

China

Beyond Our Borders Series

Grade Levels:

Grades 6-12+

Subject Areas:

Geography

Social Studies

History

Religion

Architecture

Synopsis:

Travels throughout China to reveal the economic reforms that are bringing an ancient civilization into the modern world. Includes sequences on the history of revolutions in China, the legacies of the First Chinese Emperor, political corruption during the early twentieth century, the Communist regime and the entrepreneurship of contemporary Chinese businessmen. Stresses the importance of China's geography and the great rivers of China in the development of Chinese agriculture and trade. Reveals the ethnic diversity of modern China and the adaptations that people are making as China enters the 21st Century.

Learning Objectives: Students will:

Describe China's distinctive geography and landforms.

Understand the importance of ancient cultural traditions in China.

Briefly explain the history of revolutions in China: their political aims and their eventual outcomes.

Understand China's ethnic diversity and how the Chinese people are adapting to fundamental changes in their economic system.

Describe the traditional Chinese architecture of the Forbidden City and renown Chinese artifacts such as the terra cotta warriors of the First Emperor.

Describe the industrial and agricultural basis of present-day China.

Vocabulary:

cornucopia, emporia, cuisine, palate, entrepreneurs, economic reform, delicacies, autonomous regions, tai chi, martial arts, Socialism, Communism, extremism, Capitalism,

capitalists, Cultural Revolution, mausoleum, idealistic, Chinese characters, hutongs, courtyards, private enterprise, consumer goods, market economy, terra cotta, verdant, revolutionaries, promenade, wok, ornate façade, rice cultivation

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

Where is China located? What famous rivers flow through China?

Is China a multicultural society?

How does China's political system differ from ours?

What architectural styles are associated with China?

Where do most Chinese live?

How do the Chinese people support themselves?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

How has the geography of China influenced the country's industries?

How have Chinese peasants been abused throughout history? Are their lives better now?

How do most Chinese people feel about education?

Why were there so many revolutions in China?

What are the signs that China's Communist government is adopting Western traditions?

Why have the Bai people been so successful in today's China?

Can China be called a "modern" country? Why or why not?

Further Activities:

Investigate the root causes of the political unrest in China during the 1930's.

Investigate the role of meditation in Buddhism.

Investigate how Chinese ideas about women's roles in society are changing.

Using a variety of research methods, record a typical day for an entrepreneur living in Shanghai.

Sample Chinese cuisine and/or investigate authentic Chinese recipes. What are the main components of the Chinese diet? Could these ingredients be purchased where you live?

Related New Dimension Media Titles:

Asia Economies: Toothless Tigers?
Asia Scope (series)
Asian Christian Traditions
China: Geography & History of the North
China: Geography & History of the South
Deng Xiaoping: China at the Crossroads
Society (Asia Scope series)