

# ∅ China: Solid Waste and Reform

Your committee will present second.

Please read through the steps carefully. Other committees have several countries or topics; you have one large country.

Remember: your ultimate goal is to reduce waste.

1. Elect a Chairman of your committee. Your Chairman will be in charge of the group's presentation to the rest of the class. This will include delegating parts of the presentation.

## Successful Chairing for a Successful Committee

Chairs must be good listeners, good communicators, and good organizers.

Successful Chairs:

- ✓ Successful group discussions require planning and participation by all:
  - The Chair asks questions and gets help from their committee.
- ✓ The Chair's job is to keep all committee members involved by making sure each member:
  - has a country/topic
  - has filled in all of his or her slides
  - listens to the other members' findings
  - joins in on the final committee opinions and solutions (Remember, the 6th grade is focusing on how to reduce, or create less trash)
- ✓ Praise members' good work in writing and verbally
- ✓ Maintain a sense of humor
- ✓ Communicate often. Few people respond to a general invitation; a personal request usually brings faster results.
- ✓ Check in with members until tasks are accomplished; then praise committee member(s) (privately and publicly) for a job well done.
- ✓ Document all your sources as required by your teacher.

2. View all the videos and read the readings below. Many are not about trash but are meant to help your committee understand the culture in your assigned geographic locations.

3. Prepare a presentation for the Summit.

- Each committee will present their findings using PowerPoint and YouTube video(s). If you need more than one video to tell your story, insert a new slide and add the video on that slide.
- China's presentation will be no less than 15 minutes and no longer than 30 minutes. (Other committees will have more than one presentation with 10 minutes for each presentation)

### **Product: A PowerPoint Presentation**

- ✓ **The slides have been prepared for you. You need to fill in the information using the *italic* directions on the slides. Everything in *italics* is to be replaced by your committee.**
- ✓ **You need to know the information on the slides. Use an index card so you face the Summit audience, not the screen, when you present.**
- ✓ **You will include bullet points on the last few slides; bullet points should be a few words about your topic. (You might need more room because China is big; just insert a new slide).**
- ✓ **Your presentation should be between 15 and 30 minutes, with no longer than 15 minutes worth of videos.**

### ***PowerPoint directions***

Some of the slides have been prepared for you. For the remaining slides, you need to fill in the information according to the *italic* directions on the slide. For all slides, you need to know details about the information on the slide so that you can present the information to the Summit audience. Use the readings and videos provided to learn more about your topic.

#### **Title (Slide #1)**

This slide introduces the committee members and chairperson. The directions are on the slide. Type in the information needed, and then erase the *italic* directions.

#### **China (Slide #2)**

Insert a map of where China is in the world and add a caption comparing the size of China to the US.

### **Chinese History: Dynasties (Slide #3)**

The information for this slide has been filled in for you. Use the information from the 'China – history and background' reading and the YouTube videos below to learn more about the role of dynasties in Chinese history.

### **The Fall from World Trade Dominance (Slide #4)**

The information for this slide has been filled in for you. Use the information from the 'China – history and background' reading and the YouTube videos below to learn more about how China fell from world trade dominance.

### **Communism (Slide #5)**

The information for this slide has been filled in for you. Use the information from the 'China – history and background' reading and the YouTube videos below to learn more about the rise of communism in China.

### **Chinese Culture (Slide # 6)**

Centuries of oppression are displayed in the video 'Cancer Villages' ([http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rj9Wx\\_jg40&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rj9Wx_jg40&feature=related)). Pick out five examples of the old oppression and the new China. Tell the villagers' story and share the examples of oppression you found. Compare the consequences – What would happen if a factory did this in the United States today?

### **Chinese & US Culture (Slide #7)**

Use the following example of how to present this slide to think about how you would like to compare and contrast Chinese culture to US culture during your presentation. You can also use this example to help you put together other parts of your presentation.

Example Slide – Chinese & US Culture (Compare and Contrast the Culture of China and the US):

One of the bullet points could read 'Population during the Industrial Revolution (IR)'. You could insert the chart below for this bullet point:

Country	Population start of IR	End of IR	Today
US	4 million	77 million	314 million
China	1.27 billion	More than 1.3 billion	1.3 billion

You could say, using your index cards, "The Industrial Revolution started in the United States in 1790 when the U.S. had a population of 4 million. The Industrial Revolution ended in 1870, when the U.S. had a population of 77 million. Population growth from 1790 to 1870 was due to two factors, immigration and an increase in life expectancy. People lived an average of 35 years longer after the Industrial Revolution. In the US, there were many places to hide the trash generated by this many people." *If you have a pointer, point to the statistic as you talk about it.*

“Whereas in China the population was 1.27 billion at the start of the Industrial Revolution, and the Industrial Revolution is still happening. In China, population growth is mainly due to a longer life expectancy. There are very few places to hide the trash generated by the large population in China.”

‘Environment’ could be another bullet point. Your notes could have the following information:

The US waited 100 years after the Industrial Revolution to start cleaning up the environment in the 1960s. The US started cleaning up in large part because a river caught on fire due to pollution, bald eagles were dying because of chemicals used to kill bugs, and the human population was getting sick from air pollution and chemicals dumped into drinking water supplies. We’ve been cleaning up for 60 years now.

*You would now present what you learned from the YouTube videos about China’s environment.*

‘Government Styles’ could be another bullet point. This may be a place to compare China’s hukou to moving to another state in the US as well as other similarities and differences between these two governments.

### **The Problem of Trash (Slide #8)**

Think about some of the problems associated with trash in China. Think about problems related to health, the environment, business/economy, society, history, culture, etc. Use the videos and readings below to learn more about the problem.

You will use videos or video clips for this slide:

- ✓ You must choose which of the YouTube videos best shows the message you think is most important. You can show more than one video, but no more than 15 minutes worth of videos should be shown. This is where you show, not tell, about the trash, social, and environmental problems. You want to show videos that also give clues to what the people of China are like.
- ✓ If you run out of room and you want to use more videos, insert a new slide. From the toolbar at the top, go to Insert > New Slide
- ✓ *Hint:* Between videos, give some commentary while the next one loads. Such as: The newscaster looks just like ours in the US; those buildings look like they were built sometime in BC time; did you notice the traffic, clothes, stores, smiles, laughter, mannerisms, etc.?

### **Committee Opinion (Slide #8)**

Summarize your conclusions and opinions about China and their trash [solid waste] problems as it relates to their culture. Please consider all the videos and readings before drawing your conclusion(s). What is China doing well? What are they not doing well?

### **Committee Recommendations (Slide #9)**

Make your recommendations on how China can fix their trash problem. Recommend ways they can reduce their amount of trash. How can these solutions be used in your neighborhood and school?

If you wish to share your findings you may write China's US embassy office in Chicago:  
Consulate General of The People's Republic of China in Chicago  
100 West Erie Street  
Chicago, IL 60654

### ***Understanding the problem***

Understanding the problem in other countries requires an understanding of their culture and the political climate in that country. You are going to make suggestions to help solve/reduce China's trash problem. In doing so, you must consider their community values.

Be aware assumptions shape people's thinking. In your research, examples might be: China is a communist nation. A residency card called a 'hukou' is one of the most valuable documents in China. To move within China the whole family must get permission stamped into their hukou. Many times, only one member can get the stamp to move. To people in the United States, a hukou is a severe infringement of our civil rights. How do biases (assumptions) interfere with critical thinking?

### **China is very big:**

China is still listed as a developing country. However, they fit better into the classification of an 'Emerging Market Economy'. In other words, they are going through their Industrial Revolution much like Europe and the US did 150 years ago. Only they are doing it at a very fast rate. China is making some of the same social and environmental mistakes Europe and the US did. They struggle with air, water and land pollution as they change from an agricultural country to a leading producer of world products.

- The landmass of China is bigger than the US by about the size of Texas.
- The population of China is huge. China has 1.331 billion people compared to the US's population of 314 million people.
- Since 1979, China has been under a one-child policy (law) to reduce population size.
- China's leaders made raising the standard of living for the Chinese population its new political mandate.
- Since 2000, China has grown to be the second largest economy in the world.
- 2007 saw the start of massive recalls of products made in China. The head of the Chinese Food and Drug Administration was publicly executed. "The sentence reflected

Beijing's resolve to wipe out corruption and to ensure consumer safety", July 1, 2007, State Xinhua News Agency.

- It took the United States 80 years (1790-1870) to achieve what the Chinese have done in 12 years.

### ***China- history and background***

- In the 1970s, the history of China took a whole semester to learn; it was middle school, horribly boring, and extremely hard to grasp. The first day of class you were given the final's questions - name the dynasties in order of succession, their landmass size, contributions to society and significant facts. There was 5,000 years worth of dynasties to learn! Each dynasty was a family who gained power through a blood bath. I personally liked the short study on Taoism, Buddhism and Confucianism. Taoism and Buddhism are religions with great temples and rich with history. Confucianism, 'Confucius say', "taught an attitude toward one's fellow humans of respect, particularly respect for one's parents, teachers, and elders. Confucius also encouraged his students to learn from everyone they encountered and to honor others' cultural norms" (<http://www.patheos.com/Library/Confucianism.html>). Politicians later translated the teachings into meaning unquestioning obedience to government.
- During the age of European exploration and colonization around the world, the mission of Europeans was to spread Christianity, claim land for their countries and get rich by trade goods (trading for a product that one took home and sold). The Europeans encountered what they considered to be uneducated savages during their travels (sounds like Avatar). During this time, European countries fought with Arab nations primarily because the city of Jerusalem holds great significance to Christians, Jews and Muslims. The Silk Road, a trading route stretching from China, went through these Arab nations. The Silk Road allowed China to trade with Arab nations that were then able trade with European countries. Europeans themselves had not traveled to China. Imagine the astonishment when Marco Polo returned with the stories of China; he was called the man with a million lies. (<http://www.thenagain.info/webchron/china/marcopolo.html>) When he was near death, a priest entered his room and asked him if he wanted to admit his stories were false. Instead, Marco Polo replied, "I do not tell half of what I saw because no one would have believed me." Europeans were shocked by the notion that across some very harsh mountains was an advanced civilization that not only had a written language but paper, machines, silk, jade, gold, and a black stone (coal) that heated their homes. This civilization – China – thought they were the center of the world.
- It took several more centuries for Britain to trade directly with China on a large scale. They had to develop ships that could sail to China in order to cut out the middlemen. Europeans then discovered China would trade for silver. China had a system based on paper money, similar to much of the world today, whereas the rest of the world bartered at the time. China would take gold, silver, pearls and other rare stones in return for their products. Britain did not want to give up its riches to China, so China simply shrugged because they were not only self-sufficient, but also more advanced than the Europeans.

- During this time, the old system of dynasties fell. The transition of leadership still happened through a bloody takeover, but instead of a family taking over, a group took over. The new group was a government that, once established, demanded unquestioning obedience.
- China's fall: you have heard the saying, 'the bigger you are the harder you fall'; that was China.
- The new Chinese government would trade precious commodity tea to Britain in exchange for cotton from the American Colonies. Britain also wanted porcelain and silk, but they needed Chinese paper money to get these products. Opium was prized in China for its medicinal properties (today we call opium codeine and morphine), and was one of the items the Arabs traded the Chinese. Britain began trading the drug to the Chinese for recreational use in exchange for desired commodities and large profits.
- Recreational opium use had been outlawed in China for centuries. The dynasties thought the people would never use opium illegally out of obedience. The government was shocked when they found out a large number of the population was addicted to opium. The government declared war on opium. The government destroyed it in ports, and warned ships carrying it that they too would be destroyed. The British were getting rich off of opium. To put the time frame in perspective, in the United States this was the time of the building of railroads, gold mines and the cowboy. Opium was being marketed in the U.S. with the same disastrous results seen in China. Denver identified opium consumption as the number one problem in 1901; opium was cited as the cause of high rates of crime, murders, gangs of thugs and poverty. The blame for opium consumption was laid on the Chinese immigrants, not on British trade. Opium was outlawed in the U.S. as well.
- The British declared war on China because of China's destruction of ships and opium, a major source of income for the British. There were several opium wars. China lost these wars and opium was legalized. Chinese laborers could no longer leave their country. Money was leaving the country in exchange for opium, with nothing coming back in. This plunged China into an economic depression. The era is called the 100 years of humiliation.
- Growing opium within China, the sale of the drug, and high rates of use created warlords and chaos (sounds a bit like modern Mexico).
- A treaty stating the sale of opium was immoral and destructive was signed between Britain, China, the United States, and several other countries in 1906. Britain agreed to reduce their opium exports based on reductions in the number of addicts in importing countries. Additionally, if the other countries could stop opium use in 10 years, Britain would stop selling it. It must be noted that the island of Great Britain was relatively unaffected by opium, it was not produced or marketed directly on the island. They only saw the profits, and were not affected by the negative consequences of the drug.
- China adopted communism to fix their problems. Karl Marx, the father of communism, wrote his theories and died many years before communism was practiced. "Simply put, communism is the idea that everyone in a given society receives equal shares of the benefits derived from labor." (<http://history.howstuffworks.com/cold-war/communism.htm>) In China's communist system, the government owns all land and businesses, tells you what career to work in, where to live, what religions to believe in, and who you should marry for the

benefit of the community. No one is allowed to make more money than anyone else. Under communism, China stomped out the legal and illegal drug trade in 10 years.

- The existing government was destroyed so China could transition to communism. Then a leader, Mao Zedong, obtained complete control as a dictator. The Gang of Four helped Mao secure absolute power. The Chinese then hoped to achieve an utopian (perfect) society in which no one went hungry, everyone had a home, all shared the wealth, no class system existed, and all worked hard for everyone's benefit. No communist government has ever reached utopia.
- Large earthquakes hit China in 1976 and became the largest natural disasters in Chinese history. Mao, the dictator, was on his deathbed, and the Gang of Four decided to ignore the problem and forbade state television from covering the event. The leaders did not accept international aid and denied to the rest of the world that the earthquakes had happened. Several other nations had gone into space by this time. Seismographs around the world registered, not one, but two large earthquakes as well as shifts in tectonic plates. When Chinese leaders finally had to admit an earthquake had happened, they said 200 to 300 people had died, but others put the estimate at 700,000 dead. Those that survived dug earthen caves to live in.
- The student uprisings of 1989 happened in most major Chinese cities and were seen on national television. Students were sent to college and told what to study and what skills to learn, only to find out there were no jobs in the fields they were told to study. One Chinese leader, Hu Yaobang, vocally pushed for openness and personal freedom and had been dramatically ousted from office. When Hu Yaobang died, students who believed in this man poured into the streets to protest his treatment and show support for the ideals he stood for. Instead of finding a solution to the problem, the government spent years tracking down the protesters and imprisoning the students and supposed organizers. The Chinese government officially denied the demonstrations ever happened.
- Every 10 years the communist party selects new leaders. These leaders determine the direction the country will take. The previous leadership moved China in the direction of an intensified Industrial Revolution because of fear of a massive revolt and takeover of the government. New leaders were selected in November 2012, and will take office in March 2013. Where will the next decade lead China?

You have just learned a great deal about the history of China. The slice of history I presented is just that, a small slice. This history should help you understand China is a very different country than the United States. China's history has many worthwhile lessons; we would be wise to heed them. Here in the United States, we have many lessons we can share as well. We made environmental mistakes during our long Industrial Revolution. Our Industrial Revolution ended in 1870, and it took 90 years of continued environmental damage for the U.S. to start cleaning up its act. China does not have 90 years to start cleaning up. The world does not have the time either.



## YouTube Videos

The following YouTube videos are for you to watch and learn more about China. I would suggest you read the history of China again after viewing the videos. You will choose no more than 15 minutes of video to show at the Summit. Choose wisely.

### Waste in China

- *Photographer Captures Beijing's Ring of Waste (Chinese made documentary, 2011):*  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMhV5GWzWpk>
- *Cancer Villages – China (2012)*[there are many videos with the same story from different villages throughout China]: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rj9Wx\\_jg40&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rj9Wx_jg40&feature=related)
- *Years of Trash Clog River in Southern China (2011):*  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&feature=endscreen&v=HGC7B\\_c\\_1ac](http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&feature=endscreen&v=HGC7B_c_1ac)

China takes steps to correct the trash problem, but the problem is huge and clean up will take a long time.

- There is a committee who is addressing methane gas recovery. Methane is the by-product of decomposition, and a powerful greenhouse gas. Landfills produce methane as the trash rots. You can introduce the concept as a solution and not have to go into how the gas is produced or how it is recovered in detail.

Connect the dots between not creating trash and methane's effects on global climate change — you can do it — go forth and save the world by removing one piece of trash at a time from the massive stream of global waste.

- *Landfill gas to energy, China (2011):*  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rxZTkyQKipQ>
- *100 Billion Plastic Bags Saved from Landfills in China (2010):*  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rk44k06Xhh0>

China has taken steps to recycle, but they still have a lot of solid waste.

- *China's Growing Recycling Industry:*  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdleUev22qM&feature=relmfu>
- *China Waste Overwhelming Despite Recycling (2009):*  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCLY3VuapH0>

The bullet points above discussed recalls associated with corruption and the serious manner in which China handled them. In the US, we had imported Chinese items such as Mattel toys with

lead paint and tainted dog food. When the goal became allowing citizens to make money, many thought ethics and moral values were not as important.

- *China's "Garbage Fed Beef" Food Scandal (2011):*  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPmI32EUg7M&feature=related>
- *More Chinese Tainted Food Discovered (2008):*  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEhO48h9yU8&feature=relmfu>
- *China Executes Two in Tainted Milk Scandal (2009):*  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=unpQPu7TXIs&feature=fvwrel>

There are four one-hour videos in this series. The purpose is for you to get a glimpse of Chinese culture. You do not need to view each one of them or all of any of them.

- *PBS Documentary: China from the Inside (Power and the People):*  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rrKCWJ1dFQA&feature=related>