Information/Points for discussion

Migration into China

In addition to migration out of China over 100 years ago, people from nearby countries were also migrating into China for work. This image shows 3 Sikh (Indian) policemen employed in the British Police force in China.

Information/Points for discussion

Migration into China

Another image demonstrating the movement of peoples into China. What reasons could foreign families have had for living in China? How do you think their lives would have been different to those of people living in Europe at that time?

The British presence

British people have been present in China for many hundreds of years, from missionaries spreading understanding of their faith, to explorers wanting to learn more about the geography and people of the country, to traders interested in buying and selling goods. Interest in China is steadily increasing, why is this? Consider the size of China, its population and the speed at which it is developing.
Information/Points for discussion

Migration and global links
Contact and trade between China and the rest of the world has been occurring for many hundreds of years, this has lead to the two way exchange of technology and ideas. Over the centuries China has introduced the world to paper making and printing and also invented gunpowder and the compass. This image shows a group of migrants (some of whom were from China) who were famous actors and writers and the celebrities of their time.

Extension

If students or their families have previously visited China ask them to bring in their own images of the country. Groups can then answer the questions listed earlier in this activity based on the images provided by students. Modern images of China are also available on the ‘Unlocking the archives’ website at: www.unlockingthearchives.rgs.org/themes/china/gallery and can also be sourced from the Royal Geographical Society’s image website at www.images.rgs.org or from sites such as www.freeimages.com. The images provided by students can then be added to the profiles and world map display completed as part of the mapping exercise in Activity 1.

Students may also write a short story or poem based on their favourite image. They can select a specific character from a photograph to write about or can produce some creative writing using an image as inspiration. Examples of creative writing produced by participants in this project are provided towards the end of this pack.

Information/Points for discussion

Development over the past 100 years
Peking is now known as Beijing and has seen much industrial development over the past century along with the rest of China. Much development has occurred in the capital city due to the Beijing Olympics.

Information/Points for discussion

The Olympics and their impact
Many thousands of people travelled to China to take part in or watch the Beijing Olympics. Accommodation, transport, sports facilities and many other services were required to cater for all of these visitors. What changes do you think occurred in Beijing before the Olympic Games started?