The Heritage Foundation is to formulate and promote conservative public policies based on the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values, and a strong national defense.

- **[The Center for a New America Security \(CNAS\)](#)**

The Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation is a national non-partisan, non-profit dedicated to enhancing peace and security through expert policy analysis and thought-provoking research.

- **[The United States Institute of Peace \(USIP\)](#)**

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The United States Institute of Peace is a national, nonpartisan, independent institute, founded by Congress and dedicated to the proposition that a world without violent conflict is possible, practical, and essential for U.S. and global security.

- [**The Institute for China-America Studies \(ICAS\)**](#)

The Institute for China-America Studies is an independent think tank funded by the Hainan Freeport Research Foundation in China. Based in the heart of Washington D.C. ICAS is uniquely situated to facilitate the exchange of ideas and people between China and the United States. We achieve this through research and partnerships with institutions and scholars in both countries, in order to provide a window into their respective worldviews.

ANNUAL EVENTS IN THE DMV AREA

- [**DC Chinese New Year Parade**](#) – January

Washington, D.C. celebrates the Chinese New Year with a parade in Chinatown featuring traditional Chinese Dragon Dance, Kung Fu demonstrations and live musical entertainment. Each year a parade is held in Chinatown in Washington, D.C. to celebrate the Chinese New Year. The event is held by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA).

- [**KC Chinese New Year**](#) – January to February

The Kennedy Center celebrates Chinese New Year with weeks of family fun including Kennedy Center Chinese New Year Family Day. 10,000 twinkling lights will make for a magical experience. Free activities for all ages including arts and crafts, traditional costume photo booth, zodiac stickers, demonstrations of sugar painting and wood block printing, magic shows and more.

Compiled by Shruthi Shree Nagarajan and Aika Okishige
[NRC Curriculum Developer](#)