



CHINA AND MONGOLIA

CHINA

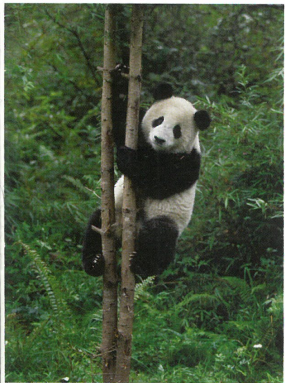


AREA 9,596,961 sq km
POPULATION 1,336,718,000
MONEY Yuan

MONGOLIA



AREA 1,566,500 sq km
POPULATION 3,133,000
MONEY Tugrik



▲ **Giant Pandas** live in the remote mountains in south-west China. Their main food is bamboo. This panda lives in a special reserve because a lot of the bamboo forests have been cut down to make more farmland.

CHINA has over a billion people – more than any other country in the world. The map shows that there are many high mountains in China, such as the huge plateau of Tibet and the rugged mountains of the south-west where the Giant Pandas live. Not many people live in these mountains, nor in the deserts of the north, near Mongolia.

So the lower land of eastern China is very crowded indeed. Rice grows well south of the River Yangtze. North of the Yangtze, where the winters are colder, wheat and maize are important food crops, but it is hard to grow enough.

Taiwan is an island country which used to be called Formosa, or nationalist China. It is not communist and is not part of China.

Mongolia is a large desert country between Russia and China. Everywhere is more than 1000 metres above sea level. It is the emptiest country in the world, with an average of only 2 people for every square kilometre.



▲ **The Great Wall of China** was over 5000 kilometres long (see map) – by far the longest man-made structure in the world. Building started 2000 years ago to keep China's enemies out. Notice the fortified towers.



▲ **China's amazing mountains.** The photograph shows the amazing shapes of the limestone mountains in southern China. The mountains that look 'unreal' in Chinese paintings really are real!




▲ **Mongolia:** the Mongols were famous for their skill with bows and arrows. Today, archery is one of the main sports, along with horse-racing and wrestling.



Mongolia has several languages and scripts. Look at the country's name on this stamp. Winter is long and very cold.

CHINESE NEW YEAR



This giant dragon is being used in the New Year procession in Hong Kong. Chinese people all over the world celebrate (or Spring Festival) in February.

