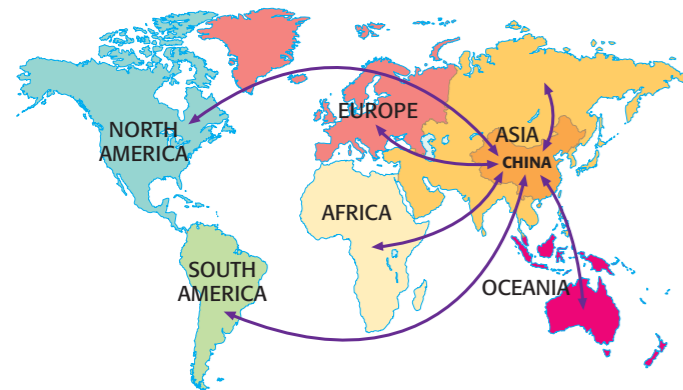


Here you'll find out about China's growing influence in the world.

A growing power

China is a big country. A fifth of all humans live there. It has opened its doors to the world, and is developing fast. So it is growing more and more important.

In fact China affects billions of people all around the world – including you! Find out more in these panels. (You have met some of the information already.)



2 Made in China

Some of your things were almost certainly made in China. It is often called 'the world's factory'.

- ◆ It is now the world's top exporter of goods.
- ◆ It exports everywhere, including the UK. But its main trading partner is the USA.
- ◆ It also buys lots of things from other countries. Especially raw materials, as you'll see in panel 4.
- ◆ Overall it earns much more than it spends. In 2007 it earned 262 billion dollars more! This is helping it to develop.



▲ On the way ...

1 Chinese culture

- ◆ You have probably used some Chinese inventions. Like paper, a wheelbarrow, a compass, fireworks, kites ...
- ◆ And some of these may have touched your life: kung fu, acupuncture, Chinese food ...
- ◆ Many cities around the world have a 'Chinatown', where you can eat, shop, and visit herbal doctors.



▲ London's Chinatown.

3 The flow of work to China

Many factory workers in richer countries have lost their jobs to China. (Including people in the UK.)

- ◆ That's because many big companies (TNCs) have closed their factories in richer countries – and opened in China instead.
- ◆ They go to China because wages are lower there.
- ◆ Other foreign companies get goods made in Chinese factories, for the same reason.

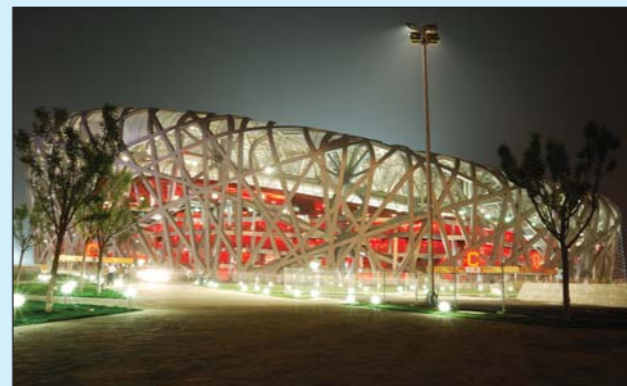


▲ China is the world's top manufacturer of clothing.

4 Buying up resources

As China develops, it needs more and more resources. It does not have nearly enough of its own.

- ◆ So it buys resources from other countries. Like oil, steel, other metals, and wheat.
- ◆ It is becoming the world's top buyer of resources.
- ◆ This causes world prices of some resources to rise, since other countries want them too.



▲ The Bird's Nest stadium in Beijing: lots of steel.

6 Aid to other countries

Many poorer countries receive aid from China.

- ◆ It is often given in return for permission to buy a share in an oil field or mine.
- ◆ It is often in the form of new roads, railways, and other infrastructure that the country badly needs.
- ◆ Chinese workers are sent to help build these.



▲ A new road for Ethiopia in Africa, thanks to China.

5 Investing in other countries

China is also investing in other countries – often to make sure of resources. For example:

- ◆ It has bought a share in many oil fields and mines around the world.
- ◆ It has bought or leased land to grow soya and other crops, oil palm trees, and trees for timber.
- ◆ It has set up factories in countries with even lower wages, making things to sell there.



▲ China has invested in most countries in Africa.

7 Politics

China has great political influence.

- ◆ In particular, it is on the United Nations Security Council (with the UK, USA, France, and Russia).
- ◆ The Council's aim is to keep peace in the world, and settle conflict by negotiation.



▲ At a United Nations Security Council meeting.

Your turn

- 1 How many links can you find, between China and you? Design a diagram to show them. Try for at least five.
- 2 See if you can explain why China might want to:
 - a buy a share in a big oil field in Sudan
 - b buy farmland in Zambia
 - c set up a bicycle factory in Ghana
- 3 Some people say China is colonising Africa, like Britain and other countries did in the past. Do you agree with that opinion? Explain.
- 4 Where does China get the money for all its investments in other countries?
- 5 Now design and draw a diagram to show what is flowing out of China, and what is flowing into it, to show China's importance in the world.
- 6 Pretend you are China's leader, for this.
 - a Panels 1–7 show China's links with the rest of the world. Which panel is the most important, to you?
 - b Put the panels in order, the most important first.