

China

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The story step by step

- 1 Listen to Welcome to China (from 'China is the world's third biggest country ...' to '... in the world.'). List the descriptions of China you hear with superlative adjectives. Check your answers on p.6 of the book or in the answer key.

The world's third biggest country, _____

- 2 Listen to Chapter 1 (from 'China covers a large geographical area ...' to '... all of the year.'). Complete the text with the missing information you hear. Check your answers on p.8 of the book or in the answer key.

There are high *mountains* and plateaus in the south-west, dry sandy _____ in the north and north-west, _____ areas of grasslands and _____ in the north-east and forests, and huge _____ deltas and fertile lowlands near the _____ in the east and the south. Its size and the big differences in the _____ of the land mean that the _____ from north to south and east to west changes a lot, too.

In the north, _____ are very hot and dry, but _____ are very cold and temperatures can go as low as _____ in some places. Strong _____ in winter and _____ blow large _____ of sand from the _____ towards the north-east coast. In _____ like the capital Beijing, the sand clouds are often so _____ that it is difficult for people to _____. In central China summers are _____, hot and _____, and winters are _____, wet and _____. The high plateaus in the south-west have very _____ winters but little _____, but the lowlands in the south-east are wet and _____ all of the year.

- 3 Listen to Chapter 1 again (from 'Geography' to '... richest area in the country.'). Write the numbers corresponding to the following facts. Check your answers on pp.9–11 of the book or in the answer key.

- 1 4,000 metres the height of the Tibetan Plateau above the sea
- 2 _____ the height of Mount Everest
- 3 _____ the number of people living in the Loess Plateau
- 4 _____ the length of the River Yangtze
- 5 _____ the length of the Yellow River
- 6 _____ the deaths in the Yellow River floods of 1931
- 7 _____ the length of the Pearl River
- 8 _____ the number of people living on the Pearl River delta

- 4 Listen to Chapter 1 again (from 'The largest ethnic group is the Han.' to 'the Chinese language.'). Answer the following questions with the Chinese ethnic groups from the box. You can use them more than once and there is more than one answer to some questions. Check your answers on pp.12–13 of the book or in the answer key.

Han Hui Manchus Miao Mongols Uyghur Zhuang

Which ethnic group ...

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1 is the largest in China? | Han |
| 2 consists mainly of farmers now but in the past was nomadic? | |
| 3 did the last emperor of China belong to? | |
| 4 has a language belonging to the Chinese–Tibetan family? | |
| 5 has a language like Turkish? | |
| 6 has less than a hundred people who speak its language? | |
| 7 is famous for a show with traditional folk songs, dances and poetry? | |
| 8 is mostly Muslim? | |
| 9 is the largest ethnic minority group in China? | |
| 10 is the largest ethnic group in the world? | |
| 11 lives in the hilly regions of south-west China? | |
| 12 lived in yurts, or tents made of strong cotton cloth and felt? | |
| 13 mostly live in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in north-west China? | |
| 14 uses Roman letters and not Chinese characters? | |

- 5 Listen to Chapter 2. Match the historical periods (1–9) with the ideas and achievements (a–i). Check your answers on pp.15–22 of the book or in the answer key.

Historical period	Important ideas or achievements
1 The Qin dynasty	a Beijing made the capital city and palace called the Forbidden City built
2 The Han dynasty	b Buddhism and Daoism became very popular
3 The Period of Disunity	c Building the longest canal in the world
4 The Sui dynasty	d Confucianism, paper and printing methods, water clocks for telling the time
5 The Tang dynasty	e European countries became very interested in trading with China
6 The Northern & Southern Song dynasties	f The only female Emperor
7 The Yuan dynasty	g The Great Wall of China and the Terracotta Army
8 The Ming dynasty	h The first non-Han dynasty to rule all of China
9 The Qing dynasty	i Movable type printing, paper money, the compass

- 6 Listen to Chapter 3 (from 'Chinese art has a history ...' to '... the capital of porcelain.'). Put the country, nationality and continent words in the correct column according to their stress patterns. Check your answers in the answer key.

Chinese Europe Europeans Portuguese Dutch Germans China Asia America				
•	••	•••	••••	•••••
		Chinese		

- 7 Listen to Chapter 4 (from 'Wuxia literature and cinema' to '... think that it should be.'). Match the words with their definitions. Check your answers on pp.31–32 of the book or in the answer key.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1 <i>Wuxia</i> | a a chosen leader of the <i>wulin</i> |
| 2 <i>Samurai</i> | b military |
| 3 <i>Jianghu</i> | c martial arts hero |
| 4 <i>Wulin</i> | d Japanese knights |
| 5 <i>Wulin Mengzhu</i> | e skill |
| 6 <i>Wu</i> | f rivers and lakes |
| 7 <i>Shu</i> | g the skill of fighting (kung fu) |
| 8 <i>Wushu</i> | h the martial artists who live in the <i>Jianghu</i> |

- 8 Listen to Chapter 5. Choose the correct answer for each question. Check your answers on pp.33–37 of the book or in the answer key.

- Traditional Chinese medicine began _____ .
 a) fifty years ago b) five hundred years ago c) five thousand years ago
- The ancient art of Fu Xi taught people to _____ .
 a) cook b) fish c) read
- Acupuncture is a way of treating illness with _____ .
 a) exercise b) herbs c) needles
- During the Han dynasty, an important medical text was *Shennong's Classic of Herbal* _____ .
 a) Cures b) Medicines c) Treatments
- Opposite forces which depend on each other for their existence are known as _____ .
 a) *yin* and *yang* b) *cai* and *fan* c) *wu* and *shu*
- Traditional Chinese doctors treat people through _____ .
 a) diet b) meditation c) both of these
- Chinese doctors learnt a lot from doctors in countries such as _____ .
 a) India b) Italy c) Iran

- 11 Listen to Chapter 7 (from 'Spring Festival' to '... happiness and health.'). Complete the missing information about Chinese festivals. Check your answers on pp.46–50 of the book or in the answer key.

Festival: Chinese New Year

Date: *between 21st January and 19th February*

Activities: The family gets together for a big meal of _____, _____, _____ and _____; red envelopes with _____ are given to _____; the _____ ring; there are fireworks, families visit _____ and neighbours with _____, cakes and _____, and a traditional _____ dance is performed to loud _____.

Festival: _____

Date: on the fifteenth day of the New Year celebration

Activities: There are red _____ in the streets and in every _____ and _____, and _____ of lanterns of many different _____ in the parks; families get together to look at the _____ and eat small _____ made of _____.

Festival: Qingming Festival

Date: _____

Activities: People clean the _____ of their _____, leave _____, _____ and other presents for them, and make short _____ to the _____ or to the _____ to enjoy the fresh _____, flowers and _____.

Festival: _____

Date: May or June

Activities: _____

Festival: _____

Date: between September and October

Activities: Everyone goes _____ to admire the full _____ and eat _____.

Festival: _____

Date: during the New Year celebrations

Activities: Everybody puts on their best _____ and takes clean _____ to the Buddhist Temple, they _____ the Buddha and then throw the _____ at each other for _____, happiness and health.

- 12 Listen to Chapter 8 (from 'The Chinese have more than ...' to '... with people of all ages.'). The sentences below are taken from this chapter. Write 'r' next to the sentences where you hear the underlined 'r'. Don't write anything if the underlined 'r' is silent. Check your answers in the answer key.

The Chinese have more than 115 days of holiday a year.	
During their <u>f</u> ree time people like to eat out with their friends.	r
There are also many kinds of <u>e</u> ntertainment.	
Some of the ethnic <u>m</u> inorities, especially the Uyghur, are famous for their music.	
These include the <i>pipa</i> , a type of guitar with <u>f</u> our strings.	
The <i>erhu</i> , a type of violin with two <u>s</u> trings, is also very old.	
As well as <u>p</u> erforming their music in concert halls, musicians also play in some teahouses.	
The traditional Chinese musical forms that are <u>p</u> opular today started to develop during the Tang dynasty.	
Confucius was able to play musical <u>i</u> nstruments and we think that he also taught music.	
People also enjoy <u>w</u> estern classical music.	
This kind of music was introduced into China at the end of the nineteenth century.	
Now some of the best western classical musicians in the <u>w</u> orld are Chinese.	
The young Chinese pianist Lang Lang, for example, is famous <u>a</u> round the world.	

- 13 Listen to Chapter 8 again (from 'Traditional theatre ...' to '... director Chen Kaige.'). Tick (✓) the information you hear. Check your answers on pp.54–55 of the book or in the answer key.

- 1 Peking Opera has been the main form of Chinese theatre since the nineteenth century. —
- 2 Emperor Qianlong brought it to the city of Beijing from the south of the country. ✓
- 3 Peking opera is quite similar to western opera. —
- 4 There are only six or seven musicians accompanying the opera. —
- 5 The stories of the operas are often popular legends or historical events. —
- 6 The characters in them can be divided into five groups. —
- 7 The *sheng* and the *dan* have natural faces, not painted ones. —
- 8 Only men are allowed to be in the operas. —
- 9 The clothes of the performers help people understand their roles. —
- 10 Red, blue and black face paint is worn by bad people. —
- 11 Green face paint is for an angry person. —
- 12 Nowadays people like the martial arts acrobatics best. —
- 13 In the romantic operas the acrobatics are particularly important. —

- 14 Listen to Chapter 9 (from 'Chinese people have not always ...' to '... it was a sign of change.'). Put these events in the order in which they occur. Check your answers on pp.60–65 of the book or in the answer key.
- | | | |
|---|--|-----------|
| a | Chiang became the leader of the Nationalist party. | — |
| b | China became a republic governed by the Chinese Nationalist Party. | <u>1</u> |
| c | Mao Zedong founded the People's Republic of China. | — |
| d | Members of the Communist Party walked 'The Long March'. | — |
| e | Richard Nixon visited China. | <u>10</u> |
| f | Sun Yat-sen started a military academy in Guangzhou. | — |
| g | The Cultural Revolution took place. | — |
| h | The Japanese left China. | — |
| i | The Nationalists killed many Communists. | — |
| j | There were bad floods and bad harvests in China. | — |

- 15 Listen to Chapter 10 (from 'China: the present and the future' to '... in the world's future.'). Put the verbs in parentheses in the correct tenses you hear. Check your answers on p.73 of the book or in the answer key.

China *has developed* (develop) very quickly since the end of the twentieth century. Its economy _____ (do) well and people _____ (have) jobs and more money to spend. In the past many people _____ (leave) the country to look for the 'American Dream' in the USA, but now they _____ (move) back to China to follow the 'Chinese Dream'. The same _____ (be) true for Chinese students who _____ (go) abroad to finish their studies. Many used to _____ (stay) in the country where they _____ (study) but they _____ (prefer) to return home now because life _____ (be) good there and they _____ (can) find a good job.

However, China _____ (be) still a country of big differences. Most of the money in China today, for example, _____ (belong) to people who _____ (be) younger than forty-five and living in cities. In the countryside, many people _____ (be) still very poor and life _____ (be) hard for them.

So, what _____ (be) the future for China? Some people _____ (think) that it _____ (can) become the next world superpower. It _____ (be) a big country with a large population. It _____ (have) a strong economy and a growing global culture. It _____ (have) military power. It _____ (be) also a leader in satellite technology and _____ (can) soon become a leader in space technology. Other people _____ (think) that superpowers _____ (belong) to the past, and that in the future the world _____ (divide) into three regional powers: the USA, Europe and the East.

We _____ (have to) wait and see, but one thing _____ (be) certain – as a superpower or as a regional power, China _____ (play) an important part in the world's future.