

The People's Republic of China

By Gurmuskaan
in grade six

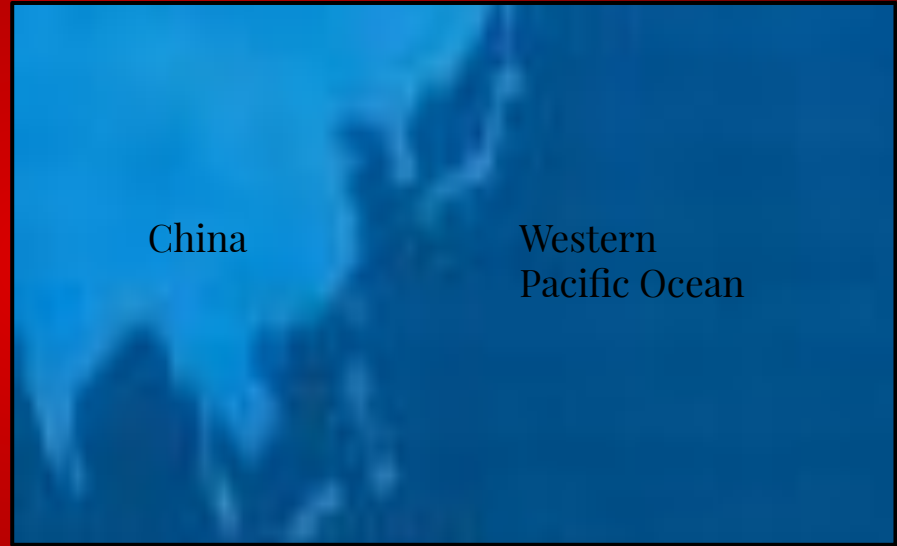
Physical and Human Geography

Location

China is in the continent of Asia. It is bordered by many countries. To the north, it is bordered by Mongolia and Russia. To the east, it is bordered by North Korea. To the south, China is bordered by quite a few countries. It's bordered by Bhutan, India, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, and Vietnam. To the west, China is bordered by Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, and Tajikistan.

Adjacent Oceans

China's eastern
border meets
with the
Western Pacific
Ocean.



Adjacent Seas

Sea of Japan

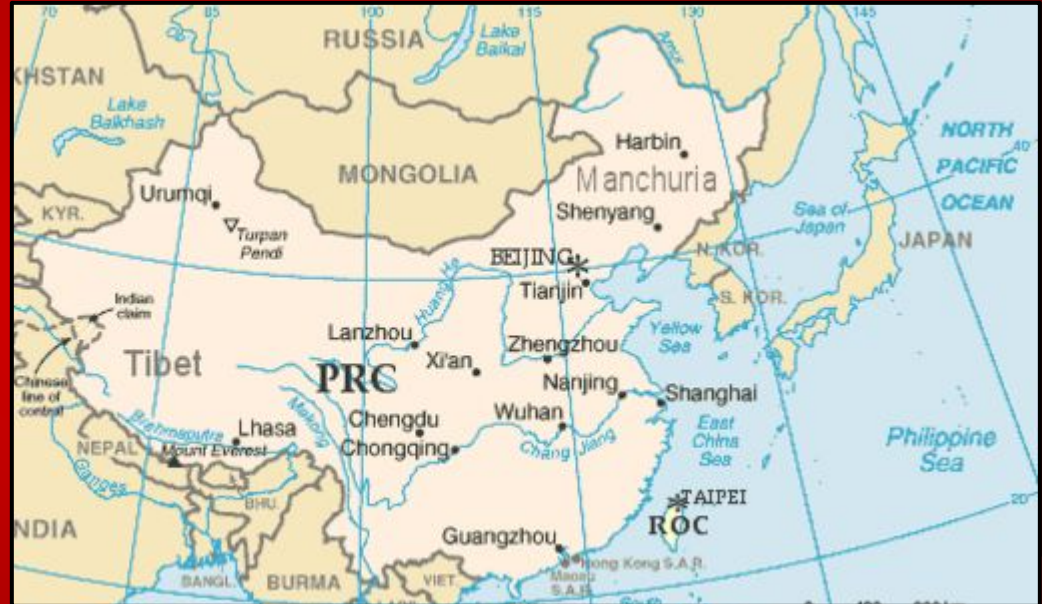
Bohai Sea

Yellow Sea

The East China Sea

Philippine Sea

South China Sea



Lakes

The largest lake in China is the Qinghai Lake. In size, it is 4489 square kilometers. Some other lakes in China include Alake Lake, Chao Lake, Hongze Lake, Lake Khanka, Lake Tai, and Poyang Lake.



Lake Tai

Rivers

The longest river in China is the Yangtze River. It is 6300 kilometers long. Other rivers in China include the Irtysh River, Jianling River, Mekong River, Salween River, and the Yellow River.



Mekong River

Mountains and Peaks

The tallest mountain in the world is on the border of China: Mount Everest. Other mountains and peaks in China include K2, Kongur Tagh, Mt. Makalu, Mt Shishapangma, Muztagata, and Namcha.



Mount Everest

Major Physical Features

Some other physical features include the Gobi Desert, the Himalayas, the Loess Plateau, and the Karakoram Mountains.



Himalayas

Fauna

Some of the animals that live in China include amur leopards, Bactrian camels, Chinese alligators, Chinese paddlefish, Chinese sturgeon, giant pandas, golden monkeys, red pandas, silkworms, south China tigers, and snow leopards.



Giant Pandas

Flora

The peony flower grows in China. The plum blossom is the national flower. Bamboo grows in China. White birch trees grow in China. Ginkgo orange trees - symbolizing good fortune - also grow in China.



Bamboo Trees

Agriculture

Some of the things
people in northern
China grow include bok
choy, corn, dates,
lychees, peaches, rice,
and wheat.



Capital City

The capital city of China is Beijing. Beijing was built a long time ago – in 1279 by the Mongols who lived there. Beijing has a lot of temples and palaces. It is a big bustling city.



Beijing

Major Cities

Chongqing: 31.02 million

Shanghai: 26.32 million people

Beijing: 21.54 million

Guangzhou: 15.31 million

Tianjin: 15.62 million

Shenzhen: 12.59 million

Wuhan: 11.08 million



Shanghai

Transportation



Rickshaw

Long ago, there was no easy way of transportation. The only two ways were to walk or to take a rickshaw. Both methods required a long time to get to the destination, so people avoided unnecessary travel. The rickshaw – a traditional way of traveling – is still used today, but many people avoid it because of the pollution.

Cars and Taxis

Cars and taxis are major ways of transportation nowadays. In China, taxis are a common sight. In China, taxis can be green, red, or yellow.



Taxis

Buses and Trains

Buses and trains are also a common way to travel. There are a lot of double-decker buses in China. There are also a lot of skytrains in China. One of the fastest trains in the world is in China: the Shanghai Maglev.



Shanghai Maglev

Ferries and Bicycles



Bicycles are also a common way of transportation. Ferries are a common way of transportation if you live near water.

Tourist Attractions

Some of the major tourist attractions in China include...

The Forbidden City

The Great Wall of China

The Terracotta Army



The Forbidden City

The Great Wall of China

The Great Wall of China was built to keep the northern invaders – like the Mongols – away. It was started in the 7th century and was completed in 1878. Today, people like to walk on the Great Wall. The Great Wall of China is the most popular tourist attraction.



The Great Wall of China

Newsworthy Events

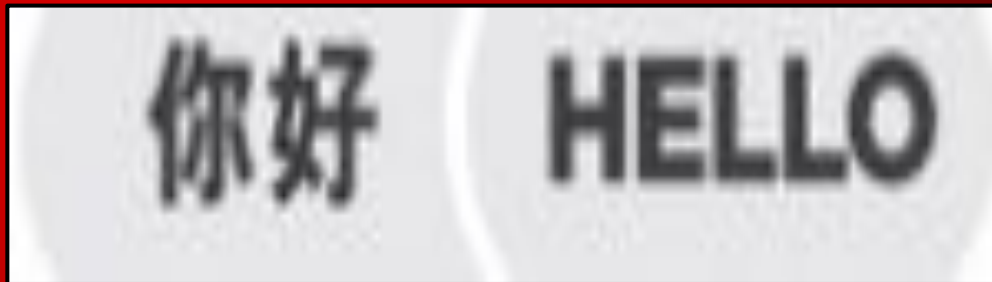
1. Hong Kong has been a democracy, but now that it is a part of China, China does not want Hong Kong to have a democracy. Therefore, there are protests in Hong Kong to make sure that there is democracy. The government thinks that the protests in Hong Kong will damage China's national security.
2. China made a new policy. If you get a vaccine that was made in China, then you will face less paperwork when you enter China or Hong Kong.

3. China is trying to increase the number of countries to which it sells the Covid-19 vaccines; however, scientists and foreign governments want China to make clinical trial results more public.
4. Hungary agreed to buy 5 million doses of the Covid-19 vaccine from China even though the Chinese vaccine has not been approved in the west.
5. China made a new law that if you come to Hong Kong or China, then China has the right to not let you leave. Since this is a law, no other country can do anything.

Expressing Thoughts and Feelings

Language

China's national language is Mandarin, one of the oldest languages in the world. Instead of the alphabet, Mandarin uses more than 50 000 symbols, each standing for a word or phrase.



Mandarin

Religions and Beliefs

The majority of Chinese don't consider themselves religious. However, among the people who do consider themselves religious, the most popular religions are Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, and Daoism.



Buddhism

Buddhism is one of the largest religions in the world. It began in India with the teachings of Prince Siddhartha Gautama - Buddha. Prince Siddhartha Gautama rejected his privileged life in want of true happiness. In this religion, people believe in reincarnation and karma. There are two types of Buddhism: Theravada Buddhism which is popular in southern Asia and Mahayana Buddhism which is popular in eastern Asia and China.



Buddha

Confucianism

Confucianism began with the philosopher Confucius. Confucius believed that everyone has to act in an orderly manner to have a well-ordered society. To do so, he believed that you have to help others, while also thinking for yourself, showing fairness and balance in all relationships, and being honest. Some consider this religion to be a philosophy because there is no mention of a God.

Daoism

People who believe in Daoism believe that the universe has a natural flow and people can find inner peace by finding their places in that flow. They also believe that everyone needs both yin – positive energy – and yang – negative energy. Daoism is also called Taoism. Some think that Daoism is a religion, while others think that it is a belief because there is no god to worship.



National Holidays

New Year's Day

Chinese New Year

Lunar New Year

The Qingming Festival

Labor Day

Dragon Boat Festival

Mid-Autumn Festival

Golden Week

National Day of the People's Republic of China



Dragon Boat Festival

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year occurs between January 21 and February 20. It's also called the Golden Week because festivities last all week long in China. There are even parades in some places. Kids get money for good luck. Adults clean their houses and buy firecrackers. People also buy new clothes, especially in red because it is a popular color for the Chinese New Year.

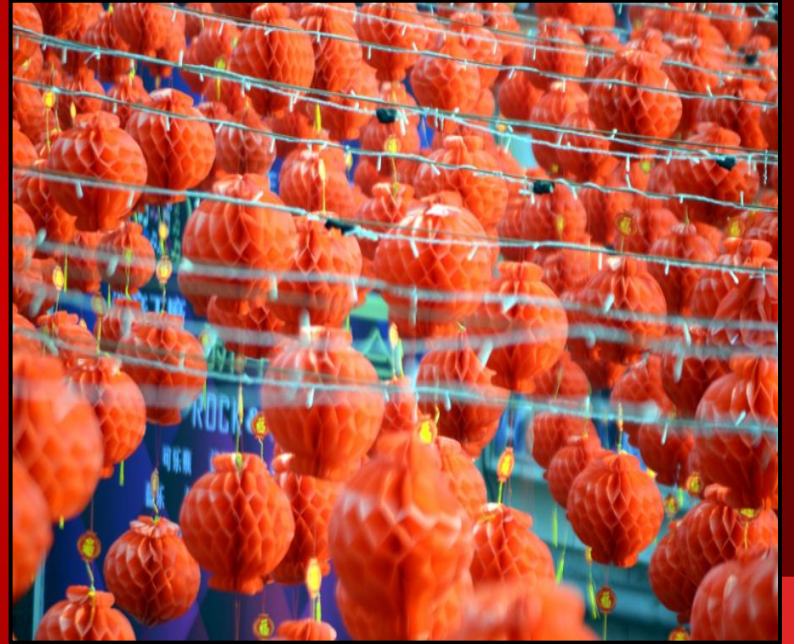


Chinese New Year Parade

Lantern Festival

The Lantern Festival happens fifteen days after the Chinese New Year. It's also called the Feast of the Full Moon.

The Lantern Festival is meant to celebrate the light of the sun after a cold winter. People eat Tang Yuan - rice flour and water mixed together and shaped like a moon. People hang lanterns on the street and families go for a walk in the city or streets to look at the lights.



International Women's Day

The first International Women's Day in China was celebrated on March 8, 1950. It is still celebrated on March 8 to this day, but it is not a national holiday. Women's Day celebrates the importance of women and what they have done for equality in China. Families do nice things for women in their families. Flowers are thought of as a thoughtful gift to give women on this day, and women get half a day off work.

Arbor Day

Arbor Day is celebrated on March 12 in China. In China, you have to plant a tree on Arbor Day if you are over 11 years and younger than 60 years. If you don't, you can get a fine.



Qingming Festival

The Qingming Festival – or Sweeping Festival – is on April 4 or 5. On this day, people remember loved ones that have passed on. People pray, bring food offerings, burn candles, and sometimes burn paper money. People also like going to the opera on this day.



May Day and Children's Day

May Day – similar to our Labour Day – is celebrated on the first day of May. It celebrates the achievements of workers. People usually get a three-day weekend. Children's Day is celebrated on the first day of June, one month after May Day. Usually, kids over the age of 14 get a half-day off school. Schools put on special events and invite adults to see the kids show off their talents.

Mid-Autumn Festival

Mid-Autumn Festival – also called the Moon Festival – is usually on the first full moon in the middle of autumn. People get a day off work to share mooncakes and eat dinner with their families. They also worship the moon on this day.



National Day of the People's Republic of China

China's National Day was first celebrated on October 1, 1949 when China's citizens – for the first time – chose their leader instead of being led by an emperor. Nowadays, adults and children get off work and school for an entire Golden Week. Many people like going bamboo rafting. In Beijing's Tiananmen Square, they watch huge parades and fireworks.




Tiananmen Square

Dragon Boat Festival

The Dragon Boat Festival – or Tuen Ng and Duanwu Festival – is celebrated on the fifth day of the first Lunar Month. It is an old summer festival. People once believed that dragons lived in the rivers and brought rain. To honour that tradition, people nowadays build and boats that look like dragons and carry many rowers which like to race against each other.

Calendars

China uses two types of calendars. The first calendar they use is the one we use in North America and is used for work, school, and most other events. The second calendar they use is the Lunar calendar.

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
 3 MONDAY - 12th Day	 2 TUESDAY - 13th Day	 2 WEDNESDAY - 14th Day	 1 THURSDAY - 15th Day	 7 FRIDAY - 16th Day	 5 SATURDAY - 17th Day	 5 SUNDAY - 18th Day	 3 MONDAY - 19th Day	 2 TUESDAY - 20th Day	 1 WEDNESDAY - 21st Day	 8 THURSDAY - 22nd Day	 8 FRIDAY - 23rd Day
 10 SATURDAY - 24th Day	 9 SUNDAY - 25th Day	 9 MONDAY - 26th Day	 8 TUESDAY - 27th Day	 14 WEDNESDAY - 28th Day	 13 THURSDAY - 29th Day	 12 FRIDAY - 30th Day	 11 SATURDAY - 31st Day	 10 SUNDAY - 1st Day	 10 MONDAY - 2nd Day	 15 TUESDAY - 7th Day	 14 WEDNESDAY - 6th Day
 17 THURSDAY - 13th Day	 15 FRIDAY - 14th Day	 16 SATURDAY - 15th Day	 14 SUNDAY - 16th Day	 22 MONDAY - 24th Day	 22 TUESDAY - 24th Day	 20 WEDNESDAY - 26th Day	 19 THURSDAY - 27th Day	 17 FRIDAY - 29th Day	 16 SATURDAY - 30th Day	 22 SUNDAY - 6th Day	 21 MONDAY - 5th Day
 24 SATURDAY - 23rd Day	 23 SUNDAY - 24th Day	 24 MONDAY - 25th Day	 23 TUESDAY - 26th Day	 30 WEDNESDAY - 1st Day	 28 THURSDAY - 3rd Day	 27 FRIDAY - 4th Day	 25 SATURDAY - 6th Day	 24 SUNDAY - 7th Day	 23 MONDAY - 8th Day	 30 TUESDAY - 15th Day	 30 WEDNESDAY - 14th Day
			 30 THURSDAY - 14th Day						 31 SATURDAY - 16th Day		

Lunar Calendar

The Arts: Calligraphy

Calligraphy started in China more than 3500 years ago. It has more than 1500 characters when used in Mandarin. It is a beautiful style of writing words that is written with a brush.



The Arts: Music

Unlike in western countries, Chinese music has five notes: gong, shang, jiao, zi, and yu. The idea of operas was originated in China. Today, Chinese-style music is affected by western-style music.



Sports

Sadly, there is no national sport in China, but one of the most popular sports in China include table tennis and the martial arts – both of which China is well known for.



Organization

Economy

China has the fastest-growing economy in the world. Forty percent of things it makes are exports, which include rice, wheat, tobacco, cotton, and red meat.



Exports

China exports items to many countries...

United States of America:

machinery, electronics and more

India: machinery, chemicals, oils, silk and more

South Korea: machinery, iron and steel, chemicals and more

Germany: electronics, furniture, machinery and more

Japan: machinery, clothing, chemicals and more

Canada: electronics, machinery, furniture, plastics and more

Vietnam: vegetables, cotton and more

Netherlands: high-tech goods, toys, clothes and more

Imports

Even though China is among the largest producers of rice, China imports rice from Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, Burma, and Italy.



Government

China is governed by the Chinese Communist Party – meaning everything is owned by the people, and the government pays them according to their needs. The Chinese government has changed from ancient dynasties to large empires to a communist republic. The Chinese Communist Party is controlled by a small group called Politburo. The communist party is very controlling.

Three Branches

China is a dictatorship. It has three main branches of government: executive, legislative and judicial. But one branch has the most power.

Executive Branch

Under the executive branch comes the President, State Council, Premiers, and Ministers. Once the president is elected by the National People's Congress, the president serves for five years. The premiers also serve a five-year term. The State Council – which has forty members – has the most power in the executive branch. The executive branch carries out and enforces the law.

Legislative

Under the legislative branch comes the NPC – National People's Congress. There are 3000 members, who serve for five years. The legislative branch makes laws.



National People's Congress

Judicial Branch

The judicial branch ensures that laws are followed and punishes anyone who doesn't follow the laws. The Supreme Court – which has more than 300 judges – comes under this branch. By law, certain people can put people in jail – only if they are accused of doing something – without a trial.



The Supreme Court

China's Military

China has a very strong military. Its military is called People's Liberation Army. It has one of the largest and strongest militaries in the world. It has air forces, land forces and the navy.

Censored Media

China has censored media – meaning the government chooses what is visible to the people who use the Chinese Media. Some of the government-owned medias in China include the China Central Television Network also known as C. C. T. V., Xinhua News Agency, People's Daily, and China Daily which is in English.

Family Structure

In the Chinese culture, grandparents usually live with their grandchildren, harmoniously and happily under one roof. To control the overpopulating country, the government introduced a new policy: anyone who is a han can only have one child. Because of this policy, boys are preferred over girls, and there is also a lot of pressure for kids to succeed in school.



Trade

Both China and Canada trade with each other a lot. Canada gets a lot of its electronics, plastics, machinery, and furniture from China. China gets a lot of cereals, fertilizers, meat, mineral fuels, and oils from Canada. Without each other, both the countries would have to find another country to trade with. This would be hard because other countries would give a higher price for the product. The same is with any other country that it trades with. Without the country it trades with, it would have to find a new country.

Canada and China's Disputes

Canada and China have had some disputes in the past, but they are still arguing today. Last year, Canada arrested Meng Wanzhou - the chief financial officer of Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei Technologies - the largest telephone-network equipment making company. China says that she is innocent and that Canada should release her, but Canada disagrees.

A few days after Canada arrested Meng Wanzhou – and put her under house arrest – China arrested two Canadians. Later on, China released those Canadians because there was not enough evidence that these Canadians did anything wrong. Canada also gave China money to make a vaccine. When China made the vaccine, China changed its rules of shipping vaccines. Therefore, Canada didn't receive those vaccines.

Reflection

Firstly, I chose China because I have always been fascinated by its government. I have heard a lot about China's government and I always just wanted to know more. Secondly, I chose China because of its beautiful culture and traditions. Thirdly, I chose China because I found that there were a lot of books about China in the public library.



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