

# China



## Did you know:

- ✓ China is officially known as the People's Republic of China.
- ✓ China has the largest population in the world, with over 1.3 billion people.

## Chinese in Northern Ireland...

- ✓ Chinese people began arriving in Northern Ireland in the early 1960s.
- ✓ The majority of the first arrivals set up trade in the catering industry: the first recorded Chinese restaurant, The Peacock, opened in Belfast in 1962.
- ✓ Chinese people are one of the largest ethnic minority populations in Northern Ireland.

## Cultural Traditions...

- ✓ Cultural traditions and religions practised by the Chinese community in Northern Ireland include Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism.
  - ✓ The most important festival for the Chinese is the lunar New Year, which falls between mid-January and mid-February in the western calendar.
- From early childhood, Chinese people are also traditionally taught to respect and revere the good deeds of their deceased ancestors by performing set rituals. Many Chinese homes include a 'god shelf', where a wooden plaque representing Jo Sinn is placed alongside other popular deities, such as the three gods of long life, happiness and prosperity.

## Chinese Fan Dance

The traditional Chinese fan dance has been a part of China's heritage for over two thousand years. Considered to be an ancient form of folk dance, the fan dance serves various purposes and is highly regarded by the Chinese.

The Chinese fan dance plays a few different roles in China. First, it is used to help pass down stories and traditions of Chinese culture. Both tourists and younger Chinese generations learn classic tales and lore of China's past through the fan dance. This is why you can often see fan dancers at festivals, theatre performances, and other exhibition-style events where the performers are able to promote their rich roots in history.

Check out our Chinese Fan Dancers on our YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/artsekt](http://www.youtube.com/artsekt)



## Giant Panda Facts:

- The giant panda is native to China.
- It has a black and white coat that features large black patches around its eyes.
- Pandas are an endangered species. Population estimates vary but there may be around 2000 left living in the wild.
- Giant pandas eat as much as 10 kg of bamboo a day.

## The Erhu



The Erhu I traditionally made of python skin.

The erhu is one of the most important Chinese instruments, with a history of over 4,000 years. It is the most popular bowed string instrument used by various ethnic groups of China. The erhu is used in both traditional and contemporary music arrangements, such as in pop, rock and jazz.



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## Craft

### Let's Make a Chinese Dragon Puppet!

You will need...

1 cardboard egg carton  
3 toilet paper rolls  
Paint  
Glue  
Sellotape  
Ribbon  
Scissors  
Straws



1. First, cut apart the egg carton to make 4 pairs of egg holders and teeth. Paint everything - red is the traditional colour but you can pick whatever colours you like!



Sellotape the carton bits onto the toilet paper rolls.

2. Attach the two jaws together with fasteners, and glue on eyes.

Sellotape the head and body parts onto a long piece of ribbon.



3. Sellotape the head and body parts onto a long piece of ribbon.



4. Poke the straws through the head and toilet roll holders and Sellotape or glue them in place.



5. And now we had our very own dragon puppet!



6. Just move the straws up and down to make your dragon dance!

