

1 The Geographical Environment and Chinese Culture

The Main Characteristics of China's Geographical Environment

中国地理环境的主要特点

Pre-reading Questions

1. What are the main characteristics of China's terrain?
2. What role does the specific geographical environment play in the development of China's ancient civilisation? Please think about it in comparison with other civilisations.

Various Terrains

多种多样的地形

What you're looking at is a geographical map of China (See map 1-1: Geographical map of China's terrain) showing you the physical shape of the country. The outline of China is often compared with that of a rooster, with the northeast as the head, Taiwan Island as its foot facing forwards and the

Tip: In the process of studying Chinese culture, it's a good idea to have a map at hand at all times. It is a very effective way for you to know about China. China is a large country and has many different terrains. You may find all of these details in a good map.

1-1: Geographical map of China's terrain

The Main Characteristics of China's Geographical Environment

1-2: Mount Qomolangma

northwest as its tail. The Chinese often use the metaphor of the rooster to describe their country and Mao Zedong (1893–1976) himself used the line "Rooster's crow awakens the dreaming earth" (一唱雄鸡天下白) in one of his poems to describe the founding of the People's Republic of China.

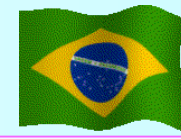
Perhaps you've noticed the colours used on the map, indeed, the bright spectrum of colours signifies the huge variation in geographical terrain to be found in China: from oceans and lakes in blue to the green lowland areas, the yellow plateaus and certain areas in the far southwest and northwest that are home to mountains snow-capped all year round, all of which form the stage for the development of Chinese civilisation.

Overall, China's terrain descends from high altitudes in the west to sea-level flat land on the eastern seaboard. Among the long ranges of peaks in the southwest lies the familiar record breaking tallest peak in the world: Mount Qomolangma (珠穆朗玛峰) which can be found on China's southwestern border (See photograph 1-2: Mount Qomolangma).

中国的地形西高东低，高大的山脉绵延横亘在西南地区，世界最高峰“珠穆朗玛峰”就在中国西南边界。

The eastern seaboard stretches from the far north all the way around to the south and is predominantly lowlands with some hilly terrain. This is an

珠穆朗玛峰
Qomolangma means "Mother of Earth" in Tibetan language. According to the latest data in 2005, Mount Qomolangma reaches the height of 8844.43 metres.



INTRODUCTION 绪论 (4 Hours)

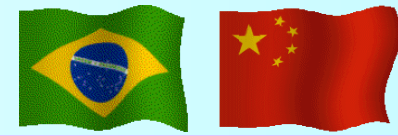
This lesson including three topics: 'Start to know China', 'Hometown Introducing' and 'Something about China'. Briefly introduce the division of China's land, terrain, population, ethnicity, and administrative regions. And ask the students to briefly introduce their hometown: location, population, characteristics, and local products. Introduce things with Chinese characteristics.

GEOGRAPHY & HISTORY 地理环境与历史 (4 Hours)

This lesson including three topics: 'Geographical Environment', 'History of China' and 'Major Migrations'. Introduce China's maps and basic geographic topography, countries bordering the border, major mountain ranges and major river systems, and meteorological features. Briefly introduce the history of China, the historical division of the dynasties, archaeological artefacts, and cultural heritage. Briefly introduce the major population migrations in Chinese history and the current population distribution.

CHINESE MUSIC 中国音乐 (4 Hours)

This lesson including three topics: 'Pentatonic Scale', 'Chinese Musical Instruments' and 'Chinese Music Appreciation'. Introduce the formation and characteristics of Chinese music pentatonic scale. A brief introduction to Chinese ancient and modern musical instruments and the composition of bands or orchestras. Introduce the basic characteristics of Chinese music and the characteristics of music in different regions. Appreciation and Analysis of Famous Chinese Music.



CHINESE PAINTING 中国画 (4 Hours)

This lesson including six topics: 'Classification of Chinese Painting', 'The Four Treasures of the Study', 'Four Arts Integration', 'Brushworks of Chinese Painting', 'Chinese Painting Appreciation' and 'Chinese Painting Practice'.

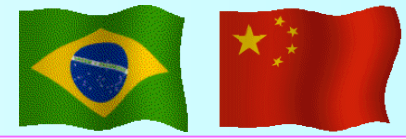
Briefly and concisely introduce the basic characteristics of Chinese painting, Chinese painting tools, painting techniques and theories. Analyse and appreciate the top ten famous Chinese paintings. Instruct students to learn basic Chinese painting techniques and conduct class exercises.

CULTURE & THOUGHTS 文化与思想 (4 Hours)

This lesson including three topics: 'Chinese Language', 'Chinese Thoughts' and 'Chinese Culture'. Introduce the formation and change of Chinese characters. Briefly introduce the Chinese dialect and its distribution. Introduce China's great thinkers and their main ideas. Briefly introduce the Chinese classic philosophy and social influence. Introduce the basic connotation of traditional Chinese culture.

CHINESE GARDEN 中国园林 (4 Hours)

This lesson including three topics: 'Introduction of Chinese Garden', 'Chinese Garden View' and 'Feel Ingenuity in Garden'. Introduce the history and characteristics of Chinese gardens, the art and theory of constructing garden , and garden culture. Analyse and appreciate different types of famous Chinese gardens. The basic elements and implications of Chinese garden construction.



TEA, LIFE & CUSTUM 茶、生活与习俗 (4 Hours)

This lesson including three topics: 'Chinese Tea Culture', 'Chinese Folklore' and 'Festival & Customs'. Introduce the characteristics, history, classification and drinking tea customs. Introduce tea preparing, tea skill, tea ceremony and other Chinese tea culture. Introduce China's major folk customs and related social cultures. Introduce China's seven major festivals and related customs.

PRESENTATION 交流演讲 (8 Hours)

CHINA & GLOBALIZATION 全球化 (4 Hours)

This lesson including three topics: 'Chinese Political System', 'Chinese Opening Culture' and 'Globalization'. Introduce China's national political system and government composition. The composition and operation of the central and local governments at all levels. Introduce the development process and reform and opening up of contemporary China. From reform and opening to active participation in the process of globalization. The "One Belt One Road Initiative" and the "a community of shared future" are proposed and actively practiced to lead the future.