

## Discovering China - fact sheet



China is a very large country, which is in the continent of **Asia** and is in the Northern Hemisphere. China has the largest population in the world, with over 1.3 billion people. China is the 3rd largest country by area at 9,706,961 sq km



The capital of China is Beijing. A person who is from China is Chinese, and the main language that most people speak is Mandarin.

Ancient China was a land of invention. For centuries, China was much more advanced than most other countries in science and technology, astronomy and maths. The Chinese invented paper, the magnetic compass, printing, tea porcelain, silk and gunpowder, among other things.



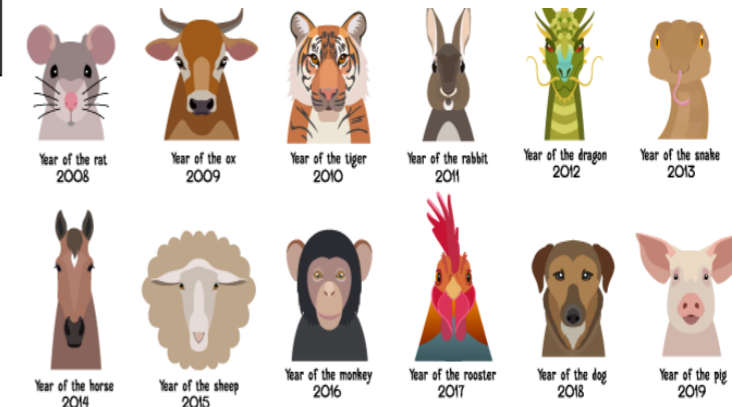
Many Chinese emperors considered themselves to be descendants of dragons.

Arts and crafts have a long history in China. Thousands of years ago, the Chinese were some of the first people to use silk, jade, bronze, wood and paper to make art. The artistic writing called calligraphy was invented in China.

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The third largest river in the world is the Yangtze River. The Yangtze is one of the two main rivers in China

In China, every year is represented by one of 12 animals.



It took around 37 years to make the Terracotta Army, a set of around 8,000 clay soldiers built in Xian to guard an Emperor's tomb

The Chinese New Year celebration lasts for 15 days.

The Xia and Shang dynasties are considered as the oldest Chinese civilisations.

Vocabulary	Definition
Acupuncture	An ancient Chinese treatment for healing that uses needles placed in various areas of the skin.
Bamboo	A fast growing grass that grows very tall and with hollow stems like a tube.
Buddhism	One of the three major religions of China, Buddhism originated in India.
Calligraphy	A style of writing that was considered an art form using brushes to paint the characters.
Dynasty	When the rule of a country is passed down to family members over a long period of time.
Forbidden City	A giant palace built in the centre of Beijing city by the Yongle Emperor of the Ming Dynasty.
Gunpowder	An important invention that was used for fireworks and weapons such as bombs and guns.
Mongols	The nomadic peoples of the north who often raided China.
Qin Shi Huang	The first emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang united China under one rule and began the Qin dynasty.
Silk	A luxurious material made from the cocoons of silkworms. Silk was highly prized in ancient China and was only worn by the wealthy.
Silk Road	A trade route that ran from northern China to Europe.
Terracotta	A type of baked clay ceramic. It was used in building the 8,000 life size terracotta soldiers that were buried with Emperor Qin.
Three Perfections	The Three Perfections were the three most important art forms of Ancient China: painting, poetry, and calligraphy.

The Great Wall of China is the world's longest wall and biggest ancient architecture. It is over 13,000 miles long. The Great Wall is more than 2,300 years old.



China is famous for its food and the use of chop sticks to eat it.

The world's tallest mountain, Mount Everest, is in China.



In China, the dragon symbolises good luck. Red is the symbol for happiness.



Animals that live in China include the giant panda, snow leopard, panda, Chinese alligator, and Bactrian camel.

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1. *China's population*

2. *China's area*

3. *China's climate*

4. *China's rivers*

5. *China's mountains*

6. *China's cities*

7. *China's history*

8. *China's culture*

9. *China's economy*

10. *China's politics*

11. *China's religion*

12. *China's language*

13. *China's food*

14. *China's art*

15. *China's music*

16. *China's sports*

17. *China's festivals*

18. *China's education*

19. *China's science*

20. *China's technology*