China is the world's most populous country—first in population and fifth in area. It has a continuous culture stretching back nearly 4,000 years and originated many of the foundations of the modern world. About 1.4 billion people live in China, according to the World Bank, representing 56 ethnic minority groups. The land in China varies greatly and includes flat grasslands, deserts, thick forests and mountains. The world's tallest mountain is Mount Everest. Mount Everest is found on the border between China and its neighbor Nepal. China is also home to the Yangtze River— the third largest river in the world!

China emerged as one of the world's earliest civilizations. China's political system was based on hereditary monarchies, or dynasties, beginning with the semi-legendary Xia dynasty in 21st century BCE. Since then, China has expanded, fractured, and re-unified numerous times. The invention of gunpowder and movable type in the Tang dynasty (618–907) and Northern Song (960–1127) completed the Four Great Inventions. Tang culture spread widely in Asia, as the new Silk Route brought traders to as far as Mesopotamia and the Horn of Africa. Dynastic rule ended in 1912 with the Xinhai Revolution, when the republic replaced the Qing dynasty. The People's Republic of China was founded in 1949 after the Communist Party defeated the nationalist Kuomintang, who retreated to Taiwan, creating two rival Chinese states - the People's Republic on the mainland and the Republic of China based on Taiwan!

China introduced the economic reforms in 1978 and since then its economy has been one of the world's fastest-growing with annual growth rates consistently above 6 percent. In recent years the Chinese government has loosened some of its authoritarian rules, and now has one of the world's largest economies!
K-12 RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

HISTORY, CULTURE, LANGUAGE, AND TRADITIONS

- **China Culture: Customs and Traditions by China**
  Ancient Chinese Culture is older than 5000 years. Chinese cultural history has enormous diversity and variety. The sophisticated Chinese civilization was rich in the Arts and Sciences, elaborate Painting and Printing techniques and delicate pottery and sculpture. Present day Chinese culture is an amalgamation of old world traditions and a westernized lifestyle. The two co-exist like the traditional Yin Yang formula of balance.

- **History of China**
  E-Book

- **Heilbrunn Timeline of History**
  The Met’s Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History pairs essays and works of art with chronologies, telling the story of art and global culture through the Museum’s collection

- **PBS: The Story of China**
  Bring The Story of China into your classroom with a collection of instructional resources from PBS LearningMedia! Teachers across various disciplines can use this curated mix of videos, games, discussion questions, and essays to help students expand their global awareness and deepen their appreciation for Chinese history and culture.

- **China 360: Learning Resources & Materials**
  Throughout the year, China Institute’s professional development program for K-12 Educators, Teach China, develops resources that help contextualize important topics in Chinese history, language, culture, and society. This includes lesson/unit plans, curriculum guides, access to video lectures, and an interactive timeline on China’s history.

- **Chinese Food**
  China is the country with not only the largest population, but also the largest and one of the most impressive cuisines in the entire world. Here you can get informed about the history of their cuisine and the way their tradition, medicine, expansion and fashion changes influenced the creation of new food recipes.
Chinese Learning Resources
Whether you're new at learning Mandarin or speaking fluently, there is a wealth of online materials to help you support your learning.

Human Rights in China
Human Rights in China (HRIC) is a Chinese non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in March 1989 by overseas Chinese students and scientists. They actively engage in case and policy advocacy, media and press work, and capacity building. Through their original publications and extensive translation work, HRIC provides bridges and uncensored platforms for diverse Chinese voices.

Travel China Guide
Presents 360 degree views of Beijing and nearby places.

POLITICS AND CONTEMPORARY TOPICS

MarcoPolo
MacroPolo is the in-house think tank of the Paulson Institute in Chicago. They have decoded China's economic arrival with incisive, market-relevant analysis and creative research products.

Fairbank Center Blog
This blog was published by the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University. It includes articles covered by academics and current graduate students covering a variety of topics including history, literature, environment, politics, and business. It also includes Podcasts, which offers expert discussions on a diverse range of subjects, from Chinese history to recent political developments.

Made in China Journal
The Made in China Journal is an open access quarterly on Chinese labour, civil society, and rights. The Journal stems from the belief that these transformations call for more serious analysis from both scholars and practitioners in a format that can facilitate critical engagement with a broader international audience interested in forging international solidarity.

China Currents
The China Research Center promotes understanding of greater China based on in-depth research and experience. Center Associates are experts on greater China's history, contemporary politics, economy, business environment, language, culture, and media
NEWS, MAGAZINES AND JOURNALS

- **China File**
  China File is a project of the Center on U.S.-China Relations at the Asia Society. It is a great resource for those looking for politically inclined resources.

- **Tea Leaf Nation: Decoding Modern China**
  Tea Leaf Nation decodes Chinese media, analyzes social trends, and features Chinese voices, all to illuminate the country from within.

- **South China Morning Post**
  An English-language newspaper based in Hong Kong. “This Week in Asia” section brings together news and commentary related to current affairs in China and other parts of Asia.

- **China Newspapers and Magazines**
  Founded by Teri Schure in January 1997, this resource contains articles reprinted from the press outside the United States, as well as originally written material. Their goal is to foster a globally engaged citizenry, which acts not only in its own country's interest, but also in the interests of the world community.

LESSON PLANS AND ACTIVITY IDEAS

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### East Asia National Resource Center

**THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

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**Exchange Programs**

**China Internship Placement**

**Program Description:**
CIP provides immersive High School Programs in China exposing High School students to global and critical thinking. The China High School Study Abroad Program is based in Beijing and Shanghai. As part of immersion, Participants will learn with their colleagues in High Schools and also Chinese Languages. Depending on your expectations, we combine Internship, Volunteering, Intensive Chinese language, and Travel Packages.

**Eligibility:** High School Students

**Fee:** Packages

**Scholarship:** Available

**CIEE: High School Abroad in China**

**Program Description:**
CIEE’s High School Abroad program provides you the experience to live and learn immersed in the heart of an ancient culture, thousands of miles from what you’ve
known. You will be placed in the first year of high school (year 10) at a boarding school, with all courses taught in Mandarin. Although the Chinese learning environment is intense, CIEE has got your back, providing 80 hours of group tutoring sessions per semester.

**Eligibility:** High School Students (9th to 12th) with minimum 3.0/4.0 GPA

**Fee:** $13,500

**Scholarship:** Available

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**References**


*Compiled by Shruthi Shree Nagarajan*

*NRC Curriculum Developer*