
Teacher's Notes BBC Two Autumn 2008

china stories



Programme links with Modern Studies
Intermediate 1 and 2 and Higher
International Issues: Study Theme 3B: The People's Republic of China

Transmission time:
Programme 1 — *Director Feng and Yang Xi Wen*
Tuesday 4 November 04.00–04.20
Programme 2 — *Cao Fei, Tong Yan and Liu Hong Liang*
Tuesday 4 November 04.20–04.40

These *China Stories* programmes look at life in contemporary China for five very different individuals. Each story has particular links, referred to within the notes below, to Modern Studies at Intermediate 1 and 2 and Higher levels. The films may also be used with an upper Primary audience.

The suggested questions, presented within the running order, can be used to encourage classroom discussion and debate.

In addition to these China Stories, another four can be accessed at the programme's website at

bbc.co.uk/chinastories

Programme One Part One: **Director Feng**

Community leader, Director Feng, has a surprising approach to cleaning up the environment.

Links with Modern Studies

Intermediate 1 and 2 — International Issues: Study Theme 3B: The People's Republic of China
Political issues: opportunities for participation in politics

Higher — International Issues: Study Theme 3B: The People's Republic of China
Political issues: opportunities for political participation; democratisation

Running Order

Time	Content and suggested questions
00.00–00.43	China is the fastest growing economy in the world but there are many environmental challenges. The Government has passed laws that ensure the environment is a priority.
00.43–01.45	Director Feng Dai Lian works in Min kang Hutong. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What does she do?</i> She works for the neighbourhood community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In what ways does she cooperate with the government?</i> • <i>To what extent is the neighbourhood community a form of control by the government?</i> • <i>What does Director Feng do if the residents have a problem?</i>
01.45–04.00	Director Feng meets with the community group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>An environmental protection club has been formed. Why?</i> • <i>What does the club do?</i> • <i>What might be the benefits of this activity for the retired people in the club?</i>
04.00–end	Director Feng cycles to Wangfucang Hutong. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the views of the retired people about this project?</i> • <i>Why has it been important, with the Olympic Games in Beijing, for the local communities to play a part in improving the environment?</i> • <i>What is Director Feng's goal?</i> • <i>Would a strategy like this work in the UK? Give at least three reasons for your answer.</i>

Websites

<http://www.chinadialogue.net/article/show/single/en/1274-What-happens-after-the-Olympics->

The environment has been a serious worry for the organisers of Beijing's 2008 Olympics. China's government may have this under control, writes Li Taige, but what about when the visitors leave?

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2007-04/29/content_863341.htm

With the Olympics looming, China goes green.

<http://www.ifce.org/new/news/8m/7.html>

International Olympic Committee (IOC) chief Jacques Rogge hailed Beijing's 'extraordinary' effort to cut pollution, despite familiar smog pervading the city on the eve of the Games. 'The Chinese authorities have done everything that is feasible and humanly possible to address this situation. What they have done is extraordinary,' Rogge told reporters.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/learning/chinastories/production/2008/05/20/>

Check out the Production stories to see what happened when the BBC crew first met Director Feng.

Programme One Part Two: Yang Xi Wen

Yang Xi Wen spends around twelve hours a day on China's closely controlled internet. What is life like for her in contemporary China?

Links with Modern Studies

Intermediate 1 and 2 — International Issues: Study Theme 3B: The People's Republic of China
Political issues: human rights issues and government responses: freedom of expression; internet dissidents

Higher — International Issues: Study Theme 3B: The People's Republic of China
Political issues: freedom of expression; political protest and the media
Human rights

Running Order

Time	Content and suggested questions
00.00–01.06	Introduction: China embraces the digital age with more users than any other country: 253 million of them. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What do they use the internet for?</i> • <i>The internet is controlled by the government in China. Why?</i>
01.06–04.30	Yang Xi Wen is a blogger. She lives in Chongqing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Why is the internet important to Yang Xi Wen?</i> • <i>Why might people in China want to express themselves through writing?</i>
04.30–end	Yang Xi Wen meets her friends in the tea house. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Why is the internet 'managed' in China?</i> • <i>What are the views of Xi Wen and her friends on why the internet is 'managed'?</i>

Websites

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/776/china-internet>

Many Westerners assume that China's internet users are both aware of and unhappy about their government's oversight and control of the internet. But in a new survey, most Chinese say they approve of internet control and management, especially when it comes from their government.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200803/chinese-firewall>

The connection has been reset. Internet usage during and after the Olympic Games.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/learning/chinastories/production/2008/05/28/>

Check out the Production Stories to get the producer Gerald's first impressions of Chongqing.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/learning/chinastories/production/2008/06/07/>

Check out the Production Stories to get more background to this story.

Programme Two Part One: **Cao Fei and Tong Yan**

Cao Fei and Tong Yan are two seventeen year old girls who dream of escaping farm life to become successful clothes designers. What is life really like for them in modern day China?

Links with Modern Studies

Intermediate 1 and 2 — International Issues: Study Theme 3B: The People's Republic of China
Social and economic issues: inequalities in lifestyle in terms of: wealth, rural and urban contrasts, employment and unemployment.

Higher — International Issues: Study Theme 3B: The People's Republic of China
Social and economic issues: nature and extent of social and economic inequalities; urban/rural differences, employment and unemployment.

Running Order

Time	Content and suggested questions
00.00–00.42	<p>Introduction: 200 million migrant workers in China today.</p> <p>Most move from the rural west to the urban east.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Why do people like Cao Fei and Tong Yan move to the cities such as Chongqing?</i> • <i>What issues are they faced with when they move?</i>
00.42 - end	<p>Meet Cao Fei and Tong Yan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are their dreams?</i> • <i>Why did their parents not have these opportunities?</i> • <i>Why has the Chinese government set up vocational schools like the Chongqing Beibei Professional Education Centre?</i> • <i>What type of learning goes on in the school?</i> • <i>In what ways do Cao Fei and Tong Yan benefit from their studies at the school?</i> • <i>What challenges face these young people (migrants) when they move away from home to find work in big cities like Chongqing?</i>

Websites

<http://edition.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/02/01/china.migrants/index.html>

There are between 150 million and 200 million migrant workers in China. They support the nation's manufacturing, construction and mining industries. Most are poor, from interior parts of the nation. China has the largest internal migration in the world.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2007/dec/04/schoolsworldwide.schools>

A view of the Chinese education system. From age 6 to 12, children attend primary school. From 12 to 15 they go to junior middle school. Compulsory education ends at 15 (possibly earlier in poor areas). At 15, they take an exam and go to either a vocational school or a more academic senior high school, sometimes called a middle school. University entrance is determined by the 'gaokao' or college entrance exam.

http://www.open2.net/chineseschool/china_overview.html

Excellent information about Chinese schools. There are 350 million children being educated in China, and this BBC/Open University series explores what daily life is like for those in the region of Anhui.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/learning/chinastories/production/2008/05/28/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/learning/chinastories/production/2008/06/02/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/learning/chinastories/production/2008/06/05/>

Check out the Production Stories to get the producer Gerald's first impressions of Chongqing (the first of the three links) and find out what happened when the BBC crew met Cao Fei and Tong Yan.

Programme Two Part Two: **Liu Hong Liang**

Liu Hong Liang left a life in farming far behind when he moved to the city. What is life really like for him in modern day China?

Links with Modern Studies

Intermediate 1 and 2 — International Issues: Study Theme 3B: The People's Republic of China
Social and economic issues: inequalities in lifestyle in terms of wealth, rural and urban contrasts, employment and unemployment.

Higher — International Issues: Study Theme 3B: The People's Republic of China
Social and economic issues: nature and extent of social and economic inequalities; urban/rural differences, employment and unemployment.

Running Order

Time	Content and suggested questions
00.00–00.42	Introduction: Migrant workers are often known as farm workers. <i>Why do people like Liu Hong Liang become migrant workers?</i>
00.42–03.45	Liu Hong Liang works in a factory in Chongqing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe conditions in the factory? • Why do the workers like working for the company? • For what reasons has the factory or company increased in size? • What changes have there been in government policies to help such factories increase in size?
03.45–05.06	Describes conditions in Liu Hong Liang's dormitory. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do migrant workers tend to live in dormitories?
05.06–end	Liu Hong Liang goes home. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did he leave the family farm? • Compare and contrast Liu Hong Liang's life on the farm with his life in the factory.

Websites

<http://www.globaled.org/chinaproject/confucian/reading1.html>

Check out this site to find out how Confucianism influences life in China and, in particular, family life.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/4782194.stm>

China's rural millions left behind.

<http://www.geocities.com/colamon1/colamon.WBP.html>

Find out about the Open Door policy and its consequences for the Chinese economy.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/learning/chinastories/production/2008/05/28/>

Check out the Production Stories to get the producer Gerald's first impressions of Chongqing.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/learning/chinastories/production/2008/05/31/>

Check out the Production Stories to see what happened when the BBC crew met Mr Liu.