

#3588

# CHINA NEWS STORIES

Grade Levels: 4-8

24 minutes

S. I. VIDEO SALES GROUP 1997

## DESCRIPTION

Eight middle school American students travel to China and examine different aspects of its culture. Often using kid-in-the-street interviews, they focus on clothing, use of spare time, foods, the Forbidden City, a school, transportation, shopping, and jobs. Each segment encourages comparison to America's culture.

## ACADEMIC STANDARDS

### Subject Area: Geography

- ◆ Standard: Understands the nature and complexity of earth's cultural mosaics
  - Benchmark: Knows the similarities and differences in characteristics of culture in different regions (e.g., in terms of environment and resources, technology, food, shelter, social organization, beliefs and customs, schooling, what girls and boys are allowed to do) (See Instructional Goals #1, #2)

## INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To depict the culture and the living conditions in China.
2. To compare and contrast living conditions in China with that of the United States.
3. To encourage further exploration of and travel to China.

## VOCABULARY

- |                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1. minorities  | 8. emperor  |
| 2. fad         | 9. uniform  |
| 3. open market | 10. moped   |
| 4. porridge    | 11. tai chi |
| 5. dumplings   | 12. bargain |
| 6. chopsticks  | 13. CNP     |
| 7. yuan        |             |



## BEFORE SHOWING

1. Locate China on a world map. Summarize and discuss the following very briefly.
  - a. Climate and weather
  - b. Overall geography and demographics
  - c. History

2. Discuss the Communist form of government and contrast it to democracy in the United States.

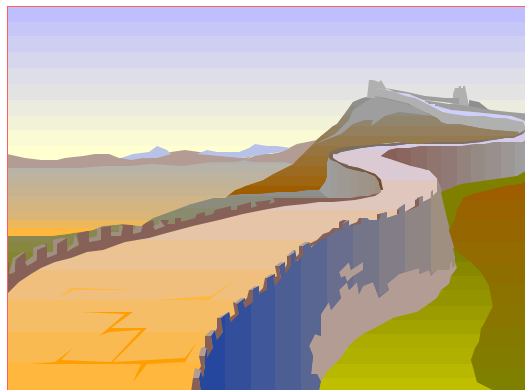
## **DURING SHOWING**

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### **Discussion Items and Questions**

1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.
2. Pause after each section.
  - a. Discuss the main similarities and differences between China and the United States for each section.
  - b. Discuss cultural differences:

(1) clothing	(5) school
(2) spare time	(6) transportation
(3) food	(7) buying stuff
(4) Forbidden City	(8) jobs



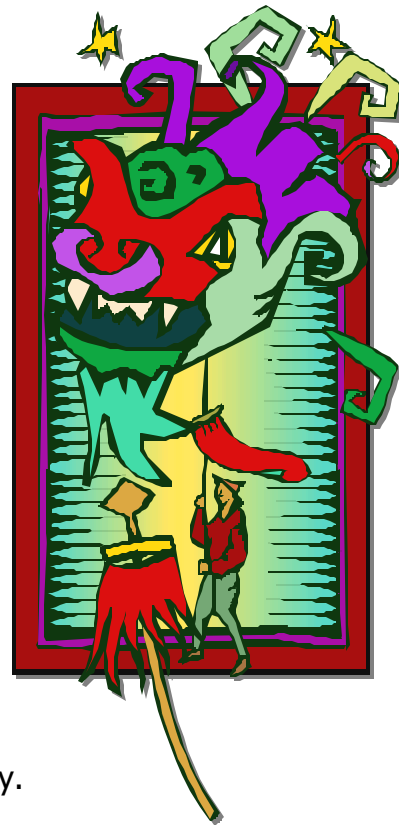
## **AFTER SHOWING**

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### **Discussion Items and Questions**

1. How does the Chinese clothing for the Chinese change from the city to the country?
2. Solicit ideas as to possible reasons people in China do not wear bright colors.
3. Explain what a "Mao suit" looks like, where it came from and who wears it.
4. Why have the Chinese recently acquired a significant amount of spare time?
5. What are the most common foods eaten in China?
6. What is common to Chinese gas stations?
7. Ask students to discuss why they would want or not want to attend school in China.
8. All Chinese students learn English in school. If all American students had to learn a language other than English, what would be a logical choice?
9. Identify and explain the primary mode of transportation in China.
10. Would the Chinese method of traffic control work in the United States?
11. Discuss how food shopping in China is very different than in the United States.
  - a. Where do the Chinese shop for their food?
  - b. Why must they shop every day?
  - c. What would be the advantages and disadvantages of shopping this way?
12. How do people in China obtain their jobs?
13. The Chinese are becoming more and more open to different cultures. Identify some of the parts of Western culture that is influencing China.
14. Compare and contrast China and the United States in the following areas:

- a. Clothing
- b. Spare time
- c. Food
  - (1) items
  - (2) cost
  - (3) storage
- d. School
  - (1) clothing
  - (2) subjects
- e. Transportation
  - (1) vehicles used
  - (2) traffic control
- f. Shopping
  - (1) location
  - (2) purchasing (bargaining)
- g. Jobs
  - (1) type of jobs
  - (2) how jobs are acquired



### Applications and Activities

1. Research China's policy on only one child per family.
  - a. Why was it established?
  - b. How well is it working?
  - c. What are some of the problems associated with it?
2. Discover what different instruments comprise a Chinese orchestra and compare them to an American orchestra. Locate several of the instruments and experiment with them.
3. Find out more about Chinese jump rope and teach the game to younger students.
4. Attend a performance of the Chinese acrobats in the local area (or watch a performance on TV).
5. Cook some typical Chinese cuisine, rice, Oriental vegetables, noodles, and others and eat them with chopsticks.
6. Attend a farmers' market in the local area. Discuss the similarities and differences between it and a Chinese market.
7. Research the Forbidden City. Take a virtual tour on the Internet. (See RELATED RESOURCES.)
  - a. When was it built?
  - b. How many emperors have lived there?
  - c. What is important about the colors red and bright yellow?
  - d. What are the significant events that have happened there?
8. Collect various objects that might be frequently bought in China. Set up a bargaining table and have students practice their bargaining skills.

9. Create travel guides using computer software, such as Microsoft Publisher, to encourage people to visit China. Include the seven areas that are presented in the video.
10. In conjunction with question #14 in Discussion Items and Questions, create a two-column chart that represents the differences between the two countries.
11. Using this video as a model, create a video on another culture, local state, local city, or local school.

## RELATED RESOURCES

### Captioned Media Program



- Assignment: China #3105
- China: A History #2366
- China: Turning to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century #3448
- The Chinese Way of Life #2045
- A Week in the Life of a Chinese Student #2237

### World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid-safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **CHINA TODAY**

[www.chinatoday.com](http://www.chinatoday.com)

Current information on education, military, arts and more. Also contains many links to information on China's culture.

- **CHINA VIRTUAL TOURS**

[www.chinavista.com/travel/index.html](http://www.chinavista.com/travel/index.html)

Pictorial tours of various sites in China. Includes the Forbidden City and the Great Wall.

- **CIA–THE WORLD FACTBOOK: CHINA**

[www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ch.html](http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ch.html)

Many interesting facts about China gathered by the U.S. government including life expectancy, land use, environmental issues and much more.

- **EAST & SOUTHEAST ASIA: AN ANNOTATED DIRECTORY OF INTERNET RESOURCES**

<http://newton.uor.edu/Departments&Programs/AsianStudiesDept/china-culture.html#society>

Links to many different sites on Chinese culture. Categorized into specific areas.