

China - Home and School Life

Home Life

- Many people in ancient China lived near rivers.
- More than half of the population live in villages.
- In rural areas, the homes do not have running water or heat. So, people get their water from wells or the mountains.

- Many people also live in urban areas (large cities like Shanghai and Beijing) in houses or apartments.
- These areas have homes that look similar to North American homes.

- Grandparents, parents, and children often live together.
- The government encourages each family to have only one child to control the population.
- Families that have more than one child have to pay a penalty.
- Exceptions to this are:
 - Families that live in rural areas can have more than one child to help farm
 - Families that have twins
 - Families that have parents that were only children.

- Most people travel by bicycle or motor scooter because of the crowded city streets.

School Life

- Children begin school at age 6-7
- Schools are open 6 days a week
- Children walk or ride bikes to school. (no buses)
- There are two vacations each year:
 - 1 month in winter, 1 month in summer
- China uses characters that stand for words and ideas.
 - There are over 50,000 characters, but the average Chinese person only needs to know 2,000-3,000 in order to read and write.
- Many children learn English.