

# CHINA

## THE MIDDLE KINGDOM

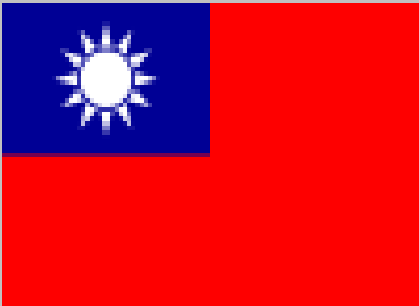
Chinese folk tale : The Ten Suns



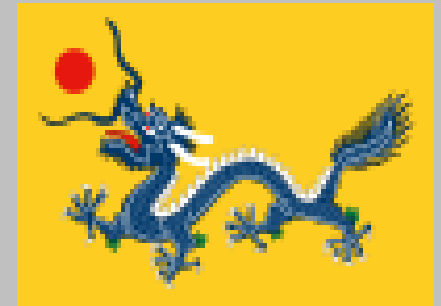
**Press >**  
**(4 mins)**

See photographs 7, 12, 14

## The National Flag of China



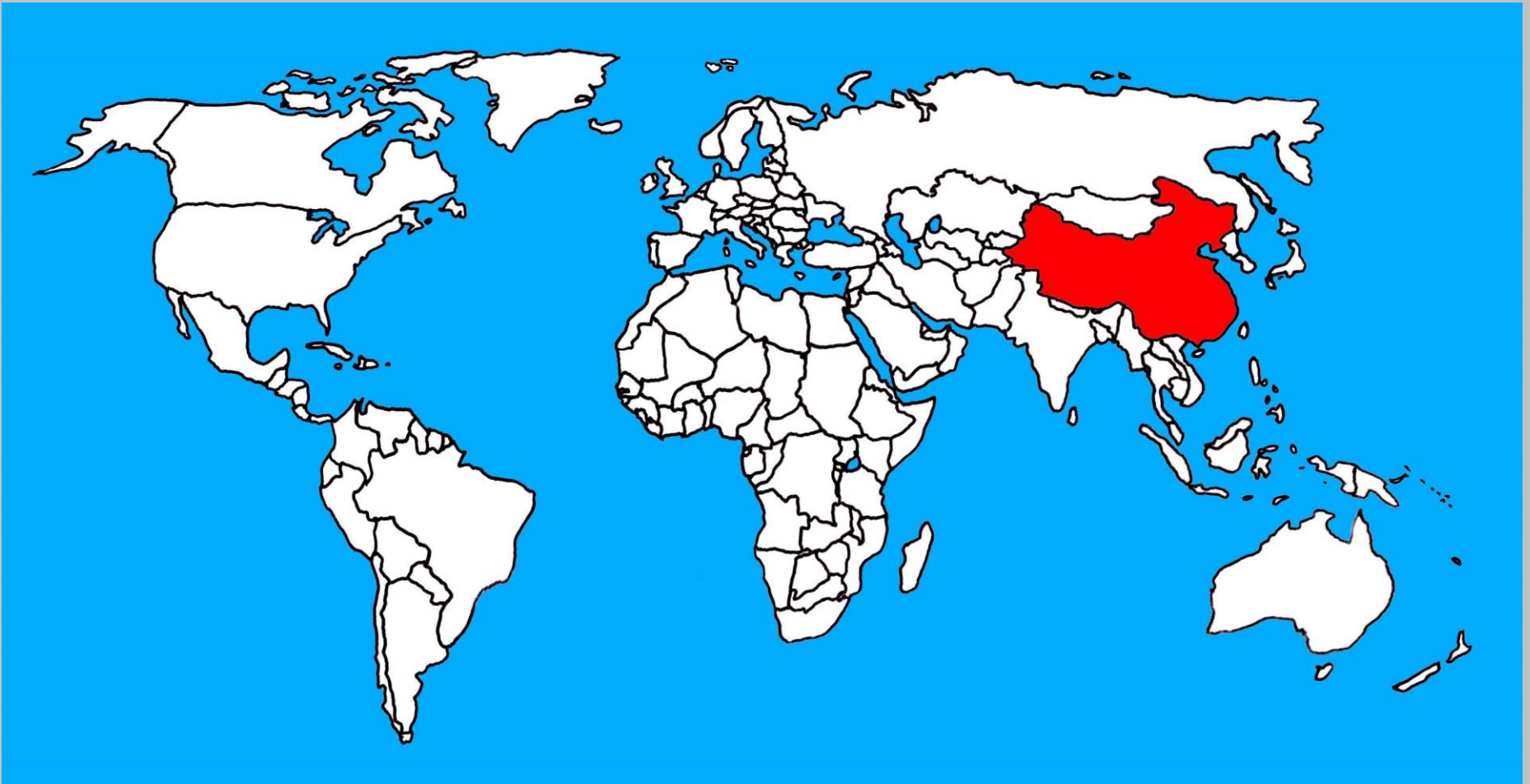
Flag of the Republic of China 1928-49



Qing Dynasty flag 1890-1912

The China flag has a very distinctive appearance. The People's Republic of China has a flag with a vibrant red field with five golden stars in the upper left corner. This design features one larger star with four small stars in a semicircle set towards the fly, or the portion of the the flag furthest from the flagpole. The flag of China features red so prominently because it represents revolution; the stars and their relationship to each other represent the unity of the Chinese people under the Communist Part of China (CPC). The China flag is sometimes referred to as the five star red flag.

China lies in the continent of Asia, more specifically in Eastern Asia. With a population of over 1.3 billion residents, the People's Republic of China is the most densely populated nation in the world.



# Geography of China

China is the third largest country in the world.

*The country is said to be shaped like a rooster. What do you think?*



Key Cities include:

- Shanghai - 20 million people
- Beijing - 17 million people
- Guangzhou - 12 million people

**Question - Do you know the capital city of China?**

**Task - Indicate the 3 cities named above on your China map with a red dot and the name written on your map.**

China has widely varying terrain and climates

- Far North- Arctic
- Far South- Tropical
- North West - Desert
- East- Fertile Lands
- East - Himalayas
- Central - Gobi and Taklaman Deserts
- Centre and to East - Great Wall



**Question - Why do you think the two major cities of Shanghai and Beijing are situated in the North east?**

**Task - Indicate the Himalayas range by shading the correct area lightly and adding the name to your map.**



Mountainous land in the West  
feeds rivers for the East

The main rivers in China are  
the

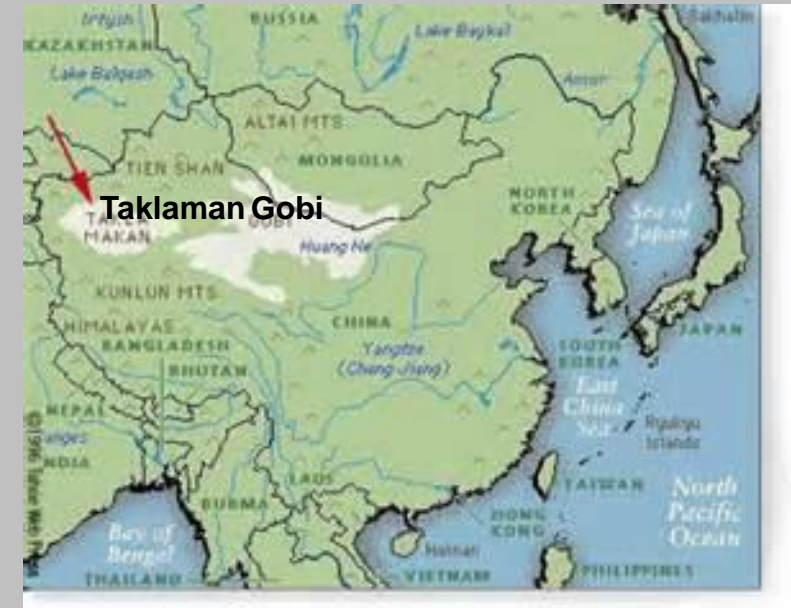
- Yangtzi (largest)
- Huang He/Yellow River (named for silt that runs off mountains into the river).



**Task - Draw the shape of the Huang He and Yangtzi Rivers and include their names on your map.**

# Geographical Issues

- Geography leaves only 13% of land suitable for farming so China has a big problem producing enough food for it's huge population.
- The best farming land is in the east.
- In China, flooding and earthquakes occur frequently in some areas.
- Pollution is an increasing issue - many large factories illegally dump waste onto land and into water systems and acid rain has badly polluted many lakes, rivers and areas of forest.



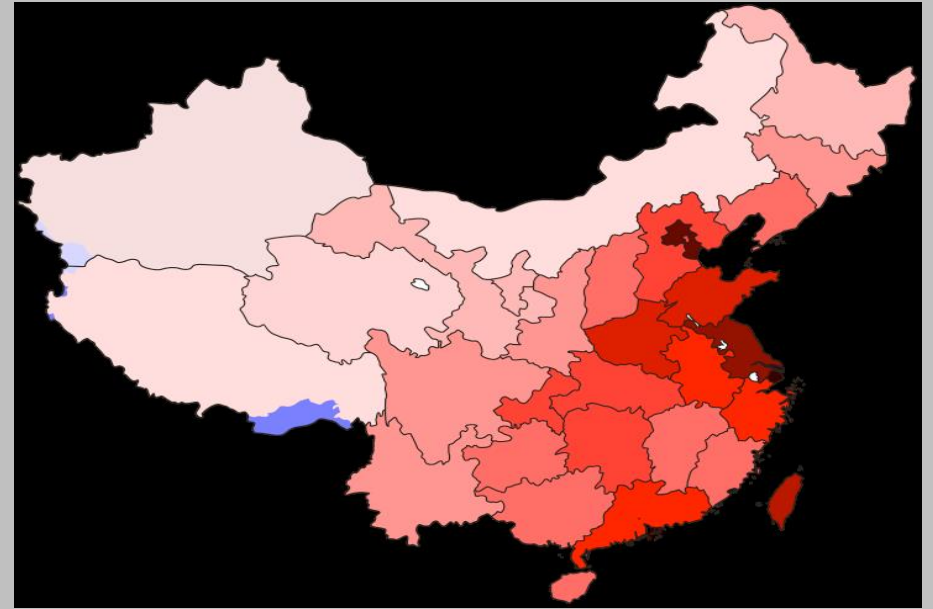
**Question - What are the worst man-made and natural climate problems affecting China today.**

**Task - Indicate the desert land by adding some light shading to your map and include the names (Gobi and Taklamakan).**



# Demographics of China

While China is the most populated country in the world much of the population is concentrated along the eastern coast.



**Question - In China there are a number of huge, overcrowded cities and there is lots of barren, uninhabited land. Can you think why?**



# Shanghai

- Largest City in China --
- Over 20 Million People live in Shanghai
- Originally a fishing and textiles town.
- 



***Question - Burning coal is the main source of fuel in Shanghai and this has resulted in terrible air pollution. How could the city reverse the problem?***

# Beijing

- Second largest City in China -- Officially 17 Million People (20M more accurate) 20.000.000
- Capital City - Formerly Peking



***Question - Twenty years ago, four out of five residents in the Chinese capital pedalled to work through one of the world's best systems of bicycle lanes. How could city planners use this information to rectify Beijing's appalling traffic and pollution problems caused by motorised vehicles?***

## Quick Quiz.

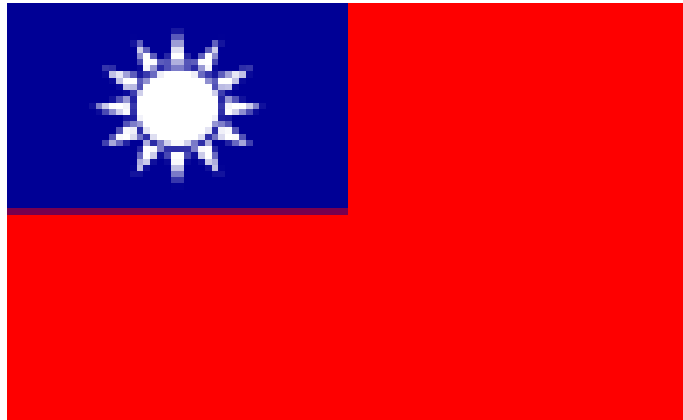
- 1 How many stars are there on the Chinese flag?
- 2 In which continent does China lie?
- 3 What is the approximate population of Shanghai?
- 4 Name one of the main rivers in China.
- 5 What type of polluting activity is caused by some factories in China?
- 5 In which part of China does most of the population live?
- 6 The capital city in China is Beijing. What was it's former name?

Thank you! Xièxiè!

## Added Lesson Aids







The colours and motifs depicted on most national flags have very specific meanings associated which very often reflect the country's character or goals.  
Look at the two former flags of China and think what message the symbols and pictures might be trying to convey,

Flag 1 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Flag \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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