



1) China is a country on the continent of Asia. It borders the Pacific Ocean.

2) Called People's Republic of China

3) Beijing is the capital city of China. It is the second largest city in China - more than 10 million people live there.

- 4) China's population is over 1 billion people. Most people live in eastern China.
- 5) China is the largest country based on population. China is the 4th largest country based on size (area). It is slightly smaller than the U.S.
- 6) Most of China is covered by mountains or deserts. The Himalayas are part of China - they are the highest mountains in the world.
- 7) There are many rivers in China. The Yangtze and Hwang He (Yellow River) are major rivers in China. Farmers grow rice, potatoes, and cotton along the rivers.
- 8) The Chinese terrace their mountains to make more room to grow rice (rice paddies).
- 9) Terrace means to cut back the land. The land looks like giant steps.
- 10) China was ruled by dynasties for thousands of years.(A member of the same family ruled until another family started a new dynasty.)
- 11) China has made many contributions to the world. Some examples include paper, tea, pasta, wheelbarrow, kites, carpets, sunglasses, and acupuncture.
- 12) The Great Wall of China is 5,500 miles long.
  - During the Qin dynasty (221 B.C.-206 B.C.), the emperor wanted to protect China from invaders.
  - He ordered the construction of the Great Wall across northern China.
  - It took hundreds of years to complete the Great Wall.

- It is the longest object ever built.
- People can see it from outer space.

13) The Forbidden City- located in the center of Beijing; the home of emperors

\* Today the Forbidden City is a museum open to all.

In 1912, there was a revolt and China became a republic headed by a president. There were no more dynasties in China.

14) The republic was overthrown by communists in 1949. They were led by Mao Zedong. Mao made China a communist country and renamed it the People's Republic of China.

15) China still has a communist government today.

16) The president and premier of China have two five year terms.

17) The rise to power involves a very lengthy apprenticeship. This means a person must serve in Congress for many, many years.

18) Instead of democratic elections, leadership change in China involves a succession plan.

19) Like the United States, China has a Congress. The decisions made in China's Congress are kept secret.

20) Chinese Flag

- The big yellow star stands for communism.
- The four small stars represent the people of China.
- The color red symbolizes revolution.

## 21) Religion & Beliefs

- common Chinese religions and belief systems are Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism
- Most people in China are atheists because the government rejects these belief systems.
- An atheist is someone who denies the existence of God and does not follow any religion.

## 22) Chinese Languages - Mandarin and Cantonese

## 23) Chinese currency is yuan.

## 24) Chinese New Year

- \* This is the most important holiday in China.
- \* It is a week long holiday at the end of January.
- \* There are parades, feasts, and fireworks throughout this holiday.