

Do You Know These 20 Facts About China?

- China is officially known as the People's Republic of China.
- China has the largest population in the world, with over 1.3 billion people (1,343,239,923) as of July 2012.
- The capital city is Beijing, while the most populated city is Shanghai. Other major cities include Chongqing, Shenzhen and Guangzhou.
- China experiences typhoons every year and also suffers from floods, tsunamis, earthquakes and droughts.
- The Great Wall of China is the largest man made structure in the world, stretching an incredible 8,850 kilometers (5,500 miles).
- The famous Giant Panda is found near the Yangtze River in China.
- Eighty percent, of the world's toys, are made in China, which has quickly built factories to keep up with demand.
- The high speed train in Shanghai goes 268 miles per hour (431 kilometers per hour), making it the fastest train in the world.
- In China, besides Father's Day and Mother's Day, people celebrate Children's Day by giving children gifts or money.
- The tallest mountain in the world, Mount Everest, is in China.
- Some people enjoy eating specialties like a bird nest soup, frog, snake, scorpion and dog. But be careful! Not everyone in China likes these. Some Chinese people may find them as strange as you do. It depends on their hometown, their family and their personal taste.
- Chinese names usually have a meaning chosen by the family, to reflect something about the person. Also, the last name comes first, usually followed by two syllables that make up the first name.
- The Chinese call McDonald's "Maidanglao", which approximates the sound and indicates that there is food made of wheat there (the hamburger buns).
- Unlike dragons in the West, dragons in China are typically regarded as positive symbols of power and good luck.
- It is not uncommon for children to keep crickets or cicadas as pets in small wooden cages.
- The Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year is the biggest holiday. On the seventh day, everyone turns a year older according to the lunar calendar.
- To stop population growth the government, has employed a one-child policy. This means very few children grow up with brothers or sisters.
- The abacus is an ancient counting machine. It is used in schools, to learn math. Many shopkeepers still use it for calculations. It can make very complex calculations.
- The number 13 is just another number in China. However, most Chinese think the number four is unlucky, because it's a similar word for death.
- Eight, on the other hand, is thought to be lucky. This explains why the government scheduled the 2008 Olympics to begin on 8/8/08 at 8:08:08 PM.

