

Buying and Selling in China

The People's Republic of China is a **vast** and beautiful country. It spans 9.6 million square kilometres of eastern Asia and has the world's largest **population** at over 1.3 billion. It is a country of great differences, with rich cities in the south east and extremely poor, **rural** areas to the north and west of the country.



Over the last few decades, China has seen huge **economic** change and this has had a big impact on many countries across the world.



You will probably find Chinese-made toys, electronics or computers in your own home or at school. A large Chinese company may even own a local factory or business. One thing is for sure; China has gone global! Just take a look at the labels on some of the products in your home and you are certain to find something which has been 'Made in China'.

The huge cities in China, such as Beijing and Shanghai, are centres for growth. With such a large population, there are always lots of active workers willing to take on new jobs. One third of the Chinese people work in farming, whilst about one quarter work in factories or mines. The rest provide services in areas such as hospitals, schools and **tourism**.

During the late 1970's, China's **wealth** began to grow at a fast rate which has led to it being today's biggest **exporter** of goods. China is rich in natural resources, but due to its population, it still needs to import oil, copper and steel from other countries. This has led to a **thriving trade** between countries across the world. China's search for resources is on a massive scale and has led to China buying land in other countries, such as areas in South America and Africa. Business deals like this are often welcomed as they bring another country much needed **development**.



China is the world's largest producer of rice and a major exporter of corn and peanuts. In terms of cash crops, China ranks number one in cotton and is an important producer of tea, silk and sugar beet.



China also ranks first in world production of red meat including beef, lamb and pork. Sheep, cattle and goats are the most common types of **livestock**.



China is one of the world's major **mineral**-producing countries. Coal is the most **abundant** material with many people employed in this line of work. Mining coal is hard and dangerous and can be poorly paid.

Despite the success of China's import and export trade, a large number of the population still live in **poverty**.

The economic boom has created rich businesses and city-based wealth, but this has made the gap between rich and poor even bigger. Many rural workers have made the decision to leave their homes and move to cities in search of more **profitable** work. In 2010, the Chinese **census** showed that nearly 220 million people worked away from home for over six months in a year. Chinese workers have also moved to other parts of the world, from the UK to the USA. But can China's development keep growing or will it slow down? Only time will tell.



Buying and Selling in China – Follow-Up Work

How large in size is China? (C6/2b)

What is the current population of China? (C6/2b)

Name some of the largest cities in China. (C6/2b)

Summarise the main ideas in the opening paragraph. (S2/2c)

Use a dictionary to find the meaning of the word 'abundant'. (L3)

What does the word 'goods' mean in the context of this text? (C1/2a)

In paragraph 2, what is meant by the phrase 'China has gone global'? (C1/2a)

China has lots of natural resources, but still needs to import some from other countries. Why do you think this happens? (P5/2d)