Films

American Dreams in China - 2013 - 112 min. - three friends build a successful language school in China called “New Dream.”

Back to 1942 - 2012 - 145 min. - a deadly drought takes its toll on Henan province during the war against Japan.

Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress - 2002 - 110 min. - two youths are sent for re-education in the mountains of China. (also a novel)

Black Snow - 1990 - 107 min. - a semi-literate person who was deprived of schooling during the Cultural Revolution is released from a prison camp.

Beijing Bicycle - 2001 - 113 min. - a young man from the countryside works to pay off the company bicycle and make it on his own in the city.

Blind Mountain - 2007 - 95 min. - a young woman is kidnapped and sold to a villager in the mountains.


City of Life and Death - 2009 - 133 min. - The story of life in Nanking during the Japanese invasion.

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon - 2000 - 120 min. - the adventures of two warriors in pursuit of a stolen sword.

Eat Drink Man Woman - 1994 - 129 min. - a senior chef lives with his three grown daughters, but unexpected events change their lives.

Empire of the Sun - 1987 - 153 min. - an English boy struggles to survive in a prison camp during the Japanese occupation of China.
Farewell My Concubine - 1993 - 171 min. - the story of two men who meet as apprentices in the Peking Opera, and stay friends for 50 years.

Hero - 2002 - 99 min. - a defense officer, Nameless, is summoned by the king of Qin.

Iron and Silk - 1990 - 92 min. - Mark Salzman, an American, moves to a province in China to teach Chinese teachers how to teach English. (also a memoir)

John Rabe - 2009 - 134 min. - the story of a German businessman who saved over 200,000 Chinese people during the Nanking massacre.

Lan - 2009 - 85 min. - during the Cultural Revolution, a young girl is raised by her grandfather after her parents are jailed.

The Last Emperor - 1987 - 163 min. - The story of Puyi, the last emperor of China.

Marco Polo - 1982 - 504 min. - a mini-series about Marco Polo’s travels and interaction with the Chinese.

Men Behind the Sun - 1988 - 105 min. - the story of Squadron 731, and the Japanese experiments on the Chinese during World War II.

Mountain Patrol - 2004 - 90 min. - a true story of volunteers protecting antelope from poachers in the mountains of Tibet.

My 1919 - 1999 - 100 min. - describes the Chinese perspective of the Paris Peace Conference at Versailles during 1919 and its negative effect on China.

Nanking - 2007- 88 min - the story of the rape of Nanking from different points of view.

The Nightengale - 2013 - 100 min. - an old man and his granddaughter walk through China with a bird in a cage.

1911 - 2011 - 121 min. - a historical drama about the founding of the Republic of China.

No Man’s Land - 2013 - 118 min. - a young lawyer from the city travels to the Gobi desert where he finds challenges and adventure.

Not One Less - 1999 - 106 min. - a teacher must leave school for a month, and a 13 year old girl is chosen as the substitute teacher.

Once Upon a Time in China - 1991 - 134 min. - set in 19th century Canton, a martial arts hero fights against foreign forces.
Once Upon a Time in Shanghai - 2014 - ? min. - a laborer moves to Shanghai to become rich, but has to use his Kung Fu skills to survive.

The Opium War - 1997 - 153 min. - set in 1839 in Guangzhou, a historical drama about the Opium War between the British and the Chinese.

Peacock - 2005 - 136 min. - describes the life of a working family in the 1970s -1980s as seen through the eyes of its three siblings.

Red Sorghum - 1987 - 91 min. - In the 1930s, a young woman is sent to marry a leprous landowner. (also a novel)

Raise the Red Lantern - 1991 - 125 min. - China during the 1920s - Songlian is forced to marry Chen Zuoqian who already has three wives.

The Rape of Nanjing - 2007 - 203 min. - the story of Iris Chang's research for her book on the Nanjing massacre. (also a book)

The Road Home - 1999 - 89 min. - prompted by the death of his father and the grief of his mother, a man recalls the story of how they met in a flash back.

The Romance of the Three Kingdoms - 1995 - ? min. - a Mini-series - 2nd. century China is in turmoil. (a Chinese classic)

Shower - 1999 - 92 min. - a Shenzhen businessman goes home after his father has died only to find him alive in the family's bath house.

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan - 2011 - 120 min. - set in 19th. century China, the story focuses on the friendship between two girls that are forced to marry. (also a novel)

The Soong Sisters - 1977 - 145 min. - follows the lives of the three sisters of the Soong political dynasty and their effect on China.

The Story of Qiu Ju - 1992 - 100 min. - a Chinese woman seeks redress from the Chinese bureaucracy after the village chief assaults her husband.

Summer Palace - 2006 -158 min. - a country girl leaves her village to study in Beijing.

24 City - 2008 - 112 min. - a drama that shows the tremendous changes in Chengdu, China due to modernization.

To Live - 1994 - 124 min. - the changes that occurred in China from the 1940s -1970s through the experiences of one family.
The Water Margin - 1977 - 60 min. per episode - a miniseries of the classic Chinese story about ancient China. (a Chinese classic)

The World - 2004 - 143 min. - a drama that is an exploration of the impact of urbanization and globalization on culture - includes China.

Xiu Xiu: the Sent Down Girl - 1998 - 99 min. - Xiu Xiu is sent to Sichuan province in 1975 to a labor camp to be re-educated.

**Documentaries**

**Alone** - 2013 - 89 min. - three sisters live alone in a small village in Yunan province without their parents.

**The Battle of China** - 1944 - 65 min. - Frank Capra’s film - the U.S. government’s account of the Chinese defense against Japanese aggression in World War II.

**Beijing Punk** - 2010 - 73 min. - a film crew follows underground punks through China in 2008 during the summer Olympics.

**The Blood of the Yangtze District** - 2006 - 39 min. - a year in the life of the children in Anhui, China who have lost their parents to AIDS.


**China Beyond the Clouds** - 1994 - 240 min. - Shows the lives of people living in a small rural town in Yunnan province and their political problems.

**China from the Inside** - 2007 - 4 hours - a four part documentary on power and the people, women of the country, shifting nature, freedom and justice. There is a website on pbs.org with teacher lesson plans.

**China Gate** - 2011 - 72 min. - shows young Chinese trying to change their lives through studying in three different locations in China.

**China in the Red** - 2003 - 112 min. - Stories from China’s citizens including factory workers, villagers, businessmen, and others caught up in China’s efforts to modernize. There is a pbs website with teacher lesson plans.
China Inside Out - 2008 - 42 min. - Bob Woodruff reports on China’s modernization and its relationship with four countries: Angola, Brazil, Cambodia, and the USA.

China’s Lost Girls - 2004 - 120 min. - Lisa Ling examines China’s reproductive policies, and follows a couple who come to China to adopt a baby girl.

China’s Mega Damn - 2006 - ?min. - Describes the Three Gorges Dam project on the Yangtze River. Produced by the Discovery Channel and also on YouTube.

The China Question - 2011 - 86 min. - uses the stories of ordinary people in China to explore the problems America faces as China becomes a superpower.

China: Rebirth of an Empire - 2010 - 86 min. - What does China’s re-emergence as a great power mean to the rest of the world?

China Rises - 2007 - 4 part series- explores the changes in China as it emerges as a superpower, and the competition between business, government, and the West.

China Rising - 1996 – 270 min. - a four part series covering, the history of China from the 1920s, the conflict between the Communist and the Nationalists, the Cultural Revolution, and modern China.

China’s Secret Mummies - 2007 - 120 min. - National Geographic - scientists unearth Caucasian looking mummies in the western part of China that are thousands of years old.

Crocodile in the Yangtze - 2012 - 75 min. - a westerner follows Jack Ma, the CEO of Alibaba.com the first Chinese Internet Entrepreneur, as he builds his company and competes with eBay.

Factory City- EUPA - 2012 - 45 min. - Discovery TV - a look at life in a Chinese factory.

High Tech, Low Life - 2012- 87 min. - follows 2 of China’s citizen reporters as they travel the country to report on social issues.

The Iron Ministry  - 2014 – 82 min. – filmed for 3 years in China’s railway system, it shows the vast railway system and the changes that are coming to China’s interior.

Karamay - 2008 - 356 min. - 323 people were killed in a community center in China.

The Last Train Home - 2010 – 85 min. - a couple embarks on a journey home for Chinese New Year along with 130 million migrant workers.

Manufactured Landscapes -2006- 86 min. - Photographer Edward Burtynsky travels the world observing landscapes due to industrial work and manufacturing - includes scenes from China.

Mulberry Child - 2011 - 85 min. - about the lives destroyed by the Cultural Revolution.

Nowhere to Call Home – 2014 – 76 min. – the story of a Tibetan migrant living in Beijing. It explores the lives of the Tibetan people and the misconceptions that the Chinese have about Tibet.

Please Vote for Me - 2007 - 58 min. - 3 Chinese children campaigning for the position of class captain. An insight into a budding democratic process at the grassroots level.

The People’s Republic of Capitalism: a Report by Ted Koppel - 2008 - 4 episodes - Ted Koppel discusses the economic interdependence between the U.S. and China. (can be seen on YouTube)

Somewhere in Between - 2011 - 88 min. - Follows four teenage girls who were adopted from China due to the one baby policy.

Summer Pasture - 2010 - 85 min. - about a Tibetan’s family’s struggle between a traditional and modern lifestyle.

The Tank Man - 2006 - 60 min. - Frontline (also on YouTube). Anthony Thomas investigates the mystery of the tank man - his identity, fate, and significance for the Chinese leadership.

Two Million Minutes: A Global Examination - 2008 - 54 min. - 6 students from the USA, India, and China participate in a global competition in engineering and science.

Up the Yangtze - 2007 - 93 min. - not far from the Three Gorges Dam, young people are employed on a cruise ship. Shows how the dam is changing life in the Yangtze Valley.

World in the Balance - 2004 - 2 hours - There are two parts to the documentary, the People Paradox about world population issues, and China Rising, about environmental issues in China. There are lesson plans on pbs.org.

Young and Restless in China - 2006 - 104 min. - The film follows 10 different young Chinese as they struggle to make their way in the new Chinese economy. A documentary that teenagers can relate to.

The Xi Qui: West of the Tracks - 2003 - 551 min. - the impact of the decline of heavy industry on workers and their families in Shenyang, China.
Ted Talks and YouTube Clips

Ted Talks

Are China and the U.S. Doomed to Conflict?  Kevin Rudd, April 2015

Is China the New Idol for Emerging Economies? Dambisa Moyo, November 2013

A Tale of Two Political Systems - Eric X. Li, July 2013

The Invisible Man - Liu Bolin, May 2013

Learn to Read Chinese with Ease - ShaoLin Hsueh, February 2013

The Voices of China’s Workers - Leslie T. Chiang, September 2012

Behind the Great Firewall of China - Michael Anti (Zhao Jing), July 2012

The Generation that’s Remaking China - Yang Lan, October 2011

Does Democracy Stifle Economic Growth? A Comparison of China and India – Yasheng Huang, July 2011

The Amazing Stories of Chinese-Indians, Sylvia Ku, May 2011, TEDxNUS


Social Enterprise in China – Carol Chyua, December 2010, TEDxFZMU

Taming the Beast that is Beijing – Neville Mars, December 2010

China as the Cleantech Laboratory of the World, Peggy Liu, March 2010, TEDxCHCH

Global Power Shifts - Joseph Nye, October 2010

Asia’s Rise – How and When, Hans Rosling, November 2009

Let My Dataset Change Your Mindset – Hans Rosling, June 2009


How Ideas Trump Crisis - Alex Tabarrok, April 2009

Cradle to Grave Design - William McDonough, February 2005
**Ted Articles**
The Artist is Present. Can You See Him? Liu Bolin, July 1, 2014

China’s Pollution Problem is Everyone’s Problem, Peggy Liu, TED Blog, March 2014


Why Shanghai is the Ultimate Hackerspace - David Li, September 24, 2013

Shanghai in Pictures: An Inside Look at a City Where Everything is Possible - David Li, September 24, 2013

**You Tube Clips**
There are hundreds of YouTube clips on China. The following list is just an example.

China Rises - City of Dreams

China’s Empty Cities House 64 Million Empty Apartments

China v. U.S: The Battle for Oil

China’s Rich and Famous

The Big Smoke - China

China: the New Superpower?

Mao’s Great Famine - the Great Leap Forward

The Heavy Toll of China’s Economic Modernization

Goldman Sachs: China and the Environment

Pollution in China

China on the Brink (Asia Studies)

China Forum #81: China, Energy, and the Environment

China’s Environmental Problems

China’s Environmental Pollution: Air
China’s Solution for Good Health, Clean Energy, and a Better Environment

BBC News: China’s Green Belt: Air Pollution Extreme

ICI Environment in India and China - Session 2 History

2014 Capital Forum on China’s Environment

Environment and Urbanization in China

Eco Trek 14: China’s Economic Growth and the Environment

Books


China, Demetrius Charles Boulger, 2012.

China 1945, Richard Bernstein, 2015


China Fragile Superpower: How Chinese Politics could Derail its Peaceful Rise, Susan Shirk, 2007


China in Ten Words, Yu Hua, 2011.


China’s Brave New World – And Other Tales for Global Times, Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom, 2007.


Death by China: Confronting the Dragon, A Global Call to Action, Peter Navarro and Greg Autry, 2011


Eight Juxtapositons, China Through Imperfect Analogies from Mark Twain, Jeffry Wasserstrom, 2016.


Fateful Ties: A History of America’s Preoccupation with China, Gordon Chang, 2015


The Generalissimo: Chiang Kai-shek and the Struggle for Modern China, Jay Taylor, 2011.


The Last Emperor, Edward Behr, 1987.


Leftover Women: The Resurgence of Gender Inequality in China, Leta Hong Fincher, 2014.

Life and Death in Shanghai, Nien Cheng, 1986.


Mao, June Chang, 2006.


The Oxford Illustrated History of Modern China, Jeffrey Wasserstrom. 2016


The Rape of Nanking, Iris Chang, 1998.

Red Scarf Girl, a memoir, Ji Li Jiang, 2004


River Town, Peter Hessler, 2006.


Tiananmen and After, Gideon Rose, 2014.8


Wild Swans, June Chang, 2003

Curricular Units


Chinese American Voices: Teaching with Primary Sources, 2012, SPICE, Stanford University, Jonas Edman and Selena Lai. 9-12 grades. From the Gold Rush to the present, the unit includes 60 primary sources that represent a diverse cross section of Chinese Americans.

Chinese Dynasties, Parts 1 and 2, (a bundled set), 2006, SPICE, Stanford University, Waka Takahashi Brown and Selena Lai, 6-12 grades. Explores each of the ten Chinese dynasties from the Shang 1600 BCE to the Qing 1911.

Demystifying the Chinese Language, 1995, SPICE, Stanford University, 6 -12 grades. The central goal is not to teach the Chinese language, but using activities involve students with Chinese. Students will learn that English and Chinese share common principles.

Ethnic Minority Groups in China, 2003, SPICE, Stanford University, Waka Takahashi Brown, grades 9 -12 grades. Students learn about four minority groups in China: the Hui, Tibetans, Mongols, Miao, and learn about the diversity of China and the challenges these group face.

Mapping Asia, 1994, SPICE, Stanford University, 6-12 grades. Teaches students the basic physical and political geography of Asia, and reviews fundamental geographic concepts and vocabulary in an Asian context.

Reading Like a Historian Units, 2015, Stanford University Department of Education; Stanford History Education Group (sheg.stanford.edu). There are units on Confucianism and Daoism, the Invasion of Nanjing, and the Chinese Cultural Revolution. All units include a lesson plan asking students to analyze primary source documents. 6-12 grades.


The Road to Beijing, 2007, SPICE, Stanford University, Waka Takahashi Brown. 6- 12 grades. 2 Versions, one for 6-8 and 9-12. Focuses on the history and geography of Beijing. Includes an interactive website and a focus on the 2008 Olympics. It also includes The Road to Beijing documentary, and one on the 2008 Olympics.

Sustainable Development and Modern China, 2013, SPICE, Stanford University, Waka Takahashi Brown and Rylan Sekiguchi. 9-12 grades. Explores various issues pertaining to sustainable development, and helps students to identify the positive and negative trends in China’s development.

10,000 Shovels: China’s Urbanization and Economic Development, 2nd. Edition 2010, SPICE, Stanford University, 9-12 grades. Examines the causes and effects of China’s development boom, and encourages students to evaluate its benefits and costs.
Traditional Chinese Celebrations: Continuity and Change in Taiwan, 1985, SPICE, Stanford University, 6 - 8 grades. Teaches students traditional Chinese celebrations: the Lantern Festival, Tomb Sweeping Day, Dragon Boat Festival, and Moon Festival.

Wall Map of the Silk Road, SPICE, Stanford University, grades 6 - 12, 30” x 65”.


Timelines, Maps and Websites

California Education and Environment (EEI) Curriculum Units, Curriculum units for K-12 teachers with classroom to student components and teacher’s editions, and pdfs. Appropriate for middle school students: 6.5.1, 6.6.1 - the rivers and ancient empires of China and India; 7.3.5 - Genius across centuries - Chinese inventions and discoveries. http://californiaeei.org/Curriculum/default.htm


China Digital Times - a digital newspaper focusing on stories about Chinese society, politics, art, economics, culture, world events, translations of Chinese terms, and more. http://chinadigitaltimes.net/about/

China Institute - Curriculum 2 units on China designed by teachers. 1. Han China/Ancient Rome, a comparison of the two civilizations. 2. A Tang Newspaper, uses newspapers to bring to life of the people and events of the period. http://www.chinainstitute.org/curriculumunits/


China Internet Movie Data Base - over 4,000 titles related to China: includes documentaries, movies, TV series, short movies, cartoons, games. Use the search term “China.”
www.IMDB.com/country/cn

The China Project - A program designed to promote understanding and awareness of China. The target audience is secondary teachers in the New York City area. Lessons and teaching materials are prepared by teachers for teachers. http://www.globaled.org/chinaproject/

Cultural Assimilation and Conflict in Modern China, Western imperialism and the uprising of the Boxers 1898 - 1901. A unit for the 9 - 12 grade level. NEH grant. http://web.jccc.edu/gallery/neh/units_china/shipley.htm

Chinese Population by age and sex from 1950 -2050 - a graph of the changes in Chinese demographics by age and sex. This graph is animated and shows dramatic changes. http://www.china-profile.com/data/ani_pop_l.htm

China’s Relationship with Water - a look at the Huang He river, the Grand Canal, and the Three Gorges Dam. For grades 6 -12. http://www.ncuscr.org/files/China%20Relationship%20Water-A%20Look%20at%20the%20Huang%20He%20

From the Silk Road to Oil. Cross cultural connections along the Silk Road from the 2nd Century BC to contemporary times. For high school world history, global studies, social studies, literature, art, and advanced middle schoolers. 23 units, lesson plans, documents, maps, and a board game. http://www.chinainstitute.org/education/for-education/curriculum-resources/curriculum-units/


Princeton University List of Books on China - a 100 page pdf. An extremely comprehensive list of non-fiction books on every imaginable topic on China (with library call numbers); however, some of the dates of publication are old. For example, corruption, law and human rights, republican China, warlords, cinema, theater, art, agriculture, environment, banks, industry and management, etc. A great resource for teachers. http://princeton.edu/~lynn/chinabib.pdf.

The Rule of Law in China. The origins of the rule of law in China and its current state, and relevance to the U.S. Appropriate for 9 -12, and for seniors in government. http://web.jccc.net/gallery/neh/units_china/simmons.htm

Topics about China from PBS Newstories and Video - These topics would be suitable for grades 6 -12, and include video and some lesson plans. Example Titles: One Nation, 2 Futures, Trust in the Law, Illegal in Beijing, Migrant Workers, On the Road Again, etc. http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/around-the-world-china-whcp/?topic_id=987
Topics about China #2 from PBS Newstories and Video - Additional topics about China at another URL. There are 449 results for China on the PBS website. More examples: Republican China, Introduction to China, China’s Environmental Future, China in the Red, Muslims in China, etc. These video clips would be suitable for grades 6 -12. [http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/search/?q=china](http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/search/?q=china).

Stephen Voss Photographs of Chinese Water Pollution - Photographs by Steven Voss, a noted photographer, of the effects of water pollution on Chinese citizens and the environment. The photographs include captions and an essay. [http://stephenvoss.com/china-water-pollution/](http://stephenvoss.com/china-water-pollution/)

Stories from Chinese Citizens - This Frontline program focuses on stories from Chinese citizens about their lives. It includes factory workers, villagers, and businessmen caught up in China’s efforts to modernize. 2003, 112 minutes. [http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/red](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/red)


Timeline for China 1700-2008 [http://www.indiana.edu/~e232/Time2.html](http://www.indiana.edu/~e232/Time2.html) (Indiana University)


Wide Angle Programs on China - PBS Wide Angle has produced 451 programs that are related to China. Includes some lesson plans. Example topics include: China Prep (about education in China), Peoples’s Court, China’s Footprint in Africa, etc. [http://pbs.org/whet/wideangle/searchresults/china](http://pbs.org/whet/wideangle/searchresults/china)

World in the Balance - This NOVA program focuses on the issue of increasing population in the 21st Century. There are two parts to the program: The People Paradox, and China Revs Up. Both videos are excellent for stimulating critical thinking in grades 9 -12. Even though the video was made in 2006, it is still relevant today. The website includes lesson plans, transcripts, and activities. [http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/worldbalance/about.htm/](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/worldbalance/about.htm/)
