Life in China - Shanghai

BBC TEACH

In partnership with **Geographical Association**

Video summary	Before watching the video	While watching
A child-led introduction to the city of Shanghai, China. Shanghai lies at the mouth of the Yangtze River on the coast of the East China Sea and it is one of the busiest ports in the world. Shanghai is a modern city with a sophisticated highway and metro system and an endless stream of maritime traffic navigating its way to the East China Sea. Juewen is a 10-year-old girl who represents the new generation of driven Chinese children. She has a very busy school life and then takes lots of extra classes, travelling round the city on the metro to fit in all her activities. We see her in different lessons - playing the cello, model-making (design and technology), Olympic maths, English and calligraphy. This clip was originally broadcast as part of the series *In My Shoes*. Download/print a transcript of the video.	Using a map locate Shanghai. Zoom in and look at the levels of urbanisation. What words can students use to describe this location. Ask students what they think it would be like to live in this location. How does it differ from where they live? Students could create a list of their predictions. **Introduce key terms such as:** **Shipping port**: a place where ships dock to load and unload cargo and passengers. **Metro network**: a high-capacity, rapid public transport system, often a rail-based network, used for urban areas. **Container ships**: large ships with metal containers on which transport goods around the world. **Congestion**: overcrowding and traffic jams on public roads.	You may wish to stop at relevant points during this short film to pose questions and check understanding, or wait until the end. Useful questions might include: • What different languages are spoken? • Why do people prefer to use public transport? • Why is Shanghai an important city? • Why do many Chinese children complete lots of extra-curricular activities? • Why does Juewen think that learning English is important?

After watching

Shanghai is an incredibly important city where thousands of products are loaded onto container ships every day and shipped around the world. The container ships will have a wide range of products loaded onboard. The largest container ships in the world can enter the port at Shanghai, and these can be over 350 metres long, which gives an idea of the scale of the port.

Task students with investigating what types of products China imports and exports. What goods are countries such as the UK buying from China? Why do countries need to trade? This could be discussed with students - what reasons can they give for trading?

Look closely at maps of Shanghai. On a blank map of the city students could draw in the metro network and notable features such as tall buildings, green spaces and the rivers. Ask students to describe the landscape of the city. They could then compare this to where they live. What similarities and differences are there?

Curriculum Notes
This clip is relevant for teaching Geography at KS3 in England and Northern Ireland, 3rd Level in Scotland and Progression Step 4 in Wales. The National Curriculum for Geography at KS3 requires the study of a location in Asia, 'including China'.

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Where next?	Links
Using GapMinder's website Dollar Street investigate the lives of other families around the world. This website gives you an insight into their lives and looks at different products that families have in their homes. Students could use this information to make a comparison to Juewen's life and also to their own. Students could put this information into a table to enable them to make clear comparisons.	Introduction to China: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zk9h6g8 How is China changing? https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zt6cg7h Globalisation: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zp8jwnb