China
Jennifer Gascoigne

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 county.
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________

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 areas of grasslands and areas of 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 in the south, 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

Macmillan Readers  China  1
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Han</th>
<th>Hui</th>
<th>Manchus</th>
<th>Miao</th>
<th>Mongols</th>
<th>Uyghur</th>
<th>Zhuang</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Which ethnic group …

1  is the largest in China?  
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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>Europe</th>
<th>Europeans</th>
<th>Portuguese</th>
<th>Dutch</th>
<th>Germans</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>Asia</th>
<th>America</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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.

1 Traditional Chinese medicine began ____________ .
   a) fifty years ago   b) five hundred years ago  c) five thousand years ago
2 The ancient art of Fu Xi taught people to ____________ .
   a) cook    b) fish   c) read
3 Acupuncture is a way of treating illness with ____________ .
   a) exercise     b) herbs   c) needles
4 During the Han dynasty, an important medical text was Shennong's Classic of Herbal ____________ .
   a) Cures   b) Medicines  c) Treatments
5 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
6 Traditional Chinese doctors treat people through ____________ .
   a) diet    b) meditation   c) both of these
7 Chinese doctors learnt a lot from doctors in countries such as ____________ .
   a) India    b) Italy   c) Iran
8 The elixir of life was ____________ created by Chinese alchemists to help you live longer.
   a) a chemical b) gold c) a liquid

9 In his book *Important Principles of Food and Drink*, Hu Sihui promoted a ____________.
   a) balanced diet b) strict diet c) vegetarian diet

10 Nowadays the Chinese ____________.
   a) adopt both styles of medicine b) prefer western medicine c) prefer traditional medicine

11 Chinese herbal doctors diagnose patients’ illnesses using ____________.
   a) all the senses b) magic c) technology

12 Qigong is any form of martial art that includes breathing techniques, ____________ and
   meditation.
   a) equilibrium b) movement c) rest

9 Listen to Chapter 6 (from ‘Eating together as a family …’ to ‘… small meals at teahouses.’). Circle all
   the foods and drinks you hear. Be careful, sometimes you will hear both words! Check your answers on
   p.38 of the book or in the answer key.

   cereals / toast  bread / butter
   juice / milk     fish / seafood
   pizza / sandwich soup / stew
   meat / potatoes  coffee / tea
   fruit / vegetables cheese / dessert
   rice / salad     biscuits / cakes
   noodles / pasta

10 Listen to Chapter 6 again (from ‘The eight regional cuisines.’ to ‘chopsticks.’). Put the information
    about regional Chinese cuisine in the correct column. Check your answers on pp.41–42 of the book or
    in the answer key.

   bread        Cantonese cuisine        duck        garlic, ginger and chilli pepper with meat
   hot and spicy Kung Pao chicken        lake and river fish        meat cooked with onions
   onion        seafood               onion        sweet and sour carp
   the most well-known Chinese cooking style outside China  vegetables

   Lu     Su        Yue         Chuan

   seafood
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: 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sentence</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Chinese have more than 115 days of holiday a year.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>During their free time people like to eat out with their friends.</td>
<td>r</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are also many kinds of entertainment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Some of the ethnic minorities, especially the Uyghur, are famous for their music.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>These include the pipa, a type of guitar with four strings.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The erhu, a type of violin with two strings, is also very old.</td>
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<tr>
<td>As well as performing their music in concert halls, musicians also play in some teahouses.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>The traditional Chinese musical forms that are popular today started to develop during the Tang dynasty.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confucius was able to play musical instruments and we think that he also taught music.</td>
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<tr>
<td>People also enjoy western classical music.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>This kind of music was introduced into China at the end of the nineteenth century.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Now some of the best western classical musicians in the world are Chinese.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The young Chinese pianist Lang Lang, for example, is famous around the world.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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. 1

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. 10

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.