



THE FORBIDDEN CITY

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PROVINCES AND MAJOR CITIES

China is composed of 22 provinces. Its major cities include Shanghai and Beijing, which is China's capital.

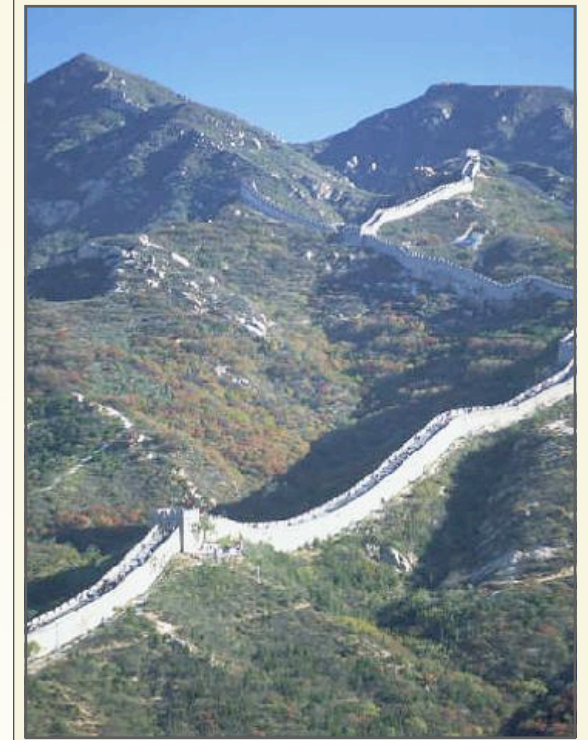
TIBET

Tibet is known as one of the most religious areas on the world. Their political and religious leader is the Dali Lama. Tibet has been under Chinese rule for centuries, and since 1989 has been the site of numerous protests regarding the lack of religious freedom under communist rule. Tibet is the site of Mount Everest, the tallest mountain in the world.



CHINA

THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE



China is a large country in eastern Asia. It is the world's largest country in population with over 1 1/3 billion people—about 20 percent of all the people in the world. China is the third largest country in area. Only Russia and Canada have more territory. China is also one of the world's oldest countries, with a rich history that stretches over thousands of years.

Chinese History and Culture

HISTORY

Chinese dynasties:

China was controlled by dynasties until the 1800s. Chinese historians noticed a pattern to the rise and fall of China's dynasties. They saw that dynasties usually began with a strong ruler who established an empire, often using ruthless means. Once established, the dynasty would expand and make



great contributions to Chinese culture. Later rulers would become corrupt and neglect the empire, which eventually would weaken and fall after a rebellion. From the chaos that followed, a new strong leader would emerge, and the cycle would begin again.

People's Republic of China: On Jan. 1, 1912, the leaders of the revolution formally established the Republic of China in Nanjing. On Oct. 1, 1949, Mao proclaimed the establishment in Beijing of the People's Republic of China. In December, Chiang Kai-shek and his followers fled to the island of Taiwan. The beginning of Communist rule took place under the direction of Mao Zedong, the chairman of the Communist Party. In December 1986, many Chinese university students began demanding increased freedom of speech and a greater voice in the selection of officials. Students held demonstrations in a number of cities to promote their demands.

CULTURE

China has a rich culture, from celebrating the Chinese New Year to exploring ancient religious monuments



FACTS ABOUT CHINA

POPULATION	1.3 BILLION
CAPITAL	BEIJING
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	MANDARIN
OFFICIAL NAME	PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA



THE LAND

China lies in eastern Asia and borders the Pacific Ocean. Forests and fertile lowlands cover much of northeastern China. The Qin Ling, a range of mountains, rise across east-central China. Hills and tropical lowlands extend over much of the southeast. Dry, rocky plateaus divided by mountain ranges extend over western China. The Himalaya rise along China's southwest border. Other high western ranges include the Tian Shan, Altai Mountains, and Kunlun Mountains. Desert covers much of the northwest. Major Chinese rivers include the Huang He, the Xi Jiang, and the Yangtze.

