

Learn Chinese 2

Additional Cultural Notes

9A 少数民族 Ethnic Minorities

There are 55 minority ethnic groups in China. They can be found in different regions of China. Many of these ethnic groups live in their individual communities. They are most concentrated in Southwest China, Northwest China and Northeast China. The greatest number of minorities can be found in Yunnan Province (25 ethnic groups). Zhuang has the largest population (more than 16 million) of minority ethnic group.

9B 胡同文化 The *Hutongs* of Beijing

Hutongs are a type of narrow street or alley commonly associated with northern Chinese cities, especially Beijing. Many *hutongs* have exquisite designs because wealthy people used to live in them. Due to war and development, many *hutongs* were destroyed.

9C 巷子文化 The Alleys of Guangzhou

Guangdong used to be a remote place that housed criminals and exiled officials. Today, Guangzhou is an economic powerhouse in southern China. There still exists many differences between north and south China, such as Cantonese opera as compared to Beijing opera. Cantonese opera focuses more on martial arts, singing and visual effects, whereas Beijing opera focuses more on-stage performance.

9D 弄堂文化 The *Longtangs* of Shanghai

Longtangs in Shanghai are narrow and cramped passageways between *Shikumen* (石库门). Shanghai has no ancient history and it was after successive waves of commerce that Shanghai became the cosmopolitan metropolis that it is today.

10B 养身之道 Healthy Living

Traditional Chinese medicine is based on the concept of balanced *qi*, which was influenced by the opposing forces of *yin* (negative energy) and *yang* (positive energy). Traditional Chinese medicine aims to provide remedies to diseases by balancing the *yin* and *yang*.

10D 花鸟鱼虫 Growing Plants, Keeping Pets

Flowerpots, bird cages, fish tanks and cricket cans are a representation of the culture of the olden days, and they form the phrase 花鸟鱼虫. People in Beijing grow plants and flowers, and many also keep birds as pets. It is a common scene in Beijing to see elderly men gathering in parks with their cages of birds. In the *Siheyuan* of the olden days, large fish tanks were prominently displayed.

11A 农家乐儿 **Fun at the Farms**

Agritainment is a typical leisure and aesthetic space. It plays an important role in the contemporary social life of China, where people can relax, enjoy recreation and communicate. Through agritainment, people also think about the meaning of happiness and find happiness in their daily lives.

11C 低碳生活 **Low-Carbon Living**

A low-carbon economy aims to have a minimal output of greenhouse gas emissions, particularly carbon dioxide emissions that contribute to global warming. A low-carbon economy seeks to avoid catastrophic climate change.

12A 琴棋书画 **The Four Arts**

The Four Arts were the four main leisure pursuits of the Chinese scholar gentlemen. *Qin* refers to the *Guzhen*, which is China's oldest stringed instrument. *Qi* is the strategy game of Go (围棋) or Chinese chess (象棋). *Shu* refers to Chinese calligraphy, which is a prized art form in ancient China. *Hua* refers to Chinese painting.

12B 乐在其中 **Having Fun**

Square dancing first started to gain popularity in China in the 1990s. Today, the activity has become very popular and it is even considered a sport in China. It was included in China's National Games.

12C 流行文化 **Pop Culture**

China has embraced the global popular culture from economy to lifestyles, which has roots in Western culture and is spread through globalization. China is at the forefront of technological development and the number of cyber cafes in China tells us about the involvement of youth in technology. Furthermore, the fashion, media and entertainment industries and the consumption of fast food point towards a popular culture that has leanings towards Western culture.

12D 自驾出游 **Self-Drive Travel**

The self-driving market in China is expanding and self-driving tours are increasingly popular in China.

13A 月光族群 **The Moonlight Clan**

There are two distinct categories of people who can be considered the Moonlight Clan, namely, people who have a relatively high income but who pursue a high standard of living and people who can barely make ends meet and who struggle to meet basic needs. A few causes of the phenomenon of the Moonlight Clan is low income, high cost of living, poor money management and consumer culture.

13D 少年心理 The Mental Wellness of Youths

Mental illness refers to a range of mental health conditions, including depression, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, eating disorders and addictive behaviours. Mental health symptoms can affect emotions, thoughts and behaviours. Sometimes, they manifest as physical problems such as aches and pains.

14D 有为青年 Outstanding Youths

The Berlin Philharmonic is a German orchestra based in Berlin. It is consistently ranked as one of the best orchestras in the world.

The Big Five orchestras of the United States include the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Cleveland Orchestra.

The Fresnel Prizes are awarded to young scientists before the age of 35, for their outstanding contributions to quantum electronics and optics.

The World Snooker Championship is the leading snooker tournament in terms of prestige and prize money.

15C 慕课教育 MOOC in Education

A massive open online course (MOOC) is an online course aimed at unlimited participation and open access. Besides traditional course materials, there are also interactive courses on MOOC.

16A 新旧媒体 New and Traditional Media

Generally, traditional media have high costs of production and distribution as it tends to be physical, rather than digital.

16B 网络直播 Live Webcast

Livestreaming is the broadcasting of live video over the internet. It is highly popular among children and young people as it is an opportunity for them to be a creator, to be seen by an audience. The popularity of live streaming platforms is on the rise. Livestreaming can be used a tool for campaigning, to create identity and showcase talent. However, children may be exposed to inappropriate content and risks.

16D 知识付费 Paid Knowledge

China's Supreme Court now has an intellectual property rights court, to strengthen protection for intellectual property rights in China.