

Yī - One: China – what’s it to me?

Focus concepts	Effective teaching
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage Culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making connections to prior learning and experience Enhancing the relevance of new learning

Learning intentions:

Students will:

- consider ancient inventions from China and more recent inventions from New Zealand;
- reflect on how China’s inventions connect with students in New Zealand today;
- participate in a human continuum exploring what current knowledge and understanding they have about China.

Hook in activity

Divide your students into groups. Give each group 3-4 of the pictures from **appendix 5**.

Ancient inventions from China
Silk, tea, gunpowder, fireworks, iron plough, marine compass, papermaking (paper money, paper ink, printing), abacus, decimal system, kite, acupuncture, suspension bridge, Chinese porcelain, wheelbarrow
See Created in China for more details on all of these inventions. http://www.chinaculture.org/gb/en_madeinchina/node_2498.htm

1 a. Ask: *How are all these items connected?*

Give the students time to consider the items and then stop the class and ask: *Has anyone guessed that they are all ancient inventions from China? For example, paper was invented in 105 AD in the Han dynasty. Before this documents were written on bone or bamboo and papyrus. This led to the development of ink, printing presses, writing and paper money. It was through the Silk Road that the four great Chinese inventions of papermaking, gunpowder, the compass and printing spread across the world.*

Discuss

- b. Ask each group to choose an item (or two) and discuss its absence in their life. *What if we didn't have this invention today?*
- c. *How have these inventions changed through time?*
- 2 a) Ask the students to identify as many New Zealand inventions as they can and list these on a table (like the one below). (Some suggestions are given)

NZ inventions	What does this tell us about New Zealand culture?
Tranquilizer dart gun, spreadable butter, jet boat, electric fence, bungy jumping (commercialized), animal eartag, putorino (Maori wooden trumpet), mountain buggy, sheep processing robot, buzzy bee, Maori trench warfare, kite fishing, no. 8 wire.	

- b) Categorise these into groups by using a highlighter/colour

Reflect: What does this tell us about NZ?

E.g. the rural history of NZ is strongly reflected in these inventions; or fun and outdoor adventure; relative youthfulness of occupation in New Zealand, compare to China with a strong focus for example on recording information, natural medicine, using number systems etc.

Connecting with China today

How does the past inform culture in China today?

The following activity is specifically designed to identify any experts in the class who have a lot of knowledge about China. It also serves to reveal any misunderstandings held by students here including stereotyped information, to inform future teaching and learning.

Human Continuum

Post a sign **true** at one end of the classroom and **false** at other end.

Students move to the end of their choice, as the teacher reads out the following true/false statements. If unsure, they stay in middle.

Create and adapt your own T/F questions and add to/replace list as you see fit. NOTE: The correct statement needs to be read out straight after the question so misinformation isn't perpetuated.

Facts about China

1. China is the fourth largest country in the world in terms of land size	TRUE: <i>It is approximately the same size as the United States.</i>
2. There are more Chinese than any other people group in world	TRUE – check one fifth of the world's population live in China – 1.3 billion people.
3. Black is lucky colour in China	FALSE <i>Red is most lucky colour – it is traditionally the colour of happiness and joy – yellow is also lucky ; yellow and gold signify heavenly glory/the king's robes.</i>
4. The date and time of the Olympic opening ceremony has been specially chosen because it is lucky.	TRUE – <i>8/08/08 at has been chosen as 8 is the luckiest number and represents prosperity.</i>
5. The yen is the currency in China	FALSE <i>the yuan is the local currency – pronounced u-en</i>
6. The capital city of China is Shanghai.	FALSE. <i>The capital city of China is Beijing.</i>
7. Chinese people celebrate New Year on the 31 st December every year.	FALSE: Chinese New Year is based on a lunar calendar and changes every year according to the time of the full moon. Generally is falls in January or February. E.g. In 2008, Feb 8 is Chinese New Year.
8. China manufactures 70% of the world's toys	TRUE.

For more information on China, see:

http://www.chinaculture.org/gb/en_aboutchina/2003-12/19/content_44611.htm

Building the Great Wall

As a reflection at the end of this activity, pass out some 'bricks' (i.e. coloured cardboard about 10-15 cm by 8cm) to students and ask them to record what they know about China's culture and heritage. This will form a 'wall' of understandings that can be added to throughout the learning. The wall can contain facts, but could also record perceptions, thoughts, values and questions.

Consider setting up a **current issues focus (see appendix 1)** during the course of this unit.

Language Focus 1 Greeting and introductions