

**Introduction to China Box**

The East Asian Studies Center presents China Box, a teaching tool for teachers to expose their students to the Chinese language and culture. The items were selected and obtained during our last two trips to different parts of China. Each item in the box informs and reflects on different aspects of the Chinese culture. Therefore we hope, through the concept of realia, that students can see, feel and hence experience Chinese culture.

The items are divided into 4 categories, namely- ‘Going to School,’ ‘Chinese Games,’ ‘Daily Life in China,’ and ‘Chinese New Year.’ In this guide, descriptions of the items and suggested class activities are provided for each of these categories. We have not provided any particular lesson plans with the China Box as we believe that the teacher knows how to best use and apply these items in his/her classroom. We hope that you will find this box helpful in planning your lessons.

We appreciate your comments and feedback on our China Box. In addition, when you return the box, we would like to hear how you used the items in your lessons/classroom and the outcome of your lessons. If you have lesson plans based on the materials in the box and would like to share them with other teachers, please submit them when you return the box. With your permission, we would like to include the lesson plans in the box as a resource for other teachers.
III. Daily Life in China

This is a list of things central to daily life in China.

Meals
Though customs and the kinds of food eaten vary according to region, it is common for Chinese families to gather for three meals a day. In some areas and at some times of the year, laborers may have only two full meals a day, but when possible, they supplement these with up to three smaller ones, often taken at tea houses where you can obtain Dim Sum, a variety of Chinese snacks. Eating begins in order of seniority at the dining table, with each diner taking the cue to start from his or her immediate superior. Rice is the staple of food of the Chinese. (Adapted from http://www.cuisinenet.com/glossary/chinaday.html)

Transportation
The bicycle is a common mode of transportation. Today, roads in many areas including major cities are still underdeveloped. Moreover, Chinese cars are astronomically priced so very few Chinese own their own cars.

Money
The Chinese currency is known as Renminbi. It will cost 35 yuan (US$4.20) to buy a pair of blue jeans and 17.50 yuan (US$2.11) to order a Big Mac. (Also refer to Chinese Money on Page 21)
Description of Items

16. Teen Magazines

17. Chinese Money

18. McDonald’s Menu and Apple Pie Packaging
Activities

I. Hand Counting

Learn to count in Chinese and practice it when you go to a Chinese restaurant!