

CHINA BOX 2 KEY STAGE 1 & 2 - ARTEFACTS

Chinese Fan

The fan has been used for many years in China.

The ancient Chinese loved fans and the earliest fans were made of feathers.

Over the years the Chinese have made fans from all kinds of materials including straw and wood. During the Ming dynasty the Chinese discovered the art of paper fan folding, this came originally from Japan and was adopted by the Chinese. Fans were often embroidered and hung as decoration.



Chinese Tea

Tea drinking was invented by the Chinese around the time of the Han dynasty - 220BC - 280AD.

Tea is usually brewed in a cup or a pot. Connoisseurs of tea will often make a first, brief steeping which is then discarded. This is seen as cleaning the leaves and preparing them for a second and, considered best, steeping.



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Abacus

The earliest known written documentation of the Chinese abacus dates to the 14th century AD. The top of the abacus is called the heaven and the bottom is called the earth. The Chinese abacus, known as the *suàn pán*, is typically 20 cm tall and comes in various widths depending on the operator. It usually has more than seven rods. There are two beads on each rod in the upper deck and five beads each in the bottom for both decimal and hexadecimal computation. Modern abacuses have one bead on the top deck and four beads on the bottom deck. The beads are usually rounded and made of a hardwood. The beads are counted by moving them up or down towards the beam. If you move them toward the beam, you count their value. If you move away, you don't count their value. The suanpan can be reset to the starting position instantly by a quick jerk along the horizontal axis to spin all the beads away from the horizontal beam at the centre.



Hell Bank Notes

One of the most widespread religions in China is Ancestor Worship. Small shrines are often set up in people's homes to honour their ancestors. They will burn incense and sometimes offer fruit, wine or tea.

If it is one of the ancestor's birthdays or the anniversary of a death people usually burn paper money. This money used are Hell Bank Notes. Hell Bank Notes are made from Joss Paper (joss paper was traditionally made from bamboo, although rice paper is now commonly used). The notes are treated as real money. They are not casually tossed into the fire but are placed respectfully in a loose bundle. Ancestor Worship means that when people die they continue to live on doing the same things in the afterlife. In order that they can afford good things relatives send them the bank notes. To the Chinese the term 'Hell' just means the place where the dead go and does not have the same meaning as the Christian Hell.



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Temple Wind Chimes

Wind chimes were used by Buddhists in Tibet and Asia on the Temples and Shrines to encompass the structure in the pleasing sound from the wind. In the 19th and 20th Centuries the wind chime became more popular in the West.

The tones of a wind chime have a healing effect on the body, mind and spirit. The Vibrations of chimes release emotional stresses and calm us. Chimes bring about a sense of well being and peace.



Chinese Bowl set

As a visitor or guest in either a Chinese home or restaurant you will find that table manners are essential and the distinctive courtesies displayed will invariably add to the enjoyment of your meals and keep you in high spirits!

Although the hosts in China are all friendly and hospitable, you should also show them respect. Before starting to eat dinner, the host may offer some words of greeting. Guests should not start to eat until the host says, 'Please enjoy yourself' or something like that, otherwise it suggests disrespect and causes displeasure.

When hosts place dishes on the table, they will arrange the main courses at the centre with the supporting dishes evenly placed around them. When the main dishes are prepared in a decorative form either by cut or other means they will be placed facing the major guests and elder people at the table. This also embodies virtue.



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Chiming Balls

Chinese healthy balls date back to the Ming Dynasty (1368 - 1644). Chill and let these roll around the palms of your hands. "very addictive and pleasantly relaxing".

In addition to their use as meditation aids, Yin Yang chime balls offer a multitude of health benefits such as prevention of arthritis and rheumatism. The balls are hollow and have chiming sounding plates inside.

The chiming creates vibrations that help to activate acupressure points and reduce stress. Use of chime balls also enhances co-ordination and blood circulation and can be used in some physical therapy.



Chinese Zodiac Poster

Legends and mythology are a big part of Chinese culture, especially in relation to the Chinese Zodiac. The 12 animals that appear on the Chinese Zodiac calendar include a rat, buffalo (ox), tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog and pig. Its an unusual combination of animals, and their appearance on the Chinese Zodiac is the topic of countless legends and is deeply embedded in Chinese mythology. Most stories do seem to agree on one thing: the animals that make up the signs or the 12 equal parts of the Chinese Zodiac, were the animals that appeared in response to an invitation. As a reward for appearing these animals were included on the Chinese Zodiac. The depiction on a circular chart of 12 different animals representing the 12 year cycle of the Chinese Lunar calendar was built on the foundation of astronomy and Chinese astrology which has itself been in existence for over 5,000 years.



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Chinese Flag

China's national flag was adopted in September, 1949. This flag was first flown in Tiananmen Square on October 1, 1949 - the day of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

The rectangular flag has a red field with five golden-yellow stars (each with five points) in the upper left corner. The star on the left is larger than the other four.

The red colour of the flag symbolizes revolution. The large star symbolizes the Communist Party (which rules China) and the smaller stars represent the people of China.



Beijing Olympic caps 2008

These caps were produced and sold to commemorate the 2008 Beijing Olympic games.



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Chinese Newspaper

Copies of the 'China Daily' newspaper and business paper in English and Chinese, featuring news articles that describe what is going on in China.



Chinese 2 Piece outfit & Black Slippers

The three main types of traditional Chinese clothing are the Pien-fu, the Ch'ang-p'ao, and the Shen-i. The Pien-fu is an ancient two-piece ceremonial costume of a tunic-like top extending to the knees and a skirt or trousers extending to the ankles. The Ch'ang-p'ao is a one-piece garment extending from the shoulders all the way to the heels. The Shen-i is a cross between the Pien-fu and the Ch'ang-p'ao; it consists of a tunic and a skirt or trousers like the Pien-fu, but the tunic and the skirt are sewed together and essentially one piece like the Ch'ang-p'ao. Consequently, the Shen-i was the most widely worn of the three types. Typical of these three types of clothing were wide and voluminous sleeves and a very loose fit. Tunic and trousers or tunic and skirt, utilized a very minimum number of stitches for the amount of cloth used. So because of their relatively plain design and structure, embroidered edgings, decorated bands, draped cloth or silks, patterns on the shoulders, and sashes were often added as ornamentation. These varied designs came to be one of the unique features of traditional Chinese dress.



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The Laughing Buddha Statue

The Laughing Buddha statue is a symbol of wealth and happiness, just looking at his jolly face will cheer you up.

If you stroke his belly daily he will bring you luck!.

The Laughing Buddha's image graces many temples, restaurants, and amulets, as he has become a deity of contentment and abundance. The image of the Buddha is almost always seen carrying a cloth or linen sack (that which never empties) which is filled with many precious items, including rice plants (indicating wealth), candy for children, food, or the woes of the world. He is patron of the weak, poor and children.



Paper Lanterns

The 15th and last day of the Chinese New Year is the Lantern Festival. It begins with a traditional dinner with family. As it gets dark, families walk through the streets with beautiful, elaborate paper lanterns.

Traditionally, most people used simple, red lanterns and only nobles could afford elaborate ones. Nowadays, however, elaborate ones with beautiful, animal motifs are common.



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Peasant Hat

Farmers in Asia use these broad-rimmed hats to shield from the burning sun while toiling in the fields. Often, they personalized it by attaching their own chin straps, tied to the "bones" underneath the hat. One size. Hand-woven bamboo. Coated with a layer of varnish.



Assorted Pickles

Pickling food, as a method of preservation, is an old tradition in China. After harvest, vegetables that weren't eaten immediately were salted and pickled to ensure a good supply throughout the following year.



Chinese 'Yuan' Currency

Yuan in Chinese literally means a "round object" or "round coin". During the Qing Dynasty, the Yuan was a round and silver coin.

The earliest issues were silver coins produced at the Kwangtung mint. Other regional mints were opened in the 1890s. The central government began issuing its own coins in the Yuan currency system in 1903. Banknotes were issued in Yuan denominations from the 1890s by several local and private banks, along with banks established by the Imperial government.



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Red Envelopes

Traditionally red envelopes are given out on New Year's Day to children by their parents, Grandparents and other relatives and friends. The packets contain 'lucky money' inside them, the packets are mostly red which represents blessings and prosperity in the Chinese culture.



Old Chinese Coins

There are about 3,000 different Chinese coins including calligraphy and mint variations, spanning over a period of 3,000 years. They have many shapes and sizes.

Since the Han Dynasty, the coins are standardised into bronze items with a round shape, a square hole in the centre and a rim at the edge.



CHINA BOX 1 KEY STAGE 1 & 2 RESOURCE BOX BOOKS

Time for Rights
Unicef

The Changing Face of China
Stephen Keeler/Wayland

Yi-Min and the Elephants (A tale of ancient China)
Caroline Heaton/Tim Vyrer

Country Insights China
Julia Waterlow/Wayland

Global Cities Beijing
Nancy Pellegrini/Evans

We're From China
Emma Lynch/Heinemann

Sima Guang smashed the Vat
www.cepp.com.cn

Shanyi Goes to China
Sungwan So

Beijing Olympic Games 2008
Melanie Guile/Heinemann

A World of Festivals Chinese New Year
Catherine Chambers/Evans

Global Focus Weeks in Primary Schools (a teachers guide)

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