

**Equip people to reach their international neighbors
from 12 different cultures.**

We hope you enjoy this sample from our e-book . Read this book to learn about 12 people groups who now live in the United States. Explore their cultures, including customs and ways to connect. Discover how to build relationships with them that can lead to sharing Christ.

Visit wmustore.com to download for just \$3.99.

How to Use

What Is The World Around Us: Bridges to Connect with and Engage Ethnic Groups?

This resource focuses on 12 different people groups prominent in the United States. Use these articles to discover specific, creative ways to connect with and reach out to people of other ethnicities. Engage these people, build relationships with them, and, at the right time, share your faith with them.

Who Is It For?

This resource is helpful for

- anyone with neighbors of other ethnic groups;
- all who eat out, especially in ethnic restaurants;
- employees in the workforce;
- international travelers;
- missions trip volunteers;
- residents of a university town;
- teachers, especially English as a second language teachers;
- families who host international students.

Offer this resource to any individual or group who wants to positively engage different cultures rather than avoid them.

Why Understand Other Cultures?

It is not a matter of whether other cultures are around us; they are. Knowing as much as we can about other cultures enables us to discover connecting points, avoid embarrassing pitfalls, and genuinely build relationships with them. We witness by our actions as we show love, compassion, and respect for them. At the right time, we will witness with our words and tell them about Jesus.

What Is Included in Each Article?

1. Sociological article with basic people group information
2. Conversation starters
3. Connection points
4. Cultural taboos to consider
5. Lessons learned from them
6. Ways to go further in relationship building

Chinese Americans

CHINESE AMERICANS ARE A significant part of the United States as the largest group of Asian descent

in the country. The population is dispersed throughout the US, but the areas of highest concentration are California, New York, and Hawaii. The cities claiming the most Chinese Americans are New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

In understanding Chinese culture, many people forget how diverse the population of China is in the first place. China has the largest population in the world at around 1.35 billion people. This is more than four times the population of the United States in a geographic area that is only slightly smaller. Ethnically, the majority of Chinese citizens claim Han Chinese, but the Chinese government recognizes 55 official ethnic groups. China's official language is Mandarin, but the number of languages spoken within China rivals that of most continents. Mandarin is spoken by 70 percent of Han Chinese, particularly in the major northern cities, but Yue, Wu, Minbei, Minnan, Xiang, Gan, Hakka, and dozens of other dialects exist within the country. These languages may share a character-based writing system but sound nothing alike. This goes to show that Chinese Americans come from many different and varied origins not easily defined.

Seventy-six percent of Chinese Americans 18 and older were not born in the US. Therefore, the connection to China is very strong. Language is also of great importance. According to Pew Research, 52 percent of Chinese Americans say it is very important for Chinese to be spoken



ERIC R. BECHTOLD

As the largest group of Asian descent in the country, Chinese Americans are dispersed throughout the United States, with the highest concentrations in New York City (above), Los Angeles, and San Francisco. In what ways can you reach out to Chinese Americans near you?

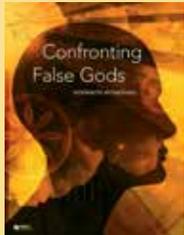
by future generations. A common trait many Chinese cultures share is a high value on family and close friends. If America values the individual, China in contrast values the collective. Sacrificing to take care of your relationships is seen as an honor and responsibility many times. Paying and tending to your parents in their old age falls most often on the children.

Most Chinese define themselves as nonreligious. This is the case with Chinese Americans as well. The most common religious connection is with Buddhism. A small percent of Christians resides within China and a more significant percentage in the US, but Christianity is still considered a subgroup.

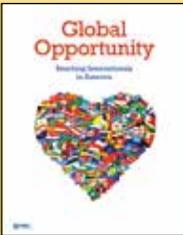
One way to connect with those of strong Chinese heritage is to treat them to a meal, either out or at your home. It is not uncommon for friends to treat one another to a meal or a movie. Small gifts are also an acceptable way to show you value someone as a friend. If you choose to cook yourself, it is probably best not to attempt Chinese

cuisine unless you have experience with it already. If you are set on cooking, make sure to avoid a partially Americanized dish like chow mein or chop suey.

Learn more about international outreach. Call 1-800-968-7301 or visit wmustore.com.



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Extra resources are available to help you find internationals and share your faith with them. Order online at wmustore.com.

REX WALKER is a writer from Memphis, Tennessee, who loves good movies, good cheesecake, and good people. This world is full of different cultures, and he wants to experience as many of them as he possibly can.

Connections

By Virginia Kreimeyer

With Chinese Americans

SPORTS



table tennis
badminton
chess
basketball
soccer
diving
tae kwon do
tai chi



Conversation Starters

•Family is important, so ask, "How is your family?" Or ask, "How are your parents?" or "How is your son or daughter [insert their name if you know it]?"

•Eating is also important, so ask, "Have you eaten yet?" or "Would you like to join me for lunch?" Or maybe ask, "Would you like to come to dinner at my house?"

•Sports is another area of importance, so ask, "Which sports do you play?" or "Which American sports do you follow?"



Open Your Eyes

What is the name of your doctor? Is she an international? Ask her to tell you a little about her country. Keep the dialog going as you make return visits.

VIRGINIA KREIMEYER writes from Texas but has taught English in China. She has many Chinese friends. She thanks Lily, Amanda, and Phyllis, her friends in Texas and China, who helped with this article.

Going Further

1 Pray for Chinese Americans.

2 Invite them to participate at your church events, especially those involving the entire family.

3 Tell them about God because many may have grown up atheist. According to Pew Research, in 2010, 68 million Christians lived

in China. While there are Christian churches in China, your invitation to attend church may resolve their curiosity and lead them and their family to Christ.

4 Learn where they live. For example, I live in Texas, which is one of the four states with the most Chinese Americans.

Culture 101

•Age matters in the Chinese culture, and respect is always shown to those older. For example, with twins, the firstborn is always the big brother/sister. So forever the younger twin will be the little brother/sister.

•Chinese are very polite, so it is customary to ask them more than once. For example, if you offer someone a drink, she will probably refuse it the first time, even if she really wants it. So, you should offer it at least three times. This way, she may appear to be humble in accepting it.



1. Never clean your plate. It is a sign that you are still hungry.

2. Self-respect and dignity are extremely important in Chinese culture. Avoid embarrassing a Chinese friend, especially in front of others.

3. Because good health is important, drugs are considered taboo.

What I've Learned from Them

•My Chinese friends demonstrated respect because I was their teacher.

•I learned to drink hot water in China, because cold drinks are not considered good for your health.

•Chinese love to give gifts. If you invite them somewhere, you can expect a gift because they want to show their appreciation.

•Education is important, and many of the Chinese Americans I know have degrees in medicine, science, or engineering.



•Making friends with Chinese Americans is easy because they want to know more about Americans and love to be invited into your home. Sharing a meal is one of the best ways to make a friend for life.