Part B: Rising China and flourishing China-Australia relationships

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AUSTRALIA’S ENGAGEMENT WITH ASIA

CURRICULUM

This unit of work includes:

a) Geography National Curriculum
b) NSW Geography Curriculum

Stage 5A4: Australia in Its Regional Context

- Australia interacts with other nations: aid; communication; culture; defence; migration; tourism; trade; sport
- Future challenges for Australia: population – migration
- Human rights: response of Australia and strategies for a better future

Stage 5A2: Changing Australian Communities

- Human characteristics that make Australia unique: demographic characteristics – influence nature and identity of Australian society
- Factors causing change in Australian communities: cultural integration
- Study one Australian community

Photograph: China – Australia

WHY IS CHINA IMPORTANT TO AUSTRALIA’S FUTURE?

By 2030 China is expected to become a major driver of economic activity both regionally and globally. It has the potential to overtake the United States as the world’s largest economy and to become a leading stakeholder in the development and stability of the global economic and political system.

The Australian Government acknowledges the importance of the People’s Republic of China to the country’s future and aims to strengthen its links for the following reasons:

- major contributor to global wealth (GDP);
- plays a large part in global trade;
- contributes to regional security;
- plays an important role in the Six Party Talks aimed at dismantling North Korea’s nuclear weapons program;
- takes action to support international arms control and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons; and
- participates in counter-terrorism work.

Above: The world’s longest tunnel-to-tunnel suspension bridge has opened in China. The construction of the Aizhai extra large suspension bridge, which carries traffic 355m above the valley floor, took over four years. Designed to ease congestion in the mountainous region, it will cut the time needed to traverse the canyon from 30 minutes to one

Top Photo Corporation/Rex Features. Source: http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/picture/2012/apr/03/eyewitness-aizhai-suspension-bridge-china

Part B: Rising China and flourishing China – Australia relationships

Australia pursues relations with China on the basis of mutual respect. Both countries recognise shared interests and differences. It is important for Australia to have an effective framework in place where those differences can be managed in a way that does not hinder the achievement of the many goals both countries have in common.

OVERVIEW

Over the last ten years China’s importance to Australia has grown economically, politically, socially, culturally, technologically and environmentally. Both countries have bilateral agreements on trade, aid, security and human rights. China is Australia’s second biggest export market (wool, raw hides and skins, cotton, minerals and fuel) and in 2005, both countries commenced negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement. Environmental concern over Australia’s coal exports to China and its links to global warming, led to the 2007 Australia China Joint Coordination Group on Clean Coal Technologies.

In 2008 the Australian Government (AusAID) provided aid to China after the Chengdu earthquake and Australians participated in the Beijing Olympic Games and the Hong Kong Sevens Rugby. Communication via the media enables Australians to be knowledgeable of air pollution in China and human rights abuses in Tibet.

Australia and China cooperate to advance APEC’s agenda and work together on the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) - the multilateral process for security dialogue and cooperation.

Diagram: Overview of Australia-China Interactions

GLOBAL ORGANISATIONS

COMMUNICATIONS, TRADE, AID, DEFENCE, SPORT, MIGRATION, CULTURE, TOURISM

United Nations (UN) – aid, defence, migration, refugees (UNHCR), World Trade Organisation (WTO), World Bank, Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Tourism Organisation, UNESCO (culture), IOC (Olympic Games)

CULTURE

TRADE, COMMUNICATION, SPORT, MIGRATION, TOURISM

TV, films, music, clothes, food, sport (Olympic Games Beijing, Asian Games), student exchange, religion, languages, information/ideas, architecture, festivals, celebrations, museum and performance exchanges

ENVIRONMENT

TRADE, COMMUNICATIONS

Share the global commons e.g. water cycle and atmosphere (global warming); marine species (fish, whales) and birds migrate between the two countries; spread of diseases (HIV/AIDS, SARS, Avian flu)

ECONOMIC

TRADE, TOURISM

Trade (imports and exports); trade agreements (multilateral and bilateral); members of UN, APEC; stock exchange links; transnational corporations (e.g. B illabong); illegal drugs, trade in goods made by child labour/sweatshop labour; tourism

TECHNOLOGY

COMMUNICATIONS

Global media networks; Internet; mobile phone, cable, satellite, transport (A380 airbus, super tankers); Geographical Information Systems (GIS); Geographical Positioning Systems (GPS); Social Networking – MySpace, Facebook, Blogs, Youtube, Flikr, Twitter

HISTORY

MIGRATION, COMMUNICATIONS, TOURISM, SPORT

1421, 1880s, 1901, 1950s, 1970s, 2011 migration, White Australia Policy, Multiculturalism, Cultural Diversity

NON GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

AID, DEFENCE, TRADE, MIGRATION, COMMUNICATIONS

World Vision, AUSTCARE, UNICEF, Amnesty International, Red Cross, Greenpeace, Civil Society Organisations, Volunteers

TREATIES/AGREEMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS, DEFENCE

Ratified Kyoto Treaty; Counter terrorism legislation; People trafficking legislation; Drug smuggling legislation and party to UN Drug Convention; Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948); UN Millennium Development Goals (2000-2015)

GOVERNMENT

DEFENCE, AID, MIGRATION, TRADE, TOURISM, SPORT, COMMUNICATIONS, CULTURE

Defence agreements (Australia Defence Force), peacetime alliances (via United Nations), government foreign aid (AusAID), migration (Department of Immigration and Citizenship), Austrade, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), diplomatic missions, international agreements

HISTORICAL INTERACTIONS LED TO MIGRATION AND TRADE

a. 1421
While Europeans are considered to have made the first recorded discovery of the Australian continent in 1770, others claim Chinese traders were visiting Australia’s north coast as early as the 1750s. The controversial book titled 1421: The Year China Discovered the World by Gavin Menzies argues that Admiral Zheng He and his fleet circumnavigated the world in the fifteenth century and visited Australia long before any European explorers.

b. 1788
During the British settlement of Australia (1788) Chinese men arrived as indentured labourers and free settlers. However, the number of Chinese immigrants to Australia was insignificant until the Victorian (1850s) and New South Wales (1860s) gold rushes. Most Chinese came from impoverished areas in southern China, particularly around Canton. Although the Chinese were generally peaceful and industrious, resentment flared up against their race, particularly because of their different customs and traditions. The presence of numerous Chinese on the gold fields led to anti-Chinese agitation, including violent clashes such as the Lambing Flat riots. As a result in NSW the 1861 Chinese Immigration Restriction Act was passed, designed to reduce the number of Chinese people entering the colony.

c. Late 1880s
By the late 1880s increasing negative attitudes to Asians led to an Australian immigration policy excluding non-Europeans, commonly known as the ‘White Australia’ policy or the 1901 Immigration Restrictive Act. The complex interactions of tradition, geographic isolation and fears depended on the preservation of a white Australia. Growing concern over the rapid growth in Chinese immigrants from 2,000 (1853) to 40,000 (1857) in Victoria, was believed to be a portent of the future - ‘mongol hordes’ and the ‘Chinese plague’.

Cartoon: Mongolian octopus


Activities
- Describe the message in the cartoons. Explain the impact of the cartoons on a predominantly Anglo-Saxon population.
- Research racial discrimination against the Chinese in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Examine the stereotypes of Chinese immigrants to Australia in the late 19th Century.

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Cartoon: Example of ‘gate keeping’


d. 1950s onwards
In the 1950s and 1960s there was a gradual easing of the Immigration Restriction Act, participation in the Colombo Plan (which involved the education of Asian students in Australia) and the adoption of a less Eurocentric attitude to immigration. After 1973 when the White Australia Policy was abandoned and non-discriminatory immigration was adopted there was an increase in Chinese immigration to Australia.

e. 2010
Today China is the third major source of immigrants to Australia and Chinese the most common foreign language spoken in Australian homes. People of Chinese background are an integral part of Australian society with Chinese newspapers, and radio channels and televisions broadcasting in Cantonese and Mandarin. The Chinese language is studied in secondary schools and private weekend language schools. Chinese Australians have received Order of Australia awards and are represented in local, state and federal governments. In the late 1990’s, many of the suburbs in Sydney evolved into satellite Chinatowns, such as the Carlingford/Eastwood/ Epping area, Auburn, Burwood, Beverly Hills and Parramatta.

Activities
- Part B: Rising China and flourishing China – Australia relationships
Part B: Rising China and flourishing China – Australia relationships

19th and early 20th centuries. Evaluate the validity of these stereotypes and investigate legislation that discriminated against the Chinese. Refer to this website and others for a variety of perspectives – http://www.chaf.lib.latrobe.edu.au/education/lessons/lessonK07.htm

**COMMUNICATION: PEOPLE TO PEOPLE INTERACTIONS**

Australia and China have a strong friendship based on a long history of people-to-people interactions. Chinese and Chinese Australians have played an important role in Australia’s history and made a great contribution to Australian society. Australia has seen rapid growth in the number of Chinese studying, visiting and working in Australia, as well as the number of Australians and Australian-educated Chinese now living and working in China.

The Australia-China Council (ACC), established by the Australian Government 1978 promotes mutual understanding and fosters people-to-people relations between Australia and China. The ACC promotes Youth Exchange Programs and in 2009, 90,000 Chinese were enrolled at Australian educational institutions and 300,000 Chinese visited our shores. The 2007 Experience Australia cultural campaign in Shenzhen raised Australia’s profile by promoting tourism and business links between the two countries.

Mandarin speaking former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd aimed to build a stronger relationship with China and the 2020 Australia Summit supported Chinese communities especially their social inclusion in our culturally diverse country. For example the Fairfield Council’s Community Engagement Strategy supports social justice and equity by providing language aids and a multi-lingual website to communicate with the local Chinese community.

The Chinese community in Australia is an important part of our people-to-people links with China. The future expansion of the economic and political cooperation between Australia and China will depend on more extensive people-to-people contacts and personal links, not only at the government level but at all levels of our respective societies.

**POLITICAL INTERACTIONS: COMMUNICATION/MEETINGS**

Today the Australian Government pursues constructive and friendly relations with China on the basis of mutual respect and recognition of both our shared interests and our differences. The Australian Government has worked hard to establish productive personal links with China at the ministerial and official level. The large number of high-level visits underscores the strength and importance of our bilateral relationship with China.

Table: Some of the political communications/visits since 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Australian government visits to China</th>
<th>Chinese government visits to Australia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Former Governor-General and current Governor-General, Prime Minister (twice)</td>
<td>Chinese President Hu Jintao 2007 for APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting and for a bilateral visit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer (twice)</td>
<td>Vice Premier Li Keqiang 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministers for Foreign Affairs (twice)</td>
<td>Senior Chinese Communist Party leaders Li Changchun and Zhou Yongkang 2009 and 2008 respectively.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade (seven times)</td>
<td>China’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yang Jiechi (2008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism, Resources and Energy (four times)</td>
<td>China’s most senior military officer, General Guo Boxiong, visited Australia in May 2010, representing a new level of cooperation in defence relations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaker of the House of Representatives led a Parliamentary delegation to China in April 2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governor-General visited China in June 2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Chiefs of the Defence Force, Army and Navy made visits to China in 2008 or 2009 to promote bilateral defence ties.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2010 – December 2011 six delegations will visit China to stay for up to two weeks at a time with the aim of establishing new contacts and the development of export opportunities. November 2010 Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang said the country would push forward the all-round cooperative ties with Australia.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

China and Australia maintain a number of bilateral dialogues to advance cooperation and manage differences. Dialogues cover global issues, such as trade and economic cooperation, the global economic crisis (2008), resources, aid, defence, regional security, disarmament, human rights and climate change. Both sides acknowledge Australia and China have different histories, different societies and different political systems, as well as differences of view on important issues. Australia and China are committed to managing differences on the basis of mutual respect. Australia adheres to its one-
China policy, which means it does not recognise Taiwan as a country. Australia maintains unofficial contact with Taiwan primarily to promote our legitimate economic, trade and cultural interests.

She said it was well known to everyone in the region that Australia and the US were close allies and the increase in American training was the next step in that relationship. Asked if this move could be seen as a threat to China, she responded: “Certainly not, absolutely not.”

Activities


Australia has enjoyed a mutually satisfying trade relationship with the People’s Republic of China since the early 1970s. However, recent events have introduced a sour note.

What is Australia’s relationship with China?

Successive Australian governments have nurtured relations with China, despite the divergent ideological principles that govern each society: China is ruled by the authoritarian Communist Party, under a one-party system, and Australia is a liberal democracy. China’s business enterprises — including its press — are owned and controlled by the communist state; not by independent, private companies, as many are here.

The cultural and political differences present many diplomatic challenges to the Western democracies with which China does business, particularly as much of the world’s manufacturing now takes place there. China has grown rich on the cheap exports it provides and Australia shares in this wealth by supplying the raw materials demanded by China’s burgeoning economy.

What has contributed to tensions?

The Chinese Government recently demanded that Uighur (Chinese ethnic minority) activist Rebiya Kadeer be denied an Australian visa. Beijing accused Kadeer of leading the recent riots in Xinjiang’s capital, Urumqi, which she denies. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd refused the request, saying: “The Government I lead is one where Australia makes decisions on who it issues visas to or not.” However, pressure was later unsuccessfully applied to the Melbourne International Film Festival, demanding that it withdraw a documentary made about Kadeer, The 10 conditions of love. Several Chinese films were withdrawn from the festival in protest.
Some have suggested that the seeds of discontent grew when Mr Rudd gave a speech to students at Peking University in 2008, in which he raised the issue of Tibet. “Australia, like most other countries, recognises China’s sovereignty over Tibet, but we also believe it is necessary to recognise there are significant human rights problems in Tibet,” he said. “As a long-standing friend of China, I intend to have a straightforward discussion with China’s leaders on this.” This was reportedly deeply resented by Chinese President Hu Jintao.

What happened at Rio Tinto?
A further source of angst for China has been the hitherto uncertain fate of mining company Rio Tinto, which provides much of its iron ore. Rio rejected a $19.5 billion investment from a Chinese aluminium company, Chinalco, in favour of a joint venture with a rival company, BHP. This was a huge disappointment for China, sensitive to “loss of face”.

Further politicising the issue was the “surprise” arrest and detention of a Rio Tinto senior executive, Stern Hu, and three Chinese colleagues. Initially accused of espionage and stealing “state secrets”, Mr Hu, an Australian citizen, was held for several weeks without charge. He has since been accused of “bribing internal staff of Chinese steel companies” causing “huge loss to China’s national economic security and interests.”

The Australian press has speculated at length that the Chinalco rejection and the arrests are linked — suggesting sour grapes on China’s part — though Foreign Affairs Minister Stephen Smith rejects this assertion.

What has been the response?
Mr Rudd, who speaks fluent Mandarin, was once accused of being too “cosy” with China. Now some suggest he has bent too far the other way. They say an Australian defence white paper that drew attention to China’s military modernisation and Australia’s response to it, has possibly added to the strain. Many agree that the mystery and hyperbole surrounding the Rio Tinto arrests have hurt China’s international standing by unsettling those who regard its intentions with suspicion. They say that China’s growing economic clout has encouraged the use of bullying tactics, which serve only to highlight China’s authoritarianism.

Others lament Australia’s growing dependence on China, saying human rights issues are ignored for the sake of economic gain. But despite all the rhetoric, trade and investment has continued — as a recent $50 billion liquefied natural gas (LNG) deal and new iron ore contracts indicate.

Recent headlines
“If crossing the dragon’s path tread warily” The Age, August 24; “Stern warning for Australia’s future relationship with China” The Sydney Morning Herald, August 15; “Our China solution” The Australian, August 20; “Diplomatic relations with China hit 10-year low” Herald Sun, August 18.

Activity
Your view: What are the benefits of Australia’s relationship with China? Is there a downside? Would Australia benefit from more Chinese investment? Should human rights issues interfere with trade negotiations?

Cartoons: Australia’s success in avoiding a recession was partly the result of strong economic growth in China. This emphasised the importance of Australia’s relationship with China for its future economic prosperity. The detention of Australian Rio Tinto executive Stern Hu by Chinese authorities revealed a darker side to this relationship. Cartoonists were quick to highlight the complexities of living with our northern neighbour.

Source: All cartoons are found at http://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/behind_the_lines_the_years_best_cartoons_2009/living_with_the_dragon/slideshow_1_2.html


Activity
Compare this octopus cartoon with the previous cartoon. Discuss the changes in the issues behind Australia’s relationship with China.


Activity
What is the message in this cartoon?
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Cartoon: Don’t mention…
Matt Golding – Sunday Age, 19 July 2009

Activity

Explain why Australia is not to mention some of these topics to China.

DEFENCE INTERACTIONS

Australia places a high priority on its relationship with China, as the country with the fastest growing influence in the region. The relationship includes high level strategic dialogue with China through regular defence visits and the annual Defence Strategic Dialogue Talks.

In the 2009, A Focused Force: Australia’s Defence Priorities in the Asian Region, Hugh White calls for Australia to refocus its military by managing strategic risks related to the rise of China. Professor White argues Chinese power will challenge US primacy, undercutting the basic assumptions of the Australian defence policy. He poses questions about the risks Australia faces over coming decades and whether the country can afford the forces.

Quotes from Paper:
* ‘Most people understand that China’s rise is transforming Asia, but few acknowledge the obvious consequences for Australia’s security.’
* ‘It is an old and true maxim of defence policy that there are limits to Australia’s defence capacity and influence, but the extent of those limits are — to some degree — up to us as a community, and the government on our behalf, to decide.’

The 2009 Defence White Paper, Defending Australia in the Asia-Pacific Region: Force 2030 (http://www.defence.gov.au/whitepaper/docs/defence_white_paper_2009.pdf) stated that national security is concerned with ensuring Australia’s freedom from attack or the threat of attack, maintaining our territorial integrity and promoting our political sovereignty, preserving our hard-won freedoms, and sustaining our fundamental capacity to advance economic prosperity for all Australians.’The paper noted the present pace, scope and structure of China’s military modernisation has the potential to give its neighbours cause for concern if China does not reach out to others to build confidence regarding its military plans.

China maintains the world’s largest military force, based on manpower. The armed forces of the PRC comprises of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), People’s Armed Police Force (PAP), reserve forces and militia. The PLA encompasses the Army, Navy, Air Force and Second Artillery Corps - 2.3 million. The PAP has 660,000 people, reserve forces 800,000 and militia ten million.

China’s military budget will rise 12.7% in 2011 to $91.5 billion, resuming a long string of double-digit annual increases after an unexpected slowdown in 2010. Li Zhaoxing, justified the increase, saying the military was a defensive force in China and ‘will not pose a threat to any country.’ In response countries have grown nervous.

Column graphs: Military expenditure percent of GDP and number of military personnel


Photograph: Chinese military

### Activities

**Summarise the long rise of China in Australian defence strategy**

Refer to column graph and discuss the defence budget and number of military personnel in China. Compare China with USA, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Japan.

**Explain the message in the cartoon**

Refer to column graph and calculate the difference in China's defence budget from 2005 to 2011.

By the time of Australian Federation (1901), there were around 29,000 ethnic Chinese in Australia. After the 1989 Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests, former Prime Minister Bob Hawke, allowed 42,000 students from mainland China to settle in Australia permanently. Over the following two decades Chinese born Australians have increased nearly six-fold.

The 2006 Australian Census found: 206,591 Australians declared they were born in China; 71,803 born in Hong Kong SAR; 2,013 in Macau SAR; and 24,368 in Taiwan. This is a total of 304,775 Chinese people or 1.5% of the total Australian population. The census noted the Chinese represent Australia's third largest overseas-born group - 72% are first generation Chinese, 22% second generation and 6% are third generation.

**Table: Number of Chinese in Australia 1881–1921.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Draw the table as a line graph. Remember to label the axis</td>
<td>1881</td>
<td>38,274</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>38,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Calculate the proportion of males to females in 1881 and 1921.</td>
<td>1891</td>
<td>35,523</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>35,821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Explain the reasons why more males than females immigrated to Australia</td>
<td>1901</td>
<td>29,153</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>29,627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>1911</td>
<td>21,856</td>
<td>897</td>
<td>22,753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>1921</td>
<td>16,011</td>
<td>1,146</td>
<td>17,157</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2009 China became Australia’s biggest source of immigrants, for the first time eclipsing the traditional main points of origin, New Zealand and Britain.
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**Table: Top Ten Countries – Resident Australians born overseas**  
Adapted 2006 ABS Census

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Country of Birth</th>
<th>Estimated Resident Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>1,153,264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>476,719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>People’s Republic of China</td>
<td>304,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>220,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>180,352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>153,579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>135,619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>125,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>118,816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>114,921</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There has been a significant decline in immigration from NZ and UK and an increase from China. China dominates the graph with 25,366 permanent additions in 2009-10. Unexpectedly the Philippines is second in front of all other countries in South East and North East Asia.

**Composite column graph: Permanent arrivals and state and territory**

Most Chinese immigrants tend to live in NSW.

**Activity**

Suggest reasons for the popularity of NSW and Victoria as a destination for Chinese people.

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### a. Languages

**Table: Most popular languages spoken in Australia 2009. Adapted ABS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Only English</td>
<td>15,581,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>316,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>252,226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cantonese</td>
<td>244,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>243,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandarin</td>
<td>220,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>194,863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>98,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filipino + Tagalog</td>
<td>92,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>75,634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindi</td>
<td>70,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macedonian</td>
<td>67,835</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As a result of immigration Chinese (5.3%) is the second most common language spoken in Australian homes after English (64.0%). Chinese Australians have historically been of predominately Cantonese descent from Hong Kong and the Canton province. Due to recent immigration from other regions of mainland China and Taiwan, Mandarin and other Chinese languages are increasingly spoken in Australia. The ABS found 40.4% of Chinese Australians speak Cantonese, followed by 25% who speak Mandarin.

b. Urban dwellers

According to the 2006 Census, over 90% of Chinese born residents lived in capital cities, compared with 64% of the total Australian population. Sydney was home to over half (53%) of the Chinese population. In Sydney 7% of the population identified themselves as having Chinese ancestry (either exclusively or with another ancestry). Other Australian cities with large Chinese populations include Melbourne (5.1%), Perth (3.7%) and Brisbane (2.9%).

ABS statistics found a large proportion of Sydney’s Chinese community are transient – over 31% moved from 2001–2006.

Activities

Calculate change in percentage of Chinese living in Australia and in Sydney from 2001 to 2006.

Suggest reasons why Chinese people immigrated to Australia. Divide your answer into pull (reasons to go to Australia) and push (reasons to leave China) forces.

Column graph: Chinese living in capital cities 2001–2006


Activities

• Calculate number of Chinese people living in Sydney, Adelaide and Perth in 2006.
• Calculate difference in number of Chinese people living in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane from 2001 to 2006.
• Explain the attraction of the Chinese population to urban living in Australia.

Photograph: Chinatown Sydney

Source: Wikimedia commons

Sydney’s Chinatown originated in the 1860’s but was situated outside the city near Surry Hills. By the 1920s, Sydney’s Chinatown migrated to Campbell Street, currently the Capitol Theatre Site. In the 1930’s Chinatown migrated along to Dixon and Hay Street. In 1966 the White Australia Policy was abolished and large investors from South East Asian purchased properties along Dixon Street. In 1980, Dixon Street became Sydney’s Official Chinatown after the Sydney City Council, Dixon Street property owners and business owners jointly raised funds to build the ceremonial archways, lions, pavilions and other Chinese features.
There may be one Chinatown in Sydney, but you don’t need to go to the city for Chinese - Fairfield, Ashfield and Hurstville are some of Sydney’s “semi-China towns.”

Chinatown is still very Chinese but the community is divided into many, many aspects and areas," said Dr Tony Goh, chairman of the Australian Council of Chinese Organisations. “In the 1970s Indo-Chinese migrants settled mostly in Fairfield and since 1990 mainland Chinese spread out in Ashfield and Burwood. Newer migrants from Hong Kong have settled in Chatswood and Hurstville.”

Each area has its own slice of Chinese culture and taste – so for Cantonese try Fairfield, or if you prefer the sweet and spicy taste of Shanghai head for Ashfield.

But for the highlights tour of China, Chinatown is still the place to go. A lot of Chinese were garden vegetable growers and they centralised in the Haymarket area where they could sell their produce at markets. What started with vegetables, bananas and fruit gardeners gradually developed into grocery shops and restaurants then Chinese movies, magazines and table tennis,” Dr Goh said. Those growers are now being replaced by younger generations of Chinese. Because of the increasing population many people had to move away from that small space of Chinatown which has become very commercialised and the real estate properties are highly priced and are not suitable for people to live in. They can sell their old place and move out and buy two places further out.

“But with the new development of high rise towers, younger people are moving in. You can see them every evening, most of them students who like the city lifestyle.”


Table: Location of largest number of Australian born Chinese (ABC), Sydney 2009. Adapted ABS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistical Local Government Area</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fairfield - East</td>
<td>4,628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canterbury</td>
<td>3,586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurstville</td>
<td>3,047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryde</td>
<td>2,942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auburn</td>
<td>2,582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ku-ring-gai</td>
<td>2,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hornsby - South</td>
<td>2,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randwick</td>
<td>2,143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairfield - West</td>
<td>2,096</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activities

- Describe the distribution of ABC across Sydney.
- Explain why ABC tend to be concentrated in specific suburbs.

C. Relatively young population

The large number of Chinese overseas students and the recent arrival of Chinese through the Skilled Migration Program (18-45 years old) led to relatively young Chinese born Australians. In 2008, 45% of Chinese were aged 20-39 years in contrast to only 28% of other Australians in this age group. The ratio of males and females varied, with females accounting for 54.8% of the China-born group compared to 50.7% for Australian-born group.
Part B: Rising China and flourishing China – Australia relationships

Table: Age-sex population pyramid: China-born Australians (2006)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age-group (years)</th>
<th>Males (%)</th>
<th>Females (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-5</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-34</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-39</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-44</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-49</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-54</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-59</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-64</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-74</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-79</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-94</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95-99</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100+</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/3416.0Main+Features22008

Activities

• List the age groups where there are more Chinese born people in the Australian population.
• List the age groups where there are more Chinese born males than females.
• Calculate the percentage of Chinese born males between 40 and 49 years.
• Calculate the total Chinese born population between 0 and 9 years. Explain the reasons for the low percentage.
• Discuss the reasons for a larger number of Chinese born people in the working age group. Discuss how this contributes to the economic growth of Australia.

Pie graph: All ABC in Sydney


Activities

• Rank in order (lowest to highest) the percentage of different age groups of ABCs in Sydney.
• Explain why you would refer to the age structure as young rather than old.

d. Skilled and educated

The number of skilled immigrants coming to Australia from China more than tripled, from 2000–2001 (3,800 people) to 2005-06 (12,500 people). Chinese born Australians were almost twice as likely as other Australians to have a Bachelor degree or above. Of the Chinese born, 24.6% had a Bachelor degree as their highest qualification and 15.7% had postgraduate qualifications. In contrast, to other Australians aged 25–64 years, 16.2% had a Bachelor degree, while less than 4% had postgraduate qualifications.

About 32.1% of Chinese born graduates were more likely to be qualified in the field of management and commerce than other disciplines. This was a higher proportion than other Australians (20.8%). The second most popular field of qualification for 17.7% of Chinese Australians was engineering and related technologies, which was similar to other Australians (20.3%). The third most popular field was information technology (10.7%) which was much higher than the 3.5% for other Australians.

Table: Post school qualifications – people aged 25–64 (2006)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level(s)</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>All Australians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Degree</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Diploma Graduate Certificate</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor Degree</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>33.7</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>16.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Diploma and Diploma</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>21.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No qualification</td>
<td>37.3</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>45.6</td>
<td>45.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Technology</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering and Related Technologies</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>30.3</td>
<td>20.3</td>
<td>20.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and Commerce</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>20.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other(s)</td>
<td>30.5</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>55.9</td>
<td>55.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total(s)</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Activities

• Draw two line graphs illustrating the difference between the Chinese and the Indian post school qualifications.
• Write a paragraph on the differences between Chinese and All Australians post school qualifications. Suggest reasons for the differences.

e. Overseas students

China arrivals represent a huge 26.3% of the total number of temporary student visa arrivals in 2009–2010. The growth of transnational education provided Australia with the opportunity to develop a market for international students, offering courses and qualifications that are accredited globally. The provision of education services is a major export sector for Australia – worth $13.7 billion in 2007–2008.

China is the largest sending nation of students to Australia. Over five years the numbers have more than doubled and now accounts for 22% of overseas students. Higher education has the largest share of student enrolments from China (42%)
Studying in Australia can be the pathway to permanent residency. Between 2007 and 2008, of the 44,000 Chinese, 36% applied for residency.

Colum graph: Temporary student visa arrivals

China dominates the graph compared to other South East and North East Asian countries with a huge 128,665 entries.

Line graph: Chinese overseas students in Australia 2002-2007

The first Buddhists to come to Australia in large numbers were Chinese labourers who travelled to the goldfields of Victoria and New South Wales in the mid-1850s. By 1981, when Buddhists were once again identified in the national Census, the number increased to 35,000. Today, Buddhism is one of the fastest-growing religions in Australia.

Photograph: Glebe’s secluded Sze Yup Buddhist temple in Sydney

The temple was torched in a suspected arson attack in 2008, a week before Chinese New Year.

Photograph: Sze Yup Temple, Glebe

f. Religion – culture

Traditional Chinese religion, especially ancestor worship, was important in the lives of Chinese immigrants. Chinese temples or joss-houses were established in cities and goldfield towns. These joss-houses were dedicated to Chinese gods and goddesses, including Cai Shen (God of Wealth) and Guan Di (God of Loyalty and protection from injustice). Worshippers prayed and made sacrifices to their ancestors and these gods for health, prosperity, safety and good fortune.

Table: Enrolments from some Asian countries in all sectors of education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>48,236</td>
<td>60,301</td>
<td>70,741</td>
<td>81,843</td>
<td>90,048</td>
<td>107,071</td>
<td>122.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>21,984</td>
<td>23,765</td>
<td>22,816</td>
<td>21,266</td>
<td>20,424</td>
<td>19,742</td>
<td>-10.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>10,006</td>
<td>10,607</td>
<td>10,151</td>
<td>9,584</td>
<td>9,889</td>
<td>9,646</td>
<td>-3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>17,540</td>
<td>19,827</td>
<td>19,994</td>
<td>19,336</td>
<td>19,118</td>
<td>19,874</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>12,074</td>
<td>11,852</td>
<td>10,860</td>
<td>9,898</td>
<td>9,229</td>
<td>8,853</td>
<td>-26.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Many Chinese in Australia also accepted Christianity in order to become part of the wider community. The Anglican, Methodist and the Presbyterian churches established missions and churches in the major Chinese centres. In the 2006 Australian Census, found those that followed Chinese Religions in Australia was 4,375, making up 0.02% of the Australian belief landscape. About 59% were male, with the majority in the 25 to 34 age group. Among persons born in Mainland China, the religious breakdown was as follows: 58% declared no religion or atheism, 18% declared Buddhism and 15% declared Christianity.

Religious freedom is safeguarded by section 116 of the Australian Constitution. Individuals are free to express a diversity of views.

**CLOSER SPORTING TIES**

Modern sports and international politics have a strong history in China. It was sport which kick started the normalisation of Sino-America relations through ping pong diplomacy in 1971. Australian sport is no stranger to China. Lindsay Gaze the so called father of modern Australian basketball took the Australian team to China in 1973. The Wallabies played New Zealand in the Bledisloe Cup in Hong Kong and in 2007, the Melbourne Football Club toured China. Melbourne's push into China was aimed at using sport to develop business links and enhance the experience of the city’s 30,000 Chinese international students. Also Australian businesses won contracts in developing and delivering the Beijing Olympic Games.

China is at our doorstep and we need to forge closer ties across all sports. These ties were boosted by an agreement between Australia’s peak sports administrative body, the Australian Sports Commission, and its Chinese equivalent, the State General Administration of Sport. The agreement increased cooperation between Australian and Chinese sporting organisations, coaches, athletes and administrators in the lead up to the 2008 Beijing Olympics and beyond.

**Traditional Chinese culture regards physical fitness as important.** There are 300 million table tennis players – the biggest amateur recreational sport.

**Sport integral to Australia’s way of life:** 6.5 million sports participants; 120 national sporting organisations; thousands of local sports bodies.

**Sporting links:**
- establish goodwill and cooperation among nations
- increase tourism and trade in exported sports wear (e.g. Rip Curl)

**Cartoon before Olympic Games in China**

An example of a political cartoonist either ignoring or being ignorant of the human rights elephant in the room, China’s one-child-per-couple policy, which includes forced abortions.
Part B: Rising China and flourishing China – Australia relationships

China bans Australians taking own food to Olympics

2008 may become known as the year of the Vegemite riots. China banned Australians taking their food to the Olympic Games to maximise revenue for local food producers. The policy differs from previous Olympics, when Australians were allowed to bring in foods to meet their strict dietary needs.

Activities

- Explain the message in the cartoon.
- Research the outcome of the vegemite issue.

TRADE AND BUSINESS INTERACTIONS

Despite global trade falling by nearly 20% during 2008, the volume of Australian exports stayed broadly flat over this period. The strong recovery in China saw demand for raw materials rebound strongly, and Australian producers were able to respond quickly. There have also been large changes in the structure of our imports. Back in 1990, around one third of our imports came from Asia. Today the figure is around one half.

China is now Australia’s largest bilateral trading partner. Strong demand in China for raw materials in the early 21st century has driven Australia’s resources boom and the sharp increase in the terms of trade. In the 12 months to June 2009, the total value of merchandise traded between Australia and China (imports + exports) was $76 billion. This level grew by 22% per year from 1999 to 2009, making China Australia’s largest trading partner. Iron ore was the most important commodity Australia supplied to China and the major imports from China comprised of appliances and other electrical/electronic equipment, clothing and footwear, toys, games, sporting equipment and furniture.

Table: China’s principal imports and exports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>China’s principal export destinations</th>
<th>China’s principal import sources destinations</th>
<th>Australia’s principal export destinations</th>
<th>Australia’s principal import sources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 USA</td>
<td>1 Japan</td>
<td>1 China</td>
<td>1 China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 HK</td>
<td>2 Republic of Korea</td>
<td>2 Japan</td>
<td>2 USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Japan</td>
<td>3 Taiwan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Australia</td>
<td>7 Australia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table: Australia – China merchandise trade links (2009), DFAT

Exports from Australia to China $42.353 billion
Imports from China to Australia $35.782 billion

Table: Australia – China main merchandise exports and imports (2009), DFAT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Australia’s exports to China</th>
<th>Australia’s imports from China</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iron ore and concentrates $21.700b</td>
<td>Clothing $3.959b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coal</td>
<td>Telecom equipment $3.251b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wool and other animal hair $1.382b</td>
<td>Computers $2.903b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper ore and concentrates $1.028b</td>
<td>Prams, toys, games, sporting goods $2.128b</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Part B: Rising China and flourishing China – Australia relationships

Table: Australia – China main service exports and imports (2009), DFAT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Australia’s exports to China</th>
<th>Australia’s imports from China</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Educational-related travel</td>
<td>Personal travel excluding education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$4.102b</td>
<td>$0.578b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal travel excluding education</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$0.603b</td>
<td>$0.408b</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Australia’s success in exporting education services has been largely responsible for a six-fold increase in the value of services exported to China from 1998 to 2008. Travel was the most significant (58%) service imported to Australia from China.

Table: Australia – China investment (2009), DFAT

| Australia’s investment in China      | $6.949b | China’s investment in Australia | $7.897b |

Line graph: China trade with Australia

As Australia races to dig up these resources, experts warn the resources are non-renewable. In fact at the current rate of digging there is only 30 years of gold and silver left in the ground, 10 years for diamonds and 40 years for lead.

In 1997 Australia had 190 years worth of black coal in the ground. The Chinese wanted more coal. As a result Australia found new ways to dig up the resources faster. Now there is only 90 years of black coal left. We actually mined 100 years of black coal in a decade! What will we do when Australia runs out of resources?

There have been several business links between resource-hungry Chinese firms and Australian firms. In 2009 China became Rio Tinto’s biggest customer, comprising 25% of the group’s sales. In January 2010, Australia approved China’s biggest-listed gold miner Zijin Mining Group’s $498 million bid for Australia’s Indophil Resources NL. In April 2010 China’s National Offshore Oil Corp (CNOOC) and BG Group signed Australia’s biggest gas supply deal, paving the way for BG’s $7.35 billion coal-seam gas project.

Australia treated the trial of the Rio executives, including Australian citizen Stern Hu, as a consular matter, and has been careful not to allow the case to impact on trade relationships.

Australia’s changing trade with China

Since November 2007, the Government approved over 160 proposals for Chinese investment in Australian business and total investment of $60 billion (25 May 2010).

China’s love affair with Australia’s resources

Australia has some of the biggest mining companies in the world – BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto – digging up coal, iron ore, gold, diamonds and other minerals. These resources are exported to China for the manufacture of items such as cars, bridges, computer chips and toys.

Map: Rio Tinto worldwide operations

As Australia races to dig up these resources, experts warn the resources are non-renewable. In fact at the current rate of digging there is only 30 years of gold and silver left in the ground, 10 years for diamonds and 40 years for lead.

In 1997 Australia had 190 years worth of black coal in the ground. The Chinese wanted more coal. As a result Australia found new ways to dig up the resources faster. Now there is only 90 years of black coal left. We actually mined 100 years of black coal in a decade! What will we do when Australia runs out of resources?

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Cartoon: Stern Hu arrested (Rio Tinto)


Part B: Rising China and flourishing China – Australia relationships

Free Trade Agreement

In 2005 both countries agreed to commence negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Although negotiations are ongoing and the agreement’s details are yet to be completed, there have been criticisms of the FTA from people in the Australian manufacturing industry. The concerns relate to the possibility that by eliminating tariffs there will be an influx of cheaper Chinese imports, putting Australian manufacturers out of business.

CASE STUDY: BILLABONG MADE IN CHINA

Billabong clothing is designed in Australia but most are made in China. The company manages its key international sourcing requirements from an office in Hong Kong.

Billabong was established in Queensland in 1973. Today the company designs, produces and distributes a wide range of surf and sports wear including swimwear, jewellery, belts, backpacks, skateboards and sunglasses. It is currently the leading surf wear apparel brand in Australia. Products are distributed to over 3000 outlets worldwide and in Australia the product range consists of over 2200 items.

CASE STUDY: NEUPLEX – SOLAR ENERGY

South Australia-based Neuplex Pty Ltd works with Austrade in China to provide solar energy solutions to remote communities in China. Yulin, located in one of China’s poorest and remote regions in Shaanxi Province is rich in natural resources including coal, natural gas and oil. Although rich in resources the local Government is keen to promote alternative energy solutions and has welcomed innovative technologies and products brought to the region by Australian companies such as Neuplex.

Activity

Describe the advantages of the Australia-China Agricultural Cooperation Agreement (ACACA) to Australia


STRENGTHENING AUSTRALIA-CHINA LINKAGES: SHANGHAI HOSTS WORLD EXPO 2010

The World Expo in Shanghai aimed to enhance Australia-China relations and explore new areas for cooperation. About 228 countries and organisations participated in the Expo and at least 70 million visitors attended.

Australia’s largest investment ($83 million) in a world expo reflects the future potential of Australia-China relations.

Australia’s response to the ‘Better City, Better Life’ expo theme highlighted Australian expertise and innovation in: clean coal technology, wind and solar power, carbon sequestration, and green urban design.

China’s media shift has impacted on Chinese culture or vice versa:
- from Party organ of propaganda
- to multiple roles: entertaining, educating, informing the audience
- increasing forces of commercialism
- impacts of the Internet (social networks), mobile phones etc

Activities

Refer to the photographs and discuss the changes in the Chinese media over time.

Suggest how the media impacts on Chinese culture and vice versa.

Discuss how globalisation is changing Chinese culture.

Research how Chinese people perceive Australian culture.

Cultural understanding essential for effective communication

The culture of China is a rich and varied blend of traditional Chinese culture with communist and other international modern and post-modern influences. Culture includes beliefs, customs, languages and traditions. As trade, migration and tourism spread around the world, cultures changed. Today satellite TV, cinemas, DVDs, mobile phones, video games and the Internet have become the new cultural tools transmitting ideas and knowledge globally.
Cultural understanding between Australia and China is essential for future interactions. It is important as informed and responsible Australian citizens to develop the capacity to communicate effectively and sensitively across Chinese cultures and engage with them, in an appropriate and informed manner. An understanding of Chinese ideas, beliefs and practices is important with growing trade and emerging security and humanitarian interactions. Australians and Chinese need to recognise both cultures are dynamic and will require improved understanding for better communication in the future.

Haihua and Baker identified five core elements that drive Chinese cultural thinking and as a result influence Australia-China interactions:

- Language: The Chinese language is pictorial and the use of symbols means the Chinese take a big picture approach rather than a text based analytical one. Chinese prefer ‘mind pictures’ to remember things rather than take notes. Ideas are processed simultaneously and decisions are based on feelings. In contrast Westerners listen to what is said, take copious notes, and then decisions are based by processing ideas logically before coming to a conclusion.

- Law of Yin and Yang: With the good comes the bad and with the positive comes the negative. In transactions the Chinese look at the benefits as well as the negative impacts simultaneously and in so doing make practical decisions.

- Chinese Connectedness: In the West we say we are all born equal. The Chinese say they are born connected. Chinese culture perceives success is not the result of the individual’s effort but the effort of the individual’s network. The concept of connectedness is crucial in understanding how to locate business opportunities in China.

- Midstream Living: Develops the notion of finding balance. One should not be too ambitious nor too lazy. In a meeting you should not be in the front or at the back but near the front to acknowledge importance of the meeting.

- Mianzi (face): Is the most difficult and most important aspect of Chinese culture from a transaction perspective. Mianzi is ‘someone’s reputation and social status as well as the image one establishes in the eyes of the other’. It is important not to damage their mianzi as it could mean the end of a relationship/ agreement.

**China’s Generation Y – understanding future interactions with Australia**

Approximately 240 million Chinese were born between 1980 and 1990. This generation has been characterised by its optimism for the future, excitement for consumerism and entrepreneurship, and acceptance of its historic role in transforming modern China into an economic superpower. These people are also distinguished by their increased access to digital media such as computers, MP3 players and mobile phones.

Some refer to them as the strawberry generation who ‘bruise easily’ like strawberries – meaning they can’t work hard like their parents’ generation. The term refers to people who are insubordinate, spoiled, selfish, arrogant, and sluggish in work. Persons from this generation have grown up being overprotected by their parents in an environment of economic prosperity. It is similar to how strawberries are grown in protected greenhouses and command a higher price compared to others.

Post-80s often experience a generation gap between themselves and their elders. Their parents lived during the Mao Zedong era, experiencing famine and political instability and lacked education because of the Cultural Revolution. Generation Y lives in an environment of economic growth, social change, high technology and rigorous education standards. A clash is noticeable in purchasing habits and career pursuits.

**Super Boy or Happy Boy**

This was a national singing contest in China for male contestants, organised by Hunan Satellite Television in 2007. One of the main factors contributing to the show’s popularity was the viewers were able to participate in the judging by sending text messages with their mobile phones to vote for their favourite contestants. This was, one of the largest ‘democratic’ voting exercises in mainland China.

**TOURISM LINKS**

China, India and Vietnam have been the fastest growing destinations for Australians travelling overseas in recent decades. In 2008 over a quarter of a million Australian residents visited China. This number has grown by 14% per year since 1988. Having a holiday or visiting friends/relatives (64%) was the main reason for visiting China and 30% were travelling for business with the aim of promoting business links between Australia and China. About 37% were Chinese born.

In 2009, the UK continued to be Australia’s most valuable inbound tourism market, followed by China. In 2010 Australia received $3.26 billion tourist dollars from Chinese tourists.
The Australian Government is investing a further $4.1 million in Australia’s international tourism trade between China and Australia over the next four years. By 2013 one million Chinese visitors a year are expected to arrive in Australia, making China our single largest tourism market. Chinese tourists visiting Australia have the potential to grow between $7.406 billion and $9.022 billion by 2020. This is the result of rising middle class incomes especially in coastal regions of China (e.g. Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou).

Chinese airlines have increased direct flights fourfold between two southern Chinese cities and Sydney, as tourism authorities predict China is on its way to becoming Australia’s biggest inbound tourism market.

Table: Tourism between Australia and China

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inbound travel to Australia, top 10 countries, ranked by value 2009</th>
<th>2009 ($b)</th>
<th>Inbound travel to Australia, top 10 countries, ranked by value, 2018</th>
<th>2018 ($b)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Table: Australian outbound tourism, top ten (main) destinations 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Departures</th>
<th>Annual Change %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>1,033,300</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>567,000</td>
<td>15.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>548,500</td>
<td>44.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>442,600</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>392,300</td>
<td>-2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>278,800</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>242,200</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>227,400</td>
<td>19.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>226,800</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>206,100</td>
<td>-3.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AID (AusAID) INTERACTIONS

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) is the Australian Government agency responsible for managing Australia’s overseas aid program. The objective of the Australian aid program is to assist developing countries reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development in line with Australia’s national interest. The aid program also supports China’s reform agenda through policy engagement, high-level capacity building and institutional partnerships.

Australian government aid:
• focuses on our near neighbours in Asia-Pacific region because stability, peaceful cooperation and economic integration are prerequisites for ongoing regional development;
• 30% of aid goes to multilateral organisations such as UN, World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB);
• supports NGOs (e.g. World Vision) in delivering overseas aid;
• volunteers (active citizens) make a positive contribution to poverty reduction, sustainable development and cross cultural understanding when delivering aid; and
• supports Australian businesses to create wealth and jobs to reduce poverty in developing countries (water, power, roads etc).

China

Economic reforms in the late 1970s fuelled economic growth in China leading to an increase in per capita income. At the same time the percentage of people living below the poverty rate fell from 64% (1978) to 2.8% (2010) and the Human Development Index (HDI) rose from 0.533 (1980) to 0.663 (2010). The Chinese government has lifted millions of poor out of poverty and met the United Nations Millennium Development Goal to halve the proportion of people living on less than $1.25 a day ‘ahead of schedule’.

Luckiest day to marry on Chinese calendar is 10 October 2010

10/10/10 ‘The 10th day of the 10th month of 2010, multiplies the attraction for Chinese couples to make their vows -- Mandarin for 10-10-10 means perfection and flawlessness -- and cash registers are ringing from Kunming to Cairns. It also represents a change of guard for the tourism industry, as operators that once had a yen for holidaying Japanese turn to the Chinese arriving in Australia in record numbers.

Honeymooners Wei Feng Xi and Lin Ling Yang, of Guangdong province, were attracted by the wow factor of the Great Barrier Reef’

Part B: Rising China and flourishing China – Australia relationships

In 2010 Australia ranked 6th and China ranked 90th wealthiest country, out of 182 countries (GDP per capita). Shanghai is ranked as the 25th wealthiest city and Sydney 28th by GDP.

### Table: Human Development Index 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>HDI</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>HDI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>0.938</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>0.669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>0.937</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>Turkmenistan</td>
<td>0.669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>NZ</td>
<td>0.907</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>0.663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>0.902</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>0.659</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At present to be deemed poor, a person must make less than 1,196 yuan a year. This means 35.97 million people officially live in poverty in China. China’s poverty-income limit is lower than the absolute limit set by the World Bank – which is $1.25 a day, or less than 2,986 yuan a year.

China aims to raise its poverty line to help more people in need during its 12th Five-Year Plan period (2011–2015) to match its rapid economic growth. The number of Chinese living in poverty is expected to reach 100 million if the country considers people who earn up to 1,500 yuan a year as being poor. China aims to eradicate poverty by 2020.

Unfortunately not all Chinese people have gained from economic growth. Instead China is experiencing increasing inequality between rural and urban dwellers, as well as within urban areas and between ethnic groups. China’s poor are widely dispersed across the country and hard to reach. In response China has developed a Rural Poverty Alleviation and Development Program (2001-2010) to improve the health and living standards of the rural poor.

### Australia

In response to China’s poverty, the Australia’s Official Development Assistance (ODA) to China in 2010–2011 will be $37 million, of which $22 million will be delivered through AusAID’s bilateral program. AusAID’s Development Challenges are:

- **Governance**: Australia-China Human Rights Technical Cooperation Program (HRTC) works with Chinese government agencies and NGOs to promote women’s and children’s rights, ethnic and minority rights, and legal and judicial reform.
- **Health**: China Australia Health and HIV/AIDS Facility works through the Chinese Ministry of Health to address health system reform priorities and to protect the population against HIV/AIDS and emerging infectious diseases.

Through the Tibet Health Sector Support Program, Australia is also the leading health donor in Tibet.

- **Environment**: Australia China Environment Development Partnership works with four Chinese ministries to help China improve its environmental protection and natural resources management, particularly in relation to water.

### The strategic focus of Australia's Asia regional aid program is to:

- improve capacity of ASEAN, APEC and EAS to address agreed priority development challenges; and
- provide a stronger and more effective partnership between Australia and Asia regional organisations to tackle priority regional issues by focusing on:
  - promoting and managing economic integration
  - making trans-boundary issues a priority, including communicable human and animal diseases, human trafficking, disaster prevention and responsiveness and, potentially, climate change.

### Diagram: Strategic focus Australia’s Asia regional aid program

**Key regional partners**

- Australia
- ASEAN
- ASEM
- APEC

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AUS AUS AUS AUS

AUS AUS AUS AUS

AUS AUS AUS AUS

AUS AUS AUS AUS

AUS AUS AUS AUS

AUS AUS AUS AUS

Key regional partners


APEC = 21 countries; ASEAN = 10 countries; ASEAN + 3 = ASEAN plus Japan, Republic of Korea, People’s Republic of China; EAS = ASEAN + 3, plus Australia, New Zealand and India (United States and Russia from 2011); ASEM = EU 27 countries plus ASEAN + 3, plus India, Pakistan and Mongolia

### HUMAN RIGHTS

Organisations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have accused the Chinese government of restricting the freedoms of speech, movement, and religion of its citizens.

Australia recognises China has made progress over the past 30 years in reducing human rights abuses and the Chinese people enjoy a greater degree of personal freedom than before, but Australia-China views on human rights still differ. The Chinese government argues for a wider definition of human rights, to include economic and social as well as political rights, in relation to national culture and the level of development of the country. In this regard, China advocates, human rights have improved.
Part B: Rising China and flourishing China – Australia relationships

At the bilateral Human Rights Dialogue in Canberra 2009, Australia raised issues including freedom of expression, freedom of religion, treatment of political prisoners and ethnic minorities, Tibet, torture, the death penalty, Falun Gong, re-education through labour, women’s and children’s rights, and the rights of legal practitioners and civil rights activists.

COMMUNICATION AND ICT INTERACTIONS

Australia and China communicate constantly. Today the Internet and the mobile phone are the main communication tools.

China’s total Internet users reached 457 million, Internet penetration rate 34.3% and broadband users 450 million. About 66% of China’s Internet users access Internet through mobile phones. On average, China Internet users spend 18.3 hours per week on Internet access; or 2.6 hours per day.

Australia has 10.4 million active Internet subscribers, excluding connections through mobile handsets. This represents an annual growth rate of 16.7%.

Graph: China Internet users

Source: http://www.chinainternetwatch.com/926/china-internet-users-2011/

Google thrives on the free flow of information. In 2006, Google started operating a China-based search engine at Google.cn. It agreed to censor search results, as long as it could mention on censored search result pages, it was blocking content at the request of the Chinese government. In January 2010, Google announced it would no longer abide running a censored search engine in China.

January 15 2010:

- Google announced it was considering shutting down its Chinese site after hackers attempted to infiltrate the Gmail accounts of human rights activists. The company said that it would no longer censor its search results in China – a virtual death sentence in China’s cyberworld.
- Google is expected to bring $8 billion in advertising revenue in China over the next three years. This is expected to grow as China’s Internet saturation is only 34%, compared with 75% in OECD countries such as the United States.
- In March 2009, video-sharing site YouTube was permanently blocked by China’s firewall.
- In July 2009, after the riots between minority Uighurs and Han Chinese in Xinjiang, China blocked Facebook.
- Photo-sharing website Flickr, has been blocked in China.

March 12, 2010:

- ‘A Chinese government minister has issued a stern warning to Google in the event the company stops filtering search results at its Chinese Web site: Follow our laws, or else.’

Activities

- List the issues involved in the dispute. Discuss your views on the issue.
- Deakin University lecturer, Mona Chung, is not convinced Google can do without China’s 338 million internet users. Could Google’s stance backfire? Discuss.
- Human rights activists say other companies should follow Google’s example and push the Chinese government on free speech. What are your comments?

FUTURE AUSTRALIA – CHINA INTERACTIONS

Australia’s medium-term economic prospects are more closely linked with those of Asia. Business cycle fluctuations in Asia appear to have a bigger effect on the dynamics of the Australian business cycle. Despite this, most Australians understand what is happening in the 50 states of USA than in the 30 plus provinces and administrative regions of China. Over time this will hopefully change as Australians develop a better understanding of China and its role in the world, especially its relationships with Australia.

The Power of Yuan

CHINA, AUSTRALIA AND THE RMB

We have grown used to thinking of Australia as the lucky country, perfectly placed to benefit from China’s very rapid development. For the past decade and more, the Chinese government’s economic focus has been on urbanisation and industrialisation, both of which require vast amounts of steel. Australia’s natural endowment of both coal and iron ore are incredibly attractive to China. At the same time, China’s ability to produce low-cost goods has helped to keep our domestic rates of inflation quite low even as the economy boomed. A nearly perfect trade partnership.

Activity


What do you think is the future Australia-China relations?

CONCLUSION

Australia needs to become a true friend (or zhengyou) of China, by seeing beyond the immediate benefits to a broader, continuing, sincere friendship. In other words a long-term nation-to-nation relationship based on shared interests and mutual benefits that prosper in an atmosphere of increasing respect, deepening understanding and a recognition of values.

Activities

The following statements are to be completed by writing Australia or China:

- land border with Vietnam
- six stars on its flag
- Indian Ocean to its west
- summer in June, July and August
- closer to New Zealand
- in northern hemisphere
- hosted two Olympic Games
- invented fireworks
- capital is approximately 40°N latitude
- large World Heritage reef off its eastern coastline
Part B: Rising China and flourishing China – Australia relationships

Fieldwork


Knowledge and understandings

- List the Australia-China interactions
- Explain the reasons for stronger Australia-China interactions in the future
- Discuss how ‘people to people’ links improves cultural, economic and geopolitical relations between Australia and China
- Describe the roles and actions of different levels government (federal, state, local) to Australia-China links

Thinking and Applying

- Make a list of Chinese goods in your home
- Discuss the importance of NSW’s links with China (e.g. employment, choice of goods, economic growth, improved lifestyles) New South Wales-China trade links http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/china/fta/china_states.pdf
- Discuss the role of the Australia-China Council (ACC) to foster cultural, economic and geopolitical advantages to both countries http://www.dfat.gov.au/acc/
- Research Australia’s links with the 2008 Chengdu earthquake, Olympic Games and the Tibetan protests.
- Write a scenario of China-Australia links in 2050.
- Research the Australia-China Free Trade Agreement http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/china/fta/ and analyse the importance of the agreement to both countries
- What are your comments on the Lowy Institute Poll 2010? Australians response to the following questions:
  57% – Australia allows too much investment in the country from China
  73% – China’s growth had been good for Australia
  69% – China’s aim is to dominate Asia
  55% – Australia should join with other countries to limit China’s influence
  46% – Australians consider China will be a military threat to Australia in the next 20 years.

Cartoons: China’s Economic Power Unsettles the Neighbourhood and China’s Dilemma.

Explain the story behind the cartoons

Other web links


Photograph: Music paradise


In the hamlet of Xiaohuang, also known as “music paradise,” more than a thousand members of the Dong tribe gather to sing during a fall festival.