

behind the news

Magazine




HOT TOPIC || CHINA

- ★ Ancient and modern
- ★ A new superpower?
- ★ The trade game
- ★ Cleaning up for the Olympics



DOWNLOADING
Be careful what you click on!



PANDA GRANNY
Saving China's bears



ASTHMA
Are we making it worse?



SAY HELLO TO ...
Amber Parkinson

PEARSON
Rigby

PLUS

■ D.I.Y.:
Paper boats

■ Cool School:
Outback shearing school

■ Cool Job:
Sleep researcher

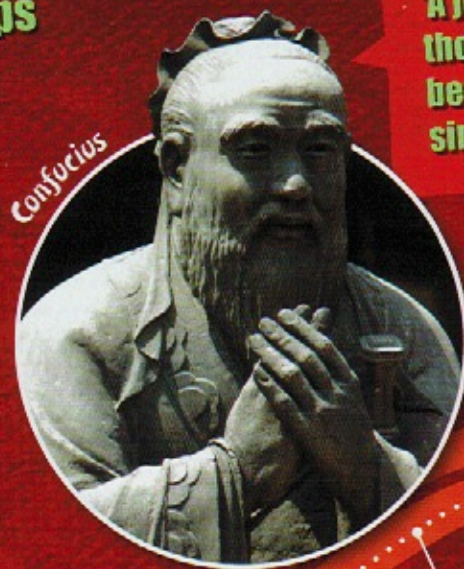


CHINA: A JOURNEY OF INVENTION

Marian McGuinness re-traces the steps of the Chinese, through the ancient dynasties to the Olympic Games.

For 4000 years, right up to the 20th century, Chinese society was governed by dynasties—lines of emperors who ruled until they were overthrown by a stronger clan. Along the way, they came up with some fantastic inventions that are still around today. If you're using a compass to get to the fireworks or you're reading the paper while sheltering under an umbrella, you can thank the Chinese! Check out the timeline for more events and inventions.

'A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.'



Confucius

Fireworks



EVENTS AND INVENTIONS

1523–1046 BCE
Shang Dynasty

Acupuncture
Chinese characters (writing)
Bronze tools

1046–221 BCE
Zhou Dynasty

Life of Confucius, China's most famous philosopher and teacher

Meditation
Kite
Compass
Crossbow
Go (board game)

221–206 BCE
Qin Dynasty

Building starts on the Great Wall
8000 full-size terracotta warriors buried in funeral pit in Xian
Buddhism arrives from India

206 BCE–220 CE
Han Dynasty

Paper
Parachute
Hot air balloon
Umbrella
Wheelbarrow
Matches
Chess

Terracotta warrior



618–907 CE
Tang Dynasty

Silk Road travelled to Europe

Block printing
Paper money
Playing cards
Gunpowder

960–1279 CE
Song Dynasty

Fireworks
Painting and poetry flourish

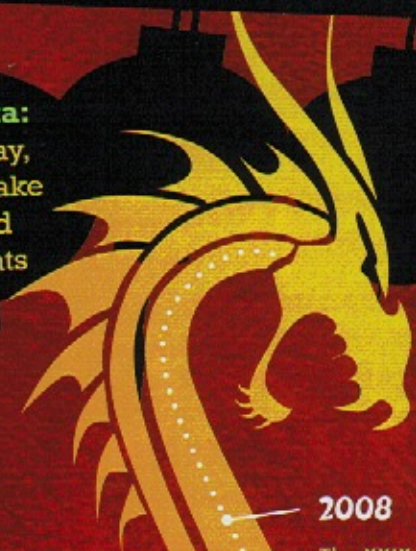
DID YOU KNOW?

In the 2006 Census, almost 700 000 Australian residents claimed to have Chinese ancestry. Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane all have a flourishing Chinatown.

GLOSSARY

dynasty: sequence of powerful leaders in the same family

terracotta: baked clay, used to make pots and ornaments



Mao Zedong

1949

Mao Zedong leads Communist Party to victory, forming the People's Republic of China

Kublai Khan



1271–1368 CE
Yuan Dynasty

Kublai Khan (king of the Mongols) conquers China
Marco Polo visits China, travelling from Venice

1368–1644 CE
Ming Dynasty

Imperial Palace (Forbidden City) built
Christian missionaries arrive

Bristle toothbrush

1644–1912 CE
Qing Dynasty

1949–1978

Communist China is largely closed to the West

1912

Qing Dynasty collapses; Republic of China formed

1850–1870

Thousands of Chinese immigrate to the Australian goldfields; many stay permanently

1842

Hong Kong becomes a colony of Britain

1839–1856

Britain forces China to import Indian opium, leading to the Opium Wars

1978

'Open Door' policy promotes foreign trade

1979

'One Child' policy introduced to slow down population growth

1980

Population reaches 1 billion

1997

Hong Kong handed back to China from Britain

2008

The XXIX Olympic Games held in Beijing




Hong Kong

MODERN CHINA

BCE Before Common Era
CE Common Era

Modern life in ANCIENT CHINA

From green tea and stone houses to fast food and skyscrapers ... **Marian McGuinness** looks at life in two very different parts of China.



Qiang is pronounced *Chi-ung*.



Taoping village, Sichuan, China


TAOPING—a traditional village

The Qiang people in south-west China are one of the country's **ethnic minority groups**. Until recently, the Qiang lived a traditional lifestyle as they had for hundreds of years.

Their village of Taoping dates back to 111 BCE and has eight gates to protect the villagers from invaders. Dozens of interconnecting laneways join the houses, a bit like a maze.

For generations, the Qiang have been farmers and they have a rich culture including music, singing and dancing. Their homes, which are up to five storeys high, were used for keeping livestock and storing grain as well as for eating and sleeping.

These days they're more likely to earn a living from something else—tourism. About 70 000 tourists visit Taoping village each year, and a family with a large house can earn a good income by offering accommodation. A young woman from the village, Erma Yina, has even become a celebrity on the Internet!



The average annual income in rural China is 3250 yuan (about \$500), compared to 12 855 yuan (about \$2000) for urban workers.



Traditional *hutongs* (above) and modern apartment blocks (below)



GLOSSARY

ethnic minority group: people who have a different cultural background to the majority of the population

BEIJING—a changing metropolis

China's capital city, Beijing, has an impressive history. It was home to 34 emperors who ruled the country for 3000 years.

The old residential districts of the city are criss-crossed by thousands of alleys, passages and small streets, known as *hutongs*, lined with tea houses, temples and antique markets. But the *hutongs* are rapidly making way for high-rise hotels, office buildings and shopping malls. About one-third of the city's 17 million residents live in traditional houses, while the remainder live in high-rise apartments.

There is a constant flow of people from the country to the city, as they search for better jobs. Rural villagers who come to the city need an urban residence permit to live there and find a good job. Those without a permit could end up working in factories and on construction sites for 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

There are others who have become China's new wealthy, working in high-tech businesses such as telecommunications and electronics.



Shopping on Wangfujing Street



Beijing means 'northern peace'.

