Country: China
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Informational Report: China

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Location

*China is located in East Asia

*Borders Russia, Mongolia and India; bounded on the East by the China Sea

*China is the world’s most populated country with an estimated 1.3 billion people

(Flaitz 2003)
(Image: Mabry Online 2012)
Literacy and Poverty Rates

- As of 2010 the literacy rate in China is 97% with 95% of females literate and 99% of males literate.
- A literate person in China is defined as one who can recognize more than 1500 Chinese characters.
- China has over 120 million people living below the poverty line; an estimated 13.4% of the country’s population

[CIA 2012]
Ethnicity, Language, and Religion

- 92% Han Chinese and 8% representing 55 minorities
- Mandarin Chinese is the official language however Mongolian, Tibetan, Miao, Tai, Uygur, Kazak and various other dialects are spoken in regions throughout the country
- 93% a combination of Buddhist, Confucianism and Taoism; 7% other includes various types of Christians, Muslims and Jews

(Culture Crossing 2012)
Important Political Information

- In 1949 after nearly 20 years of civil war the Communist party defeated the Nationalists proclaiming the founding of the People’s Republic of China.
- Tibet unwillingly became a part of China in 1950; violence and uprising in Tibet continues to this day.
- In 1979 China imposed one-child policy in an effort to curb the population growth.
- In 2011 China overtook Japan to become the world’s second largest economy. (BBC 2012)
Education Policy

• In China education is considered a right and an obligation. In order to maintain its powerful presence in the world China must educate their young

• Education promotes a socialist worldview

• School is mandated until the age of 15

• Despite vast rural areas China continues to expand their education system even to adults.

• China encourages their workforce to pursue degrees in higher education

(Flaitz 2003)
## Schools and Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Age/Grade</th>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Class Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preschool and Kindergarten</td>
<td>Ages 3-5</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>50-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>Ages 6-12 Grades 1-6</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>50-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>Ages 12-15 Grades 7-9</td>
<td>Yes through 15</td>
<td>50-60 in a cohort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ages 15-18 Grades 10-12</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>50-60 in a cohort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University</td>
<td>Ages 18-22</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>20-30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The school year in China typically runs from September to July. However summer break is usually spent in summer classes or studying for exams. The average school day is from 7:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.*

*The curriculum includes math, social studies, science, morality, politics, music, art, and foreign language (Flaitz 2003)*
Teaching Style

• Classes in China are large, with 50-60 students in each, therefore teaching tends to be formal

• The most common form of teaching is lecture; teachers do not expect a great deal of participation

• Teachers are considered authority figures and as a result are highly respected

• Teachers are expected to be strict, prepared, knowledgeable, creative, simulating and are held accountable for their students’ success

• As a sign of respect students do not maintain eye contact with the teacher during a lecture

(Flaitz 2003 and Culture Crossing 2012)
Style and Setting

Learning Style

• Students are expected to sit and listen, and only read or write when instructed
• Students work hard and graciously accept any and all work assigned
• Grueling exams are an essential part of the curriculum
• Greatly enjoy classroom competition and performing

Instructional Setting

• Textbooks are provided by the school however parents must buy any other additional materials required
• In many rural schools there is a lack of technology. In some areas electricity shutdowns occur regularly

(Flaitz 2003)
Relationships

Student-Teacher Relationships

- Teachers send home notes to children who misbehave; this is considered shameful
- Some teachers develop close relationships with students and become very involved in their personal lives.
- Students show constant respect and affect for their teachers. They will go out of their way to aid the teacher in day to day activities.
- Students look to teachers for guidance

Student-Student Relationships

- Since students remain in a cohort they tend to form close bonds with their classmates
- Student leaders are elected. Their job is to provide advice and guidance to their peers

(Flaitz 2003)

(Image: Word Press 2010)
Chinese Culture

*Chinese value hard work, sacrifice, personal accountability, and self-discipline.

*Learning for the sake of learning motivates both young and old

*The Chinese have a cultural concept called the iron triangle. Work, home and the State are the backbone of their lives

*Value placed on the collective whole rather than the individual. Individualism is considered selfish.

*Cooperation is the key to strength and endurance

*Respect for the elderly is vital

(Flaitz 2003)
(Image: Prisqua 2011)
Chinese Views and Attitudes

Views of English
*Beginning 2001 English was taught from primary school
*The use of English textbooks and television is encouraged
*Learning English is a long-term goal in China. They feel it is essential and a way to enhance the cultural and educational quality of their people.

Views of the U.S.A.
*The U.S.A. is a valuable trading partner
*Even though many Chinese have an unfavorable view of the U.S.A. they remain fascinated and influenced by American culture

(Qiang 2002 and Facts and Details)
In 2006 the Chinese became the third largest immigrant group in the U.S.; with 1.6 million China born living throughout the United States.

Half of the immigrants from China have settled in New York and California. Massachusetts, Georgia, Texas, New Jersey and Illinois also have a large Chinese immigrant population.

(Image and Facts courtesy of Migration Information Source)
Works Cited


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