

10.01.07

CURRENT EVENTS®

Issue 4 Volume 107

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IN THIS ISSUE

OBJECTIVES

Main News: Students will learn about China's booming economy and problems that its rapid industrialization has caused. Time Trip describes Deng Xiaoping's rise to power and his policies to elevate China out of poverty.

News Debate: Students will be able to conduct an informed debate about whether schools should ban all physical contact between students.

STANDARDS SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS)

Main News: Power, authority, and governance; Production, distribution, and consumption
News Debate: Individual development and identity

LANGUAGE ARTS (NCTE)

Main News: Students read to build an understanding of the world and to respond to the needs and demands of society.

News Debate: Students participate as knowledgeable and reflective members of society.

GEOGRAPHY (NCGE)

Main News: The patterns and networks of economic interdependence on Earth's surface

SOCIAL STUDIES VOCABULARY

Cultural Revolution; Mao Zedong

SKILLS BUILDERS

Page 3: Analyze the Graphs

Page 4: Venn Diagram

Page 5: News Crossword

MAIN NEWS

MADE IN CHINA

Get Talking

Try this interesting activity the day before students read "Made in China." Ask them to count the number and types of products in their homes that are labeled "Made in China." Then have students report their results to the class on the day they read the article.

Background

- Although the Chinese government promotes and fosters capitalism and private investment, it has remained very much a repressive dictatorship in politics. The government employs more than 30,000 censors to block objectionable material on the Internet. The official Communist Party, which controls China, has acted quickly and strongly to crush any organized threat to its monopoly on power, as it did with its recent crackdown on the Falun Gong, a religious movement involving millions of Chinese.

- China's economic boom over the last 30 years has raised average incomes throughout the country



and lifted millions out of poverty, but many millions have been left out—the people who live in China's countryside. The average urban salary is three times the salary of those who live in the country. Many peasants still live in desperate poverty, and a huge income gap has grown in China, one that China's leaders fear may eventually lead to civil discontent and even violence.

Doing More

China represents the world's oldest continuous civilization, dating back more than 3,500 years. Have students research one of China's dynasties (Shang, Chou, or Sung, for example) and report to the class on its contributions to China's long and rich cultural history.

ISSUE DATES • 2007–2008

9/10	9/17	9/24	10/1	10/8	10/22	10/29	11/5	11/12	11/26	12/3	12/10	12/17	1/14	1/21
1/28	2/4	2/11	2/25	3/3	3/10	3/24	3/31	4/14	4/28					

Keep current at www.weeklyreader.com/ce. For updates on the stories in this issue, plus games and more, visit *Current Events* online.

Below are some key words used in this issue of Current Events.

Mao Zedong (page 4)

Mao Zedong was born in 1893. In 1921, he helped form the Chinese Communist Party. In 1934, Mao led the Communists to Shaanxi Province. Known as the Long March, the 6,000-mile trek took more than a year and united the survivors under Mao. The Communist Party gained control of China by 1949, and Mao became the first chairman of the People's Republic of China. In 1958, he launched the Great Leap Forward, an industrial growth program that failed. After the failure, Liu Shaoqi became chairman. Mao later ousted Liu during the Cultural Revolution. Mao died in 1976.

Cultural Revolution (page 5)

In an attempt to rid China of anti-communist influences, Mao Zedong launched the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in 1966. Thousands of students formed groups known as the Red Guards. Mao urged them to destroy China's "four olds"—old customs, habits, culture, and thinking. Red Guards raided homes, destroying anything thought to be remnants of traditional Chinese culture. In 1972, Mao ordered the Red Guards to disband because he felt the movement had gone too far.

HANDS OFF!

Get Talking

Ask students: Do you hug your friends at school? Do you give them pats on the back or high fives? Why might some schools ban all physical contact between students? Why might people oppose that rule?

Notes Behind the News

- Kilmer Middle School in Vienna, Va., is overcrowded. Instead of the 850 students it was built to house, 1,100 kids attend classes there. Principal Deborah Hernandez says that with so many students crammed into the space, the black-and-white, zero-tolerance rule of no touching becomes even more important.
- Hal Beaulieu's parents are considering suing Kilmer Middle School over the policy, which Hal's father called "totalitarian." Beaulieu's parents believe that the policy fails to teach children appropriate boundaries.
- Some fear that making handshakes taboo in school could ill-prepare kids for the real world. In

western society, handshakes are a gesture of goodwill. However, customs vary between cultures. For instance, physical contact isn't commonplace in Japanese culture or the Orthodox Jewish religion.

- Hugs among classmates aren't the only things getting the boot in schools. At some schools, including Discovery Canyon Campus, a prekindergarten–grade 12 learning community in Colorado Springs, Colo., recess games such as tag have been banned. Administrators say that an innocent game of tag can lead to discomfort among the students as well as playground violence. Some experts disagree, saying that such games teach social development skills and that eliminating them could stunt kids' emotional growth.

Doing More

Organize students into two groups—one for the ban and one against it. Have each group come up with five reasons the ban is a good or a bad idea.

ANSWER KEY

Student Edition

Analyze the Map

1. B, 2. B, 3. C, 4. C, 5. B

Word Power

1. controversial, 2. speedy, 3. supreme, 4. concluded, 5. deviant

Comprehension

1. A, 2. C, 3. B, 4. A

Teacher's Guide

Page 3: Analyze the Graphs

1. B, 2. B, 3. B, 4. B, 5. C

Comprehension

1. B, 2. B, 3. B, 4. B, 5. A

Page 4: Venn Diagram

The United States: B, G, H

The United States and China:

A, C, F, I

China: D, E, J

This week's puzzle:



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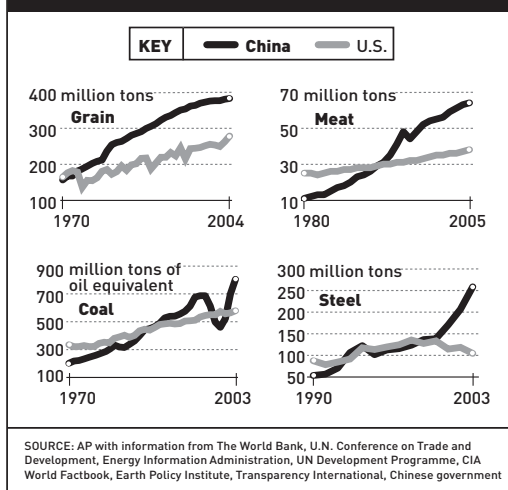
SKILLS PAGE

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Analyze the Graphs

These graphs compare the consumption of certain products in the United States and China. Study the graphs. Then answer the questions below.

- In the mid-1980s, which country used more grain?
 - United States
 - China
 - Both consumed equal amounts.
- Approximately how much more steel did China use than the United States in 2003?
 - 250 tons
 - 150 tons
 - 100 tons
- In approximately which year did China surpass the United States in meat consumption?
 - 1980
 - 1990
 - 2000
- Which of the following statements is true?
 - China consumed less meat than the United States in 2005.
 - The United States used more coal than China for a short time in the 1990s.
 - China used more steel than coal in 1990.

Consumer Giants — China vs. U.S.

- From these graphs, which conclusion can be drawn?
 - Consumption in the United States is slowing.
 - The United States has rivaled China in its grain consumption since 1970.
 - China's rate of consumption is rising more quickly than that of the United States.

Comprehension

Read this issue's cover story, "Made in China," and then answer the following questions.

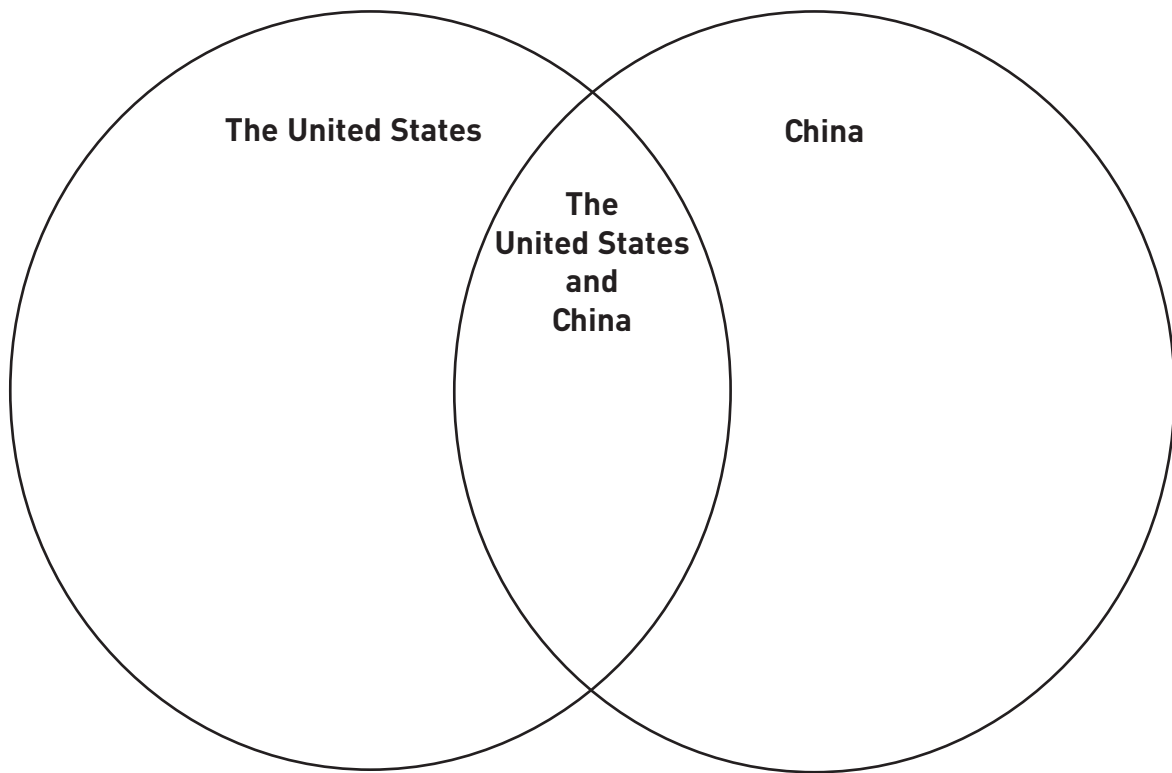
- What is the author referring to when calling China "the world's workshop"?
 - China's schools have long shop classes.
 - China is the world's largest exporter of goods.
 - Workers go to China to learn trades.
- In 1976, China was
 - an up-and-coming market economy.
 - one of the poorest countries in the world.
 - a thriving communist country.
- Which is most likely to be true in a communist society?
 - Individual wealth is important.
 - The government owns the businesses.
 - Farmers work their own land to feed their families.
- What causes the sun to look like a dull orange ball in Linfen, China?
 - rapid economic growth
 - air pollution from the coal industry
 - wild mushrooms that keep popping up
- Why might Chinese manufacturers have used dangerous paint, antibiotics, and contaminated ingredients in products?
 - Some manufacturers were trying to cut costs by using lower-quality goods.
 - The manufacturers didn't know the goods were dangerous to animals and humans.
 - China has higher standards for products than the United States does.

VENN DIAGRAM

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Diagramming Differences: Comparing The United States and China

The United States and China have two very different and distinct cultures, but they do have some similarities. Venn diagrams are a good way of showing similarities and differences. The Venn diagram below represents the United States and China with overlapping circles. In each circle, place the letters of the descriptions below that apply only to that country. Place the letters of the descriptions that apply to both countries in the overlapping section of the circles. Use the cover story and outside sources to help you complete the diagram.



- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. one of the world's five largest countries in area B. government is a democracy C. exports petroleum D. currently, the largest exporter of goods in the world E. currency is the yuan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> F. one of the five largest populations in the world G. has the world's largest economy H. lowest elevation is Death Valley I. has at least 14 million workers J. Communist Party dominates the government |
|--|--|

CROSSWORD

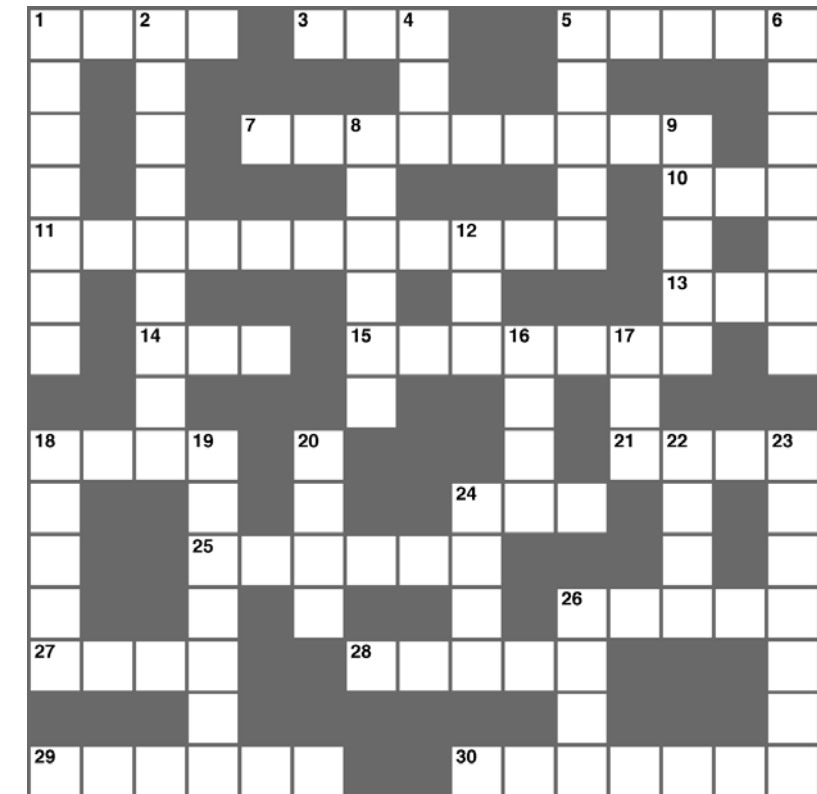
10.01.07

Across

- 1. cartographers' creations
- 3. Hal Beaulieu's crime
- 5. gamers' goal: World ____ Games
- 7. Mao's party
- 10. Beethoven's hit: " ____ to Joy"
- 11. the only country in the world in which women are not allowed to drive (two words)
- 13. test that strikes fear into the hearts of many high schoolers (abbr.)
- 14. water's solid state
- 15. China is expected to have the world's third-largest one of these.
- 18. Chinese leader who made his "market" on China's economy (family name)
- 21. bassoon's buddy
- 24. London's got a big one.
- 25. What a company orders when it wants products removed from shelves—can you remember?
- 26. Persians' tongue
- 27. top TV show: *American* ____
- 28. pond toppers that have no leaves, roots, or flowers
- 29. World War II started after Germany invaded this country.
- 30. home search necessity

Down

- 1. U.S. attorney general nominee (last name)



- 2. Air ____ from coal-fired factories and power plants is causing people to have to drive with their lights on in some parts of China.
- 4. candy chemists recently made disappear
- 5. The economy of this country has grown faster than any other's in the past 30 years.
- 6. language lover's super stone
- 8. where a capitalist shops?
- 9. turvy's pal
- 12. ghost's taunt
- 16. city where the French are friendly?
- 17. first leader of communist China
- 18. city with world's tallest building
- 19. The western ____ is now critically endangered.
- 20. Madison Pettis's costar: "The ____" (nickname)
- 22. Alexander Hamilton's foe; Thomas Jefferson's veep
- 23. Some people fear that the animal in 19 down will become this.
- 24. CE's new online hangout
- 26. Franklin Delano Roosevelt's words of wisdom: "The only thing we have to ____ is ____ itself." (one word)



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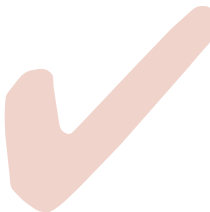
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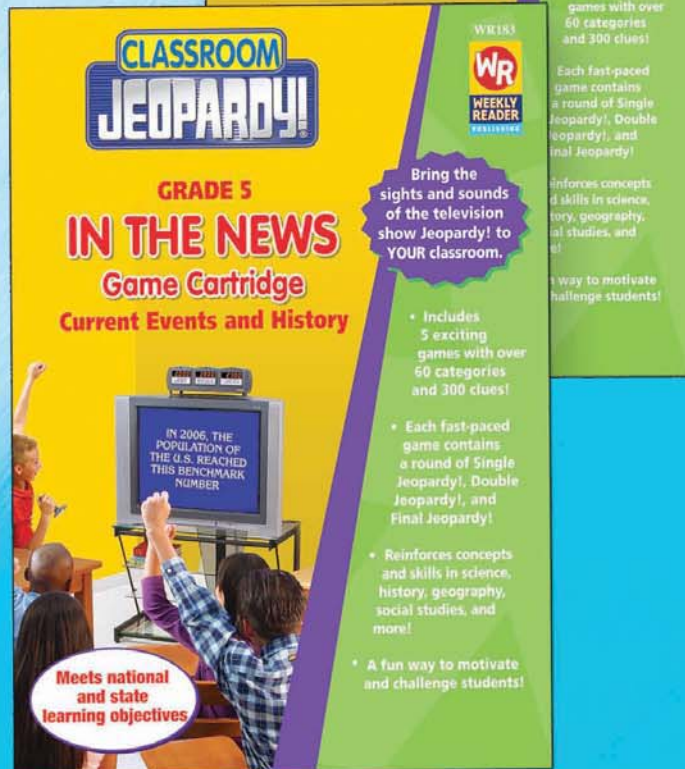
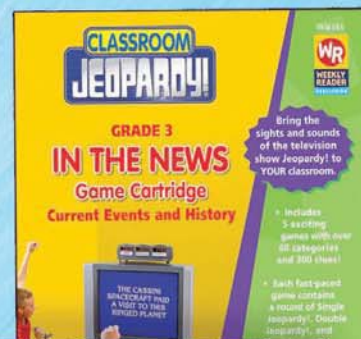
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