

China

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1 *The world's third biggest country*, the largest population – the most people living there, some of the biggest cities in the world, one of the world's oldest civilizations, one of the strongest economies in the world.

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

In the north, summers are very hot and dry, but winters are very cold and temperatures can go as low as -41°C in some places. Strong winds in winter and spring blow large clouds of sand from the deserts towards the north-east coast. In cities like the capital Beijing, the sand clouds are often so thick that it is difficult for people to see. In central China summers are long, hot and humid, and winters are short, wet and cold. The high plateaus in the south-west have very cold winters but little rain, but the lowlands in the south-east are wet and warm all of the year.

3

1	4,000 metres	5	5,464 kilometres
2	8,850 metres	6	One million
3	Fifty million	7	2,400 kilometres
4	6,418 kilometres	8	Forty-six million

4

1	Han	8	Uyghur and Hui
2	Mongols	9	Zhuang
3	Manchus	10	Han
4	Zhuang and Miao	11	Miao
5	Uyghur	12	Mongols
6	Manchus	13	Hui
7	Uyghur	14	Zhuang

5 1 g, 2 d, 3 b, 4 c, 5 f, 6 i, 7 h, 8 a, 9 e

6

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Dutch	Europe Germans China Asia	Chinese	America	Portuguese Europeans

7 1 c, 2 d, 3 f, 4 h, 5 a, 6 b, 7 e, 8 g

8 1 c, 2 b, 3 c, 4 b, 5 a, 6 c, 7 a, 8 c, 9 a, 10 a, 11 a, 12 b

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

10

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

11 Festival: Chinese New Year

Date: between 21st January and 19th February

Activities: The family gets together for a big meal of dumplings, noodles, chicken and fish; red envelopes with money are given to children; the bells ring; there are fireworks, families visit friends and neighbours with sweets, cakes and fruit, and a traditional lion dance is performed to loud music.

Festival: Lantern Festival

Date: on the fifteenth day of the New Year celebration

Activities: There are red lanterns in the streets and in every house and shop, and exhibitions of lanterns of many different shapes and sizes in the parks; families get together to look at the full moon and eat small dumplings made of rice.

Festival: Qingming Festival

Date: April

Activities: People clean the tombs of their relatives, leave food, flowers and other presents for them, and make short trips to the countryside or to the parks to enjoy the fresh air, flowers and trees.

Festival: The Dragon Boat Festival

Date: May or June

Activities: boat races

Festival: The Mid-Autumn Festival

Date: between September and October

Activities: Everyone goes outside to admire the full moon and eat mooncakes.

Festival: Water Throwing Festival

Date: during the New Year celebrations

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

12

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

13 2 *Emperor Qianlong brought it to the city of Beijing from the south of the country.*

4 There are only six or seven musicians accompanying the opera.

5 The stories of the operas are often popular legends or historical events.

7 The *sheng* and the *dan* have natural faces, not painted ones.

9 The clothes of the performers help people understand their roles.

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 1 b, 2 f, 3 a, 4 i, 5 d, 6 h, 7 c, 8 j, 9 g, 10 e

15 China has developed very quickly since the end of the twentieth century. Its economy is doing well and people have jobs and more money to spend. In the past many people left the country to look for the 'American Dream' in the USA, but now they are moving back to China to follow the 'Chinese Dream'. The same is true for Chinese students who go abroad to finish their studies. Many used to stay in the country where they studied but they prefer to return home now because life is good there and they can find a good job.

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

So, what is the future for China? Some people think that it could become the next world superpower. It is a big country with a large population. It has a strong economy and a growing global culture. It has military power. It is also a leader in satellite technology and could soon become a leader in space

technology. Other people think that superpowers belong to the past, and that in the future the world will be divided into three regional powers: the USA, Europe and the East.

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