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NCTA- China  
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## China: Transition and Effects

### Curriculum Alignment:

#### State of Ohio Academic Standards:

##### Government/Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities

1. Explain how the opportunities for citizens to participate in and influence the political process differ under various systems of government.
2. Compare the rights and responsibilities of citizens living under various systems of government.

#### Mason City Schools Course of Study:

##### Asia

**Big Idea:** "Students will understand that government affects society, and individuals are impacted."

**Essential Question:** "How do today's practices in China play a role in modern-day society?"

### Intended Audience:

Sixth grade reading and social studies students

### Materials Needed:

Two non-fiction articles (attached)  
Handout to focus instruction/clue in reading skills  
Pencil  
Highlighter (optional)

### Time Required (suggested):

If reading independently and going over as a class =60 minutes  
If using "reading" instruction to teach reading non-fiction strategies as well as the continent of Asia =90 minutes

### **Background Knowledge (Units by Design set-up):**

This lesson is not intended to be taught in isolation. It is intended to be integrated within an Asia unit encompassing other skills, knowledge, essential questions, and big ideas.

It is also important to understand that this lesson is part of a "Units by Design" plan. Within this plan, students construct "skills" and "knowledge" and are then guided to synthesize information in order to formulate an answer to an "essential question." Furthermore, students then take that level of understanding to generate a "big idea" that is a transferable thought (a thought that can be applied to other regions/situations).

This lesson is best if it is taught in an integrated classroom. Students should not only participate in this lesson for acquisition of social studies content, but also, to learn active non-fiction reading strategies. Furthermore, learn to use the two together to think critically at a higher level of Bloom's Taxonomy.

#### **Procedure:**

1. Set a purpose for the lesson with your students..."Today we will be doing some reading activities that will help us not only help us become better non-fiction readers, but also, will help us understand how people, as individuals, have been impacted from China's lightening it's communist society."
2. Review with students any prior knowledge needed in order to fully understand the lesson. Depending on the class, some of those may be....
  - a. Social Studies Content
    - i. What is a communist society (pro/cons)
    - ii. Where does China stand today as opposed to past
    - iii. What affects globally does system of government play
  - b. Language Arts/Reading Content
    - i. What is non-fiction?
    - ii. What should every reader do before beginning to read
    - iii. What is our purpose for reading today
3. Step One:
  - a. Students should preview the questions being asked that relate to the first article. This will help them to be active readers and focus on the important material.
  - b. Read the article, "Boom Times in China" from Junior Scholastic.

- c. Stop periodically to model critical thinking of the article and "think aloud" using reading strategies. Highlight text, as needed. Scribe margin notes to take out the main points.
  - d. After reading, allow students to independently answer the questions
  - e. Go over the answers, clearing up any misconceptions
4. Step Two:
- a. Students should preview the second reading "Spending"
  - b. Stop periodically to model critical thinking of the article and "think aloud" using reading strategies. Highlight text, as needed. Scribe margin notes to take out the main points.
  - c. After reading, allow students to independently answer the questions
  - d. Go over the answers, clearing up any misconceptions
5. Step three:
- a. Give students time to process the information and finish answering questions
  - b. Discuss the answers and elaborate on how life is impacted on an individual level because of the system (or lessening of) communism.
6. Step four:
- a. Have student write a position paper discussing the pro's and con's of the current state of China. Have them use specific evidence from the text to prove their position.

**Assessment:**

*Formal:* Students will be evaluated through the correct answers to reading questions and through the depth of the position paper.

*Informal:* observation will be present through-out the lesson and through discussion.

# Boom times

Every day, young people are moving to China's booming cities as their parents search for work

by Jim Yardley in Beijing

**1** In a dusty suburb of China's capital city of Beijing, Yuan He, 10, sits quietly in her fifth-grade class. There are 57 students in the unheated classroom, each dressed in a winter coat to keep warm. These kids are all migrants. Their parents moved to Beijing from 11 different rural provinces in search of work.

**2** A quarter century ago, most Chinese would have spent their lives growing corn, rice, or wheat under a Communist government that made it difficult for farmers to move to cities or change jobs. Today, the Communist Party still controls China, yet the country's people are anything but locked in place. More than 150 million migrant workers have left farms and are now doing the grueling work of building modern China.

**3** Yuan He is the daughter of a construction worker. She arrived in Beijing five years ago from the vast central province of Sichuan. One of the smart-

est students in her class, Yuan He is already learning English. Farming does not figure in her future plans.

**4** "I want to be a scientist," she told *JS*, standing behind her wobbly, wooden desk as her classmates listened. "But my mother says I should be a lawyer or a doctor because they make more money."

## **5** The Next Superpower?

With 1.3 billion people, China has long been the world's most populous nation. Now it is also one of the

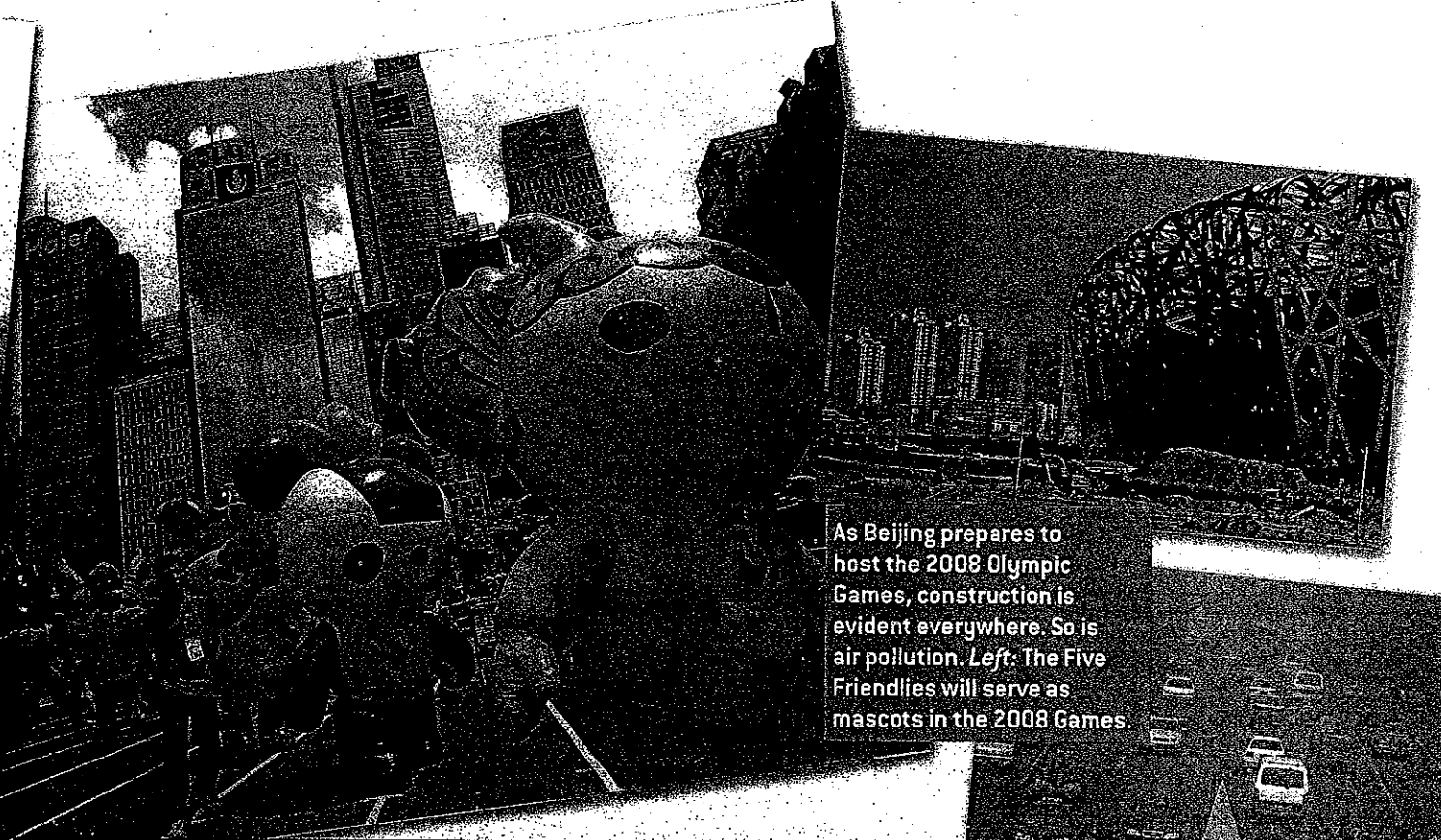
world's fastest-growing economies. It is emerging as the next superpower to rival the United States.

**6** Factories along China's coast make clothes, electronics, toys, and many other goods sold in stores in the U.S. and elsewhere around the world. Beijing is hurriedly building stadiums, subway lines, roads, and thousands of structures for the 2008 Summer Olympics.

**7** Although much is changing in the new China, much remains unchanged. China still has an authoritarian gov-

Wu Zhuangxuan in his unheated classroom. During the cold winter months, students must bundle up while learning.

# in CHINA



As Beijing prepares to host the 2008 Olympic Games, construction is evident everywhere. So is air pollution. Left: The Five Friendlies will serve as mascots in the 2008 Games.

## China is emerging as one of the world's next superpowers.

ernment under which people cannot elect their national leaders. The Communist Party tightly controls political power and religious expression. It also forbids the Chinese news media from criticizing the government and national leaders.

### Stark Contrasts

The result is a society of stark contrasts. The Chinese people are freer than ever before to choose where they live, whom they marry, and what job they will do. At one time, all Chinese wore drab suits patterned after the one worn by Communist leader Mao Zedong (*mow zeh-dawng*). Now, people wear what they want. In cities, teenagers dress in blue jeans and T-shirts, play basketball and video games, and listen to their favorite pop singers from China Taiwan, or South Korea.

China has more than 100 million Internet users, a number that grows each

year. But the government employs more than 30,000 censors to surf the Web and block out forbidden information.

- 10** Anyone who publicly criticizes government leaders still faces the possibility of being jailed. The Communist Party controls China's legal system. Official corruption is widespread. Quality of life in rural areas is much lower than in the cities. China has a new class of millionaires, while more than 500 million people make less than \$2 a day.
- 11** China's economic growth is astounding, but it has given rise to equally astounding air and water pollution. Air quality is horrific in many big cities, including Beijing. China is rushing to reduce pollution there before the Olympics begin in August 2008.
- 12** One reason for Beijing's air pollution is the huge construction boom. The lure of so many new jobs has



### Words to Know

- **authoritarian** favoring blind submission to government officials
- **Communist** a government based on state ownership of land and businesses. The Communist Party typically allows no opposition
- **migrant** a person who moves from one place to another, often in search of employment

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 FROM PHOTOS BY TOMAS HARTNER FOR JUNIOR SCHOLASTIC MAGAZINE, PAUL  
 (PIC HASLOOT), GUANG HUOZHE (STAGUING), NG HAN (CLANAP) IMAGES

brought people like Yuan He's father to do hard manual labor for little pay.

## "I Was Ashamed"

**13** Zhou Jing, a sixth-grader, came to Beijing seven years ago from rural Anhui Province, one of China's poorest. Her mother is a janitor, and her father is a cook.

**14** "They want to save money to send me to school," the 12-year-old told *JS*. "I was ashamed of their job when I was little. I thought they were doing low-class work. But I no longer think that."


**15** Migrants are indispensable to China's progress, yet they still face discrimination. Many live in cities illegally, without the residency permits required by the government. Sometimes, bosses do not pay them.

**16** Many parents must leave their children with relatives when they move to the cities to work.

Those who take their children must send them to unofficial schools with poor facilities and supplies.

**17** The kids who talked to *JS* attend such a school—a complex of dusty, gray brick buildings on the outskirts of Beijing. Most of them know little about the contradictions and uncertainties surrounding China's rising influence. All they know is that their parents are doing difficult, dirty work in part so that their futures will be better.

**18** "I want to have a career," said 11-year-old Wu Zhuangxuan, a fifth-grade boy whose family is also from Anhui Province. "When I grow up, I want to go back and build up my hometown. I want to help make it modern." *JS*



Zhou Jing outside her school, which is in a Beijing suburb. Below: a street near the school.



# Spending

By Bay Fang

1 SHANGHAI – Sharmin Du breezes into the Coffee Bean in Xintiandi, a trendy cluster of western shops and restaurants. She’s wearing Diesel jeans, her yoga bag slung over a shoulder. It’s 3 o’clock on a Sunday afternoon, and she hasn’t eaten yet, so she orders a smoothie and a pastry. Her mobile phone (the latest model, with speedy Internet access) buzzes; she answers, alternating between flirtatious Shanghainese and a more businesslike English.

2 The pretty 32-year-old with round eyes and red highlights in her hair is living a life all but incomprehensible to her parents – with whom she lived until just this year. “I used to spend all my money buying name brands like Louis Vuitton and Christian Dior. If I want to travel or go out, I can do anything I want,” she says. “But it’s new for us. In the U.S., kids know what they like. But in China, no one in the past thought that way – what do I prefer? What do I like to do? I am just starting to figure that out now.”

3 They’re young, they’re reckless, and they have western marketers positively salivating (wanting their business). This new generation of “Chuppies” – Chinese yuppies (young urban professionals) – is riding a wave of never-seen-before commercialism in the country. There are already 100 million “middle class” Chinese, and by 2010, that number is **projected** to double. Chinese **consumption** is estimated to increase by 18 percent a year over the next decade, compared with just two percent in the United States. Technologically clever, the **avaricious**, young shoppers in this rising tide are even making purchasing decisions for their parents. They are the first generation to use credit cards – and the first to cause a **substantial** drop in what used to be one of the world’s highest savings rates.

4 Marketers estimate that China’s youth will become the most powerful consumer force in the world within the next 20 years. And they’re being attracted by clever marketers who clearly see a tipping point in front of them. “China is like a blank canvas,” says Jude Rober, creative director at Asia Pacific Network Communications, a well-respected marketing firm. “You can bring in anything you want, as long as you market it right.”

5 The Chuppies came of age after the Tiananmen Square democracy protests in 1989. Unlike their parents, who lived through the hardships of the Cultural Revolution, this generation has known only relative stability and economic wealth. Many openly embrace the late leader Deng Xiaoping’s public announcement that “to get rich is glorious.” Their growing appetite for foreign goods has come at a time when the Chinese government began loosening its regulations toward foreign companies that wanted to set up shop in China. “China is going from pay phones to cell phones, from standardized television dramas to DVDs, without the step of VHS in between,” says Frank Pan, greater China marketing director for an organization called Diageo.

6 **Up next.** India isn’t far behind China, and it, too, has captured the attention of marketers from many nations. Its growing middle class – those with **discretionary** spending power – exceeds 60 million. And half of India’s 1.1 billion people are under the age of 25. An estimated 2.1 million people are graduating from college each year, 200,000 of them engineers and 40,000 in management. The country’s economy has been growing at a clip of eight percent a year. A McKinsey & Co. report predicts that within 10 years the average Indian income will be twice as high as it is now. India boasts the

world's fastest-growing information technology market, creating skilled, high-wage jobs for software engineers, business-process experts, and call-center workers.

**Brand names.** In both China and India, urban youths are increasingly conscious of the brands they buy and of product quality. "Brands are fueling the rise of the middle class in China," says Tom Doctoroff, the author of *Billions: Selling to the New Chinese Consumer*. "The Chinese have an aching ambition to climb up the ladder of success, and brands are the mark of people who have made it." In China, this means people are much more willing to spend money on publicly consumed goods (suits, diamonds, mobile phones) than on private ones (washing machines and other items used at home).

**consumption** – amount of used up goods and services

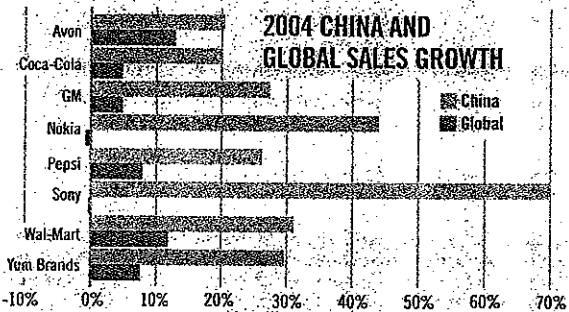
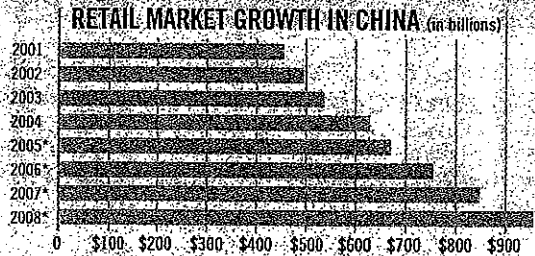
**avaricious** – somewhat greedy

**substantial** – significant; great

**discretionary** – having the ability to choose

### CHINA'S CONSUMER ECONOMY

With its overall economy expanding at almost 10 percent annually, China is the key growth market for western companies.



### WHAT THEY LIKE

The most popular brands based on a sample of 1,000 consumers ages 15 to 35 in China's three largest cities



\*Figures are projected  
Sources: A.T. Kearney Inc., Credit Suisse First Boston, Jigsaw International



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## China

1. According to Selection 1, what type of government best describes the type that China has currently?
  - A. democracy
  - B. monarchy
  - C. dictatorship
  - D. republic
2. Which of the following statements best supports your answer to number one?
  - A. The Chinese people are freer than ever to choose where they live, whom they marry, and what job they will do.
  - B. Anyone who publicly criticizes government leaders still faces the possibility of being jailed.
  - C. The Communist Party controls China's legal system.
  - D. Both B and C
3. Which of the following statements is best supported by both articles?
  - A. China is becoming a leading world economy.
  - B. China's economy will not likely catch up to the economy of the United States.
  - C. China's economy has not changed much over the past 10 years.
  - D. China's youth loves buying name-brand clothing.
4. Identify two factual details from paragraphs 15 and 16 in Selection 1 that support the author's negative evaluation of the lives of migrant workers in Beijing.
5. Migrants are **indispensable** to China's progress, yet they still face discrimination. (Selection 1, paragraph 15)  
In the above sentence, what is the meaning of the word *indispensable*?
  - A. necessary
  - B. unimportant
  - C. easily replaced
  - D. not related

6. According to Selection 1, what is the main reason that so many migrants are moving into the big cities of China?
  - A. So they have more shopping centers from which to choose.
  - B. They can find better-paying jobs.
  - C. The hustle and bustle of city life is attracting them.
  - D. There are no schools in rural areas.
  
7. According to Selection 1, what are two challenges that China faces today as a result of their booming economy?
  
8. Choose one group of people involved in China's economic changes (migrant workers, Chuppies, tourists) and explain how they are likely to impact future changes in China's economy. Use details from the text to support your answer.
  
9. What was the author's main purpose in "Boom times in China"?
  - A. Yuan He and her family moved to the city of Beijing to make more money.
  - B. China has long been the most populous nation in the world.
  - C. China is changing.
  - D. China's economy is growing stronger and stronger.
  
10. According to the predictions of experts in the fourth paragraph of Selection 2, who will become the world's most influential consumer force in the next 20 years?
  - A. China's youth
  - B. Migrant workers
  - C. Children of migrant workers
  - D. China's government officials
  
11. Read the following quote from Selection 2 and explain the importance of this statement. "The 'Chuppie' generation has known only stability and economic prosperity."
  - A. It shows that the Chuppie population is stable.
  - B. It shows that the Chuppie population is important.
  - C. It shows that Chuppie means "Chinese yuppies," and they want to change their economic standard.
  - D. It shows that the Chuppie population has grown used to a promising economic standard that they expect to continue.

12. Which statement is best supported by Bay Fang and NOT by Jim Yardley?
- A. Young people in China have life so good right now and don't want to give it up.
  - B. Young people in China have such a poor life, they vow to improve life for future generations.
  - C. Young people in China are mistreated in the public schools.
  - D. Chinese young people today are continuing in their parents' footsteps.

13. Which definition of the word **projected** is used in paragraph 3 of Selection 2?

<p><b>Projection</b> - n. 1. something that is thrown forward 2. something that sticks out 3. something that causes a shadow on a somewhat flat surface 4. a prediction made based on facts already known</p>
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- A. Definition 1
- B. Definition 2
- C. Definition 3
- D. Definition 4

14. In paragraph 14 in "Boom times in China," Zhou Jing is no longer ashamed of her parents' jobs. This is an example of cause and effect. Explain what the cause and effect was and how it benefited Zhou's perspective (viewpoint)?

Use the graph entitled "China's Consumer Economy" and the table entitled "What They Like" to answer the following two questions.

15. Which company shows the greatest difference between China sales and Global sales in 2004?
- A. GM
  - B. Nokia
  - C. Sony
  - D. Pepsi
16. Which of the following name brands is not included in the sampling of companies or products consumers ages 15 to 35 in China like best?
- A. Adidas
  - B. Nike
  - C. RCA
  - D. Sony