

Y8 SW China Knowledge Organiser

Keywords

monsoon winds	one-child policy	biodiversity
monsoon rains	communism	endangered
plateau	megalopolis	deforestation
tundra	hukou	transnational
cold deserts	bang bang man	hydroelectricity
relief		

China is a huge country and very diverse



Most people live in the south and east of the country in the big cities of Beijing, Shanghai and Nanjing.

Climate

It has a wide range of climates, from monsoon to cold dry deserts, mountainous to tropical.

Regions

SW China is split into the regions of Tibet, Yunnan, Guizhou, Chongqing and Sichuan.

It's a great area to get familiar with because:

- There is huge biodiversity
- It has beautiful landscapes and physical features – Mt Everest, River Yangtze
- The vibrant city of Chongqing and its 30 million inhabitants.
- Multi-ethnic society

China has changed a lot over the years!

China Today

- There is much less farming today and many more people work in industry.
- China is a globalised country today with many interconnections with other countries and cultures across the globe.
- Factories and manufacturing huge in China. The second largest economy in the world.
- Rapid urbanisation and dropping the One Child Policy has led to population growing quickly.



Biodiversity

- SW China is very diverse with plant and animal species. Giant Pandas, Asian Elephants.
- It is at risk from the growth of urban areas, deforestation, and the growth of rubber plantations and infrastructure.
- Pandas have been forced out of their habitats by a lack of bamboo and now live in small pockets and are considered endangered.

Tibet – “The roof of the World”



What's Tibet like?

- Tibet is cold in winter and cool in summer. The highest parts are always cold. The wind can be vicious.
- Much of it is tundra, with a layer of frozen soil, and no trees.
- But there are also some fertile valleys, good for farming.
- Tibet is dry for nine months of the year, because it is sheltered by the Himalayas. It gets some monsoon rain from the east in summer. The colder higher parts have snow and hail.
- It has thousands of glaciers and lakes.
- Several famous rivers rise on the Plateau of Tibet, and most flow through Tibet. There is more about them in Unit 8.9.

China 40 years ago

40 years ago, most people in China were living in poverty, and the population was growing very fast.

The state owned all the land. Farmers were told what to grow. And everything they grew belonged to the state.

The state also controlled the factories and other businesses. People were told what work to do. (In return they had free food, and education, and health care, and support when they grew old.)

China had also turned its back on most other countries.



Chongqing

- 30 million people
- Gateway to the Yangtze and river cruises
- Birthplace of “Hot Pot” – a local food
- One of the furnace cities of the Yangtze
- Large manufacturing industry
- It has a monorail, a cable car and many bridges
- It is a multi-layered city
- Once the capital of China in WW2, many old buildings survive and have been converted into bars, shops and cafes.

Life in Tibet

- Tibet only has 3 million people.
- Most people live in rural areas and are farmers.
- Goats, sheep, horses and yaks are raised in some areas that are inhospitable. Some of the people are nomadic.
- The Tibetan people are Buddhists.
- In the fertile valleys they grow grain crops and some fruit too.

The future for Tibet

- Tibet wants to be free of China, but this battle has been raging on for many years and will continue.
- China is working hard to develop infrastructure for Tibet, investing in roads and mining industries.
- The traditional nomadic lifestyle is under threat from development.
- Tibet has some ecosystems at risk like glaciers and the melting of permafrost.

Resources

- China is using the numerous rivers in the Tibetan Plateau for the creation of dams for power generation through HEP.
- The Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze is one such project.
- Other countries rely on this water for drinking so this is creating some tension.
- The threat of earthquakes, loss of land and wildlife along with the impacts of climate change threaten the future of the region.