

Year 8 Geography

This week you'll be looking at China's population and how it has changed over time. You'll be looking at the differences between rural and urban.

Activity 1:

Look at this population data for China. Pick five Chinese cities from the table below and work out the rate of change from 1990 to 2000 or the difference in numbers. Write this down and write a short paragraph that summarises the change in population from 1990 to 2000. What do you predict might have changed from 2,000 to present figures.

	1990	2000
Shanghai	7,821,787	14,230,992
Beijing	5,521,949	10,300,723
Guangzhou	3,072,626	7,547,467
Tianjin	4,090,643	6,839,008
Wuhan	3,417,482	6,787,482
Shenzhen	875,176	6,480,340
Chongqing	2,337,117	5,087,197
Shenyang	3,650,678	4,596,785
Chengdu	1,808,023	4,273,218
Foshan	323,287	4,006,681
Xi'an	2,290,990	3,870,504
Dongguan	552,328	3,870,036
Nanjing	2,166,426	3,783,907
Harbin	2,561,469	3,627,082
Hangzhou	1,213,660	3,240,947
Shantou	724,355	3,070,364
Dalian	1,884,310	2,872,048
Jinan	1,437,596	2,795,070
Changchun	1,721,579	2,750,204
Qingdao	1,332,074	2,720,972
Kunming	1,099,871	2,547,272
Taiyuan	1,577,640	2,538,336
Zhengzhou	1,134,174	2,501,024
Changsha	1,089,171	2,122,873
Fuzhou	875,173	2,032,723
Shijiazhuang	1,077,297	1,935,553
Zibo	776,912	1,929,403
Lanzhou	1,289,756	1,914,163
Guiyang	1,079,652	1,894,344
Wuxi	775,702	1,872,915
Suzhou	688,648	1,750,251

Activity 2:

Read the story of Zhao Yadong a 28 year old man who is living a life that many Chinese citizens are also living. Write a short paragraph that describes his experience in rural and urban life.

Rural to Urban Migration – A Mind Movie

Zhao Yadong is 28 years old. He has a wife; a young daughter aged 5 and a baby son who is now 9 months old. He hasn't seen his son for the last six months. Zhao used to live in a small village in the province of Henan which is about 500 miles from Beijing, the capital city. His village is on the edge of the mountains and most people there are subsistence farmers and they live on the food that they grow. Almost all the families are very poor. Zhao's family, like others in the village has a small plot of land that they rent. All land is communal and belongs to the whole village. It is controlled, like all aspects of life in the village by a small group of communist party officials. Zhao believes that many of the officials are corrupt and often accept bribes. Some of his neighbours have lost their land because the village officials have sold it to developers who want to build some new houses on the edge of their village.

Zhao's home is small and has just three rooms. As well as his wife and children, his 60 year old mother and father also lives with them. The house is built from local stone. Water is drawn from an outside well and there is no electricity. The family has enough to eat but this is mainly noodles, eggs and vegetables. It is rare to eat meat. They keep chickens and own a water buffalo which is used to pull the plough in the fields. There is very little furniture or modern items in the house. A neighbour owns a small television and sometimes their daughter is allowed to go and watch with the neighbours children. Zhao and his wife earn very little money, typically about 500 yuan or £40 per year.

Like most families in China, Zhao and his wife were encouraged by local officials to have just one child but since it was a girl, they were allowed to try for a second child and were delighted when it turned out to be a boy. Zhao, however, knew that he would be unable to provide a good education and all the things that his children needed if he stayed in the village so six months ago he borrowed some money and travelled 300 miles to Zhengzhou, the nearest large city. Zhengzhou has a population of two and half million people. Many of the people are very rich compared to those in Zhao's village.

Zhao knew a man in the city who came from his village and he was allowed to stay with him when he arrived. The man lived in a single, cramped and dirty room with three other men who all worked on construction sites in the city. When Zhao had got off the bus, he couldn't

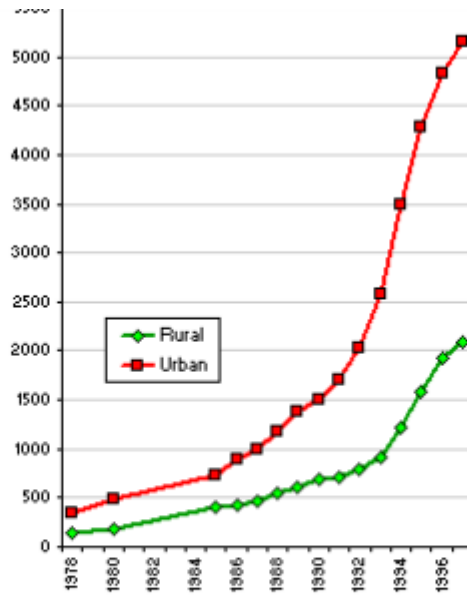
quite believe his eyes. All around him were cars, lorries, buses, bicycles and vehicles of all descriptions. As far as he could see into the distance, through the haze of grey pollution, there were cranes and new buildings covered in bamboo scaffolding. Everywhere was very noisy and very busy.

On his first day, Zhao was told to join a group of men standing on the corner of a busy road junction. Each carried a heavy bamboo pole. These were 'bang bang men' willing to do any work that involved carrying things. The pole is laid across their shoulders and sacks or other objects hang from the ends of the pole. The work is backbreaking and the day is long but each man can earn up to 500 yuan (£40) a month, as much as Zhao was earning in a whole year.

After doing odd jobs for a month and often working 6 or 7 days a week, Zhao was fortunate; his friend got him a job on one of the construction sites. Again the working days were long and the work often dirty and dangerous but now Zhao was earning almost 1000 yuan a month (£80). However, he hadn't seen his baby son or his wife and daughter for over six months. He continued to live in the one small room with the four other workers. His tiny space was just sufficient to roll out a sleeping mattress each evening. His two meals a day were still very simple but he was beginning to save some money and each month he sent some to his family in the village. He hoped now that his family would be able to buy some better food and some luxuries. His children would be able to go to school and get a good education. Maybe they would even be able to join him in the city.

At the end of his first six months, Zhao's wife wrote to say that his father had fallen ill. They had taken him to the nearby town where there was a small hospital but the hospital wanted over 3000 yuan for an operation and the drugs that he needed. This would be almost all the money that Zhao had saved.

Activity 3:



Changes in urban and rural income over time – the gap between rural and urban incomes is not closing!

	Total population	Population living in town, township, or subdistrict where registered	Population not living in town, township, or subdistrict where registered	Percentage of population not living where registered
	(1000's)	(1000's)	(1000's)	(%)
National	1,242,799	1,173,466	69,333	5.6
Beijing	12,850	10,734	2,116	16.5
Shanghai	14,913	12,931	1,982	13.3
Tianjin	9,678	8,732	946	9.8

A selection of data to illustrate the huge numbers of 'temporary residents' in China as a whole and in three of the largest cities – Beijing alone has over 2 million migrants living in the city on temporary residents visas (or with no visa at all).

Look at both sets of data, what can they reveal about rural and urban income?

Who earns more?

Answer this question:

“Are the temporary migrants likely to return to their villages after a few years or stay in the city for the rest of their lives?” Explain your answer.