

# Chapters 1 - 3



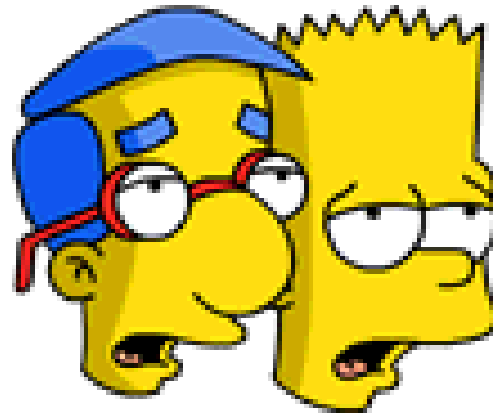
screeching



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She's lucky she's not one of those wild brown sparrows that are always so busy screeching around under cage  
pg. 3

groaned



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'I'm coming, big sister. I'm sorry,' I groaned pg.5

bank



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It was our signal to stand like a statue  
on the bank of the rice paddy pg.6

hustled



But I think Ye Ye hustled me home so  
quickly we set a new land speed  
record pg.8

rice paddy



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It was our signal to stand like a statue on the bank of the rice paddy  
pg.6

gurgle



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Then the unhappy gurgle as water and dirt collapsed back into the vacant hole  
pg.6

despondently



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Mama and my father, Baba, shake their heads despondently when he says this pg.9

utterly



She was still standing at the door, checking out my movements so I didn't do something utterly terrible like waste time pg.9

lurched



A man carrying about a hundred bunches of flowers on his bike suddenly lurched dangerously close to the pair of us pg.14

cargo



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He just kept wobbling off into the traffic again with his massive cargo of peonies and lotus flowers pg.15

eerie



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They were all silent and eerie, with just a little bit of steam rising out of the front entrances pg. 15

feeble



She gave a feeble little goodbye quack as I raced after my big sister pg.22

squirmed



I squirmed anxiously while he poured  
each cup pg. 24

oolong tea



Then he placed his favourite oolong  
tea into the teapot and half filled it  
with boiling water pg. 23



## Question 2

<https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/china-facts.html>



### China Facts for Kids

- **Population:** more than 1.43 billion people live in China (2020). The majority of the people live in cities and towns.
- **Capital:** Beijing with 21.7 million inhabitants is not only China's capital city but also the second biggest city after Shanghai.
- **Name:** People's Republic of China (PRC)
  
- **Government:** Republic, communist state
- **Languages:** Mandarin or Standard Chinese (official language), while Cantonese (Yue) and Shanghainese (Wu) are among other most spoken languages
- **Literacy:** More than 96% can read and write.
- **Religion:** No main religion, as religious memberships are not supported by the government. Main religions are Buddhist (18%), Christian 5%, Muslim 1.8%, Taoist, Hindu and Folk Religions (22%)
- **Currency:** 1 Renmimbi (Yuan) equals 100 Jiao
- **Flag colors:** red with five golden stars
- **National day:** 1 October - in 1949 the People's Republic of China was formed
- **National symbols:** dragon and giant panda
- **National colours:** red and yellow
  
- **National anthem:** 'March of the Volunteers'
- **History:** For many centuries, China has been one of the most advanced civilisations accomplishing major scientific and artistic treasures. The Xia and Shang dynasties are considered as the oldest Chinese civilisations. Over the centuries many emperors ruled the country, the last emperor of China, the last ruler of the Qing dynasty, was Pu Yi who abdicated in 1912. In the 20th century the world was shaken by bloody wars and from 1937-1945 Japan occupied large industrial areas in China and took over the Chinese government. Since 1949 the Communist Party of China rules the country. The current president of the People's Republic of China is Xi Jinping.

### Where is China? - China Map

China is located in the eastern parts of Asia and is the largest country that is entirely situated in Asia. **China borders 14 countries.** The countries bordering China are: Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar (formerly called Burma), Laos, Vietnam and North Korea (you will find them on the map below). **Map of China**

China has **23 provinces** including the island of Taiwan. Taiwan which has its own currency and government and is officially also called "Republic of China" is seen as a rebel province by China and is not recognised as a sovereign state by the UN. There are also **two SARs**, which are **Special Administrative Regions**, that have some autonomy: Hong Kong and Macau in southern China.



### China for Kids: China Geography

- China is the **fourth largest country** in the world after Russia, Canada and the USA.
- Although China is so large, there is only **one timezone!**
- Most people in China live in the eastern parts of the country, the western parts are only sparsely populated.
- The **Pacific Ocean** forms the natural border in the east and southeast and southwest of the country. In the west, there are the **Himalayas**, which is the highest mountain range in the world.
- Most of the western parts of the country lie on the Tibetan mountainous plateau. In fact, mountains make up the majority of the landscape, dominating over 70% of the landmass.



### ***Mountains in Sichuan***

- The huge country has many different climate zones ranging from tropic zones to arctic zones.
- In the north, there is the vast Gobi Desert. **Deserts make up about 20% of the country.**

### **China Facts Attractions for Kids**



### ***China's Great Wall***

- **Great Wall of China:** Walk along parts of the over 8,850km/5,500 miles long Great Wall which once was the border of the old Chinese empire. The wall stretches across China from the Korean border into the Gobi desert. This is the longest wall in the world and newer archeological findings report that the entire defence works including the Great Wall and all its branches stretches over 21,000km/13,000 miles! Did you know, that the name in ancient Chinese actually meant 'The 10,000-Mile Long Wall' or 'Incredibly Long Wall'?
- **Terracotta Warriors:** See the over 5000 sculptures of life-size soldiers, made from terracotta, in Xian. The sculptures which are on one of the world's most famous archeological sites, are older than 2,000 years.
- **Forbidden City in Beijing:** The Forbidden City houses the Palace museum with the Chinese Imperial Palace and the Summer Palace, that were still used until 1911.
- **Potala Palace** in Lhasa/Tibet: This is where every Dalai Lama has held his official residence until the Chinese invasion of Tibet in 1950
- **Wolong Giant Panda Nature Reserve** near Chengdu: See the pandas in their natural habitat and visit the breeding and research centre to learn more about the endangered pandas.
- **Guilin:** The rough limestone karst mountains along the Li River between Guilin and Yangshuo are very picturesque. People enjoy rafting on river.
- **'The Bund' in Shanghai:** Shanghai is the largest and most populated Chinese city with the busiest port in the world. The Bund is the megacity's main shopping and business district.
- **Hong Kong:** Visit Victoria Harbour. Enjoy the amazing views of the skyscrapers along the shoreline or get to the top of Victoria Peak and have a bird's eye view of the city and the harbour.

## Some China Facts about Chinese People

Almost one in five people on our earth live in China, while the country is smaller than the USA. The Chinese government lifted the one-child policy in 2016, now Chinese parents are allowed to have two children.

Many Chinese live in the 'megacities' of the country. Megacities are cities with more than 10 million inhabitants. Six of the 33 megacities in the world are located in China.



### **Megacity of Guangzhou - home to 25 million people**

In rural areas the living standard is still very poor and many people live there live in huts or along the rivers in stilt houses.

The Chinese love music and opera plays, although the voices of the Chinese opera singers may sound strange to our ears.

Chinese New Year, also called the Lunar New Year, is the biggest celebration on the Chinese calendar. The Chinese calendar start at the end of January/early February each year and every year another animal sign symbolises the strength and the weaknesses. There are 12 zodiac/animal signs and thus every 12 years the animals signs start over again. 2020 is the Year of the Rat. Read more here.

Children look very much forward to the Chinese New Year celebrations which are two weeks long celebrations over the new year when they get gifts, often money wrapped in red envelopes or red packets, from family and friends. Popular 'Lion Dances' also take place during this time. The dragon is the most celebrated symbol of prosperity and strength.



**Chinese Lion Dance - image by Windmoon**

## Chinese Language

Although Mandarin Chinese is the official language, in many regions other languages are spoken such as Cantonese, Shanghainese, Hainanese or Mongolian.

### **Ni Hao - Hello in Chinese Writing**

The Chinese writing is done from top to bottom in little symbols or signs, called 'characters' of which an adult usually knows about 8,000 different characters. With 13 years most Chinese children can read and write 3,000 characters.



## China Facts: Chinese Food

The traditional diet in China contains low amounts of protein such as meats or dairy products. Many Chinese dishes are vegetable and soya based. Chinese often eat/drink soup for breakfast and rice based dishes are eaten throughout the day.

**Soy, vegetable and rice products** are the most common ingredients in Chinese dishes. Chinese mainly eat with chopsticks and drink their soups instead of eating them with a spoon as we do. Here is some **typical Chinese food**:



**Springrolls**

- **Springrolls:** The fried rice paper rolls are surely the most famous food export
- **Chow Mein:** stir-fried egg noodles with chicken strips
- **Tofu:** soy bean curd used in many dishes
- **Sweet and sour pork:** fried cubed pork and fried vegetables in a sweet and sour sauce often made with capsicum peppers and pineapple
- **Peking Duck:** duck roast with crispy thin skin, often served with plum sauce
  
- **Dim Sum:** Steamed dumplings filled with minced meat or vegetables



**Chinese Dim Sum**

## SHANGHAI

**Shanghai**, also spelled **Shang-hai**, city and province-level *shi* (municipality), east-central [China](#). It is one of the world's largest seaports and a major industrial and commercial centre of China.

The city is located on the coast of the [East China Sea](#) between the mouth of the [Yangtze River](#) (Chang Jiang) to the north and the bay of [Hangzhou](#) to the south. The municipality's area includes the city itself, surrounding suburbs, and an agricultural hinterland. Shanghai is China's most-populous city, and the [municipality](#) is its most-populous urban area.

Shanghai was one of the first Chinese ports to be opened to Western trade, and it long dominated the nation's commerce. Since the communist victory in 1949, however, it has become an industrial giant whose products supply China's growing domestic demands. The city has also undergone extensive physical changes with the establishment of industrial suburbs and housing complexes, the improvement of [public works](#), and the provision of parks and other recreational facilities. Shanghai has attempted to [eradicate](#) the economic and psychological [legacies](#) of its exploited past through physical and social transformation to support its major role in the modernization of China. Area Shanghai municipality, 2,400 square miles (6,200 square km). Pop (2010) city, 20,217,748; Shanghai municipality, 23,019,196; (2014 est.) Shanghai municipality, 24,256,800.

LANDSCAPE

Shanghai municipality is bordered by [Jiangsu](#) province to the north and west and [Zhejiang](#) province to the southwest. It includes the 18 districts [constituting](#) the city of Shanghai and several islands in the mouth of the Yangtze and offshore to the southeast in the [East China Sea](#). The largest island, [Chongming](#), has an area of 489 square miles (1,267 square km) and extends more than 50 miles (80 km) upstream from the mouth of the Yangtze; it and the islands of Changxing and Hengsha administratively [comprise](#) a county under Shanghai municipality.

## CLIMATE

The city's maritime location fosters a mild [climate](#) characterized by minimal seasonal contrast. The average annual [temperature](#) is about 61 °F (16 °C); the July maximum averages about 80 °F (27 °C), and the average January minimum is about 37 °F (3 °C). About 45 inches (1,140 mm) of [precipitation](#) fall annually, with the heaviest rainfall in June and the lightest in December.

As China's main industrial centre, Shanghai has serious air, water, and noise [pollution](#). Industrial relocation and construction in the suburbs since the 1950s initially helped [alleviate](#) central city [air pollution](#), although high [population](#) density and mixed industrial-residential land use continued to cause problems. The Suzhou River (the lower reach of Wusong River) and the [Huangpu River](#) (a tributary of the Yangtze), which flow through the city, are severely polluted from industrial discharges, domestic sewage, and ships' wastes; nonetheless, the Huangpu is Shanghai's main water source. Environmental protection and urban cleanliness are [enhanced](#) by industrial and solid waste resource-recovery operations run by a municipal corporation. More than 1,000 different materials are recycled, including [plastic](#), chemical fibre and residues, machine components, oil and [grease](#), rags, human [hair](#), and animal bones.

