

China - The Middle Kingdom

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International cooperation - It is important to get to know about different cultures and to know about what people are like in different parts of the world. The best way to feel, what a culture is like, would be to travel to the actual destination, experience the culture and meet the people.

In today's world, people are more connected, with people in other parts of the world than ever before. With the internet, you can connect and talk to people far far away in only seconds while sitting at home or laying in your bed. Travelling has become much more affordable than it used to be, and people travel much more frequent. Of course, you can't travel all the time, cause it still is expensive, and it's impossible to see everything. Over the internet, it is much easier to get information about the different countries, but you have to make sure you get the right information, it still may not be enough for you to get a real feel of the culture.

For me, it means a lot, that I know about different cultures, countries, and people. Over the internet, you constantly meet people from all over the world, and you can interact and chat about shared hobbies and views. That is an excellent thing.

When I lived 14 months in the U.S., I started out in an ESL class (English as a second language), that meant that I went into a class full of students from all around the world. There were kids from Mexico, Russia, Japan, Korea, India, etc. It was cool because everybody had a different culture. Everybody was very kind and welcoming when I came to the class, I was only ten years old, so my English was not very good. I quickly improved my English skills and got a lot of great friends. I became good friends with kids from India, Japan, Russia and many more. Because of the Internet, I can still chat with those friends today. I am very grateful for that. We all learned that no matter where you came from, you had the same qualities and no race or culture is better than the other. Everybody is worth the same. That was an important lesson to learn, and it was a great thing that we all learned it at such a young age.

China - The Middle Kingdom

China has been known by many names throughout the years, but the name that China most often refers itself to is Zhongguo. Zhongguo means, Middle Kingdom or may also sometimes refer to, Central Kingdom.

Ethnocentrism is the belief that your country or culture is the best. You can see that in many countries and cultures. One example of ethnocentrism could be when citizens of The United States of America refer to themselves as "Americans," even though there are more than 30 countries in North and South America. Ethnocentrism does not mean that a person is selfish, ignorant, or thinks that their culture is the best and the "right" one. Being proud of your nation and culture is important. It is important to be proud of who you are and where you come from.

It could be an example of ethnocentrism when one refers to their country and culture as the middle or central kingdom. It shows their pride to their country and culture, and it is always great to have pride for your nation. They may use the term to show the world the importance they have. That they are one of the biggest, strongest and most influential nations.

"Beijing is the present, Xi'an the past, and Shanghai the future"

This describes that China is a big, robust and powerful nation, and has been, for thousands of years. They were so in the past, they are in the present, and they will most likely also be in the future. China has significantly affected the way we live today and the things we use every day from the invention of paper to the invention of tea. From the invention of cast metals to the invention of moveable letters in printing. China has invented many things that we still all use today.

Xi'an resembles China in the past. There are a lot of historical monuments in Xi'an, and the city gives an insight into Chinese history. The average person in Xi'an has less money than the average citizen in Beijing or Shanghai. Over the years China's economy has become larger than it used to be, in that way Xi'an is like the old China.

Beijing resembles the present day China. The millions of citizens that live in Beijing live very tightly together. The city has tons of factories and produces many items. Few are rich, and quite a lot are poor.

Shanghai resembles the China of the future. Shanghai has modern architecture, and the city simply looks stunning. The population of Shanghai is one of the largest in China, and even in the whole world. It also has a very condensed population, meaning many

people per square mile. In the future, the world will be full of even more people, than it is today, meaning that more and more people will live close and tight together.

In the past, China was one of the most advanced and inventive nations in the world inventing Gunpowder, Porcelain, etc

Today, China has low-cost production. Unfortunately, they are better at producing other nations great ideas. China produces many of the world's items today and much cheaper than is possible in other parts of the world. However, this has meant that few are rich, and many people are poor, they work under bad conditions for minimum wage, with little to no regards for their health or the environment. China has the second largest economy in the world, only surpassed by the US. China's big economy is most likely because of the high production and many highly educated business leaders.

In the future, China will probably be even stronger than they are today. China has for many years now kept a focus on education. The younger generation will be much smarter and stronger. They are some of the smartest and hardest working people in the world. Most likely they will be able to create and invent some amazing things. I think that in the future they will have an even bigger economy, maybe even getting the largest in the world. They educate even more people now and at a high level, which can help China get a really strong economy.

I just hope that this is done the right way so that the strong young generation will create a future, with better conditions for the workers, higher wages and more concern for the environment and the health of the people.

What this means to me is that while we all want a world with better and cheaper goods, it is important to know that with great strength comes great responsibility. Having concern for the climate, helping to stop climate change and every human on this planet living a long, healthy and joyful life, is more important than being able to buy the cheapest car, phone, TV, etc. The more powerful a nation is, the greater the responsibility needs to be. While I realize that it is not always easy to do the right thing, or may sometimes not even be possible, meaning that you can not always get 100 % right for all, you must find a middle ground that is good for all. It is important to do your best, and when you do, there is nothing more to be done.