

MEP Project – The Peoples and Languages of China

Task 1 – The Peoples of China

Zhōng guó de rén kǒu hěn duō

中国的人口很多

China's population is very big

Task 2 – Who is truly 'Chinese'?

Answer: Han ethnic group

Answer: 56 recognised ethnic groups

English name	Pinyin	Characters (include 族)	% of population in 2010 to 1 decimal point	Size (number) of population in 2010
Han	Hàn Zú	汉族	91.6	1,220,844,520
Zhuang	Zhuàng Zú	壮族	1.2	16,926,381
Hui	Huí Zú	回族	0.7	10,586,087
Manchu	Mǎn Zú	满族	0.7	10,387,958

Task 3 – Chinese Ethnic Minorities

汉子	拼音	English
东	dōng	East
西	xī	West
南	nán	South
北	běi	North

1. Miao: 苗族居住在中国的中部
2. Uyghur: 维族居住在中国的西部
3. Hui: 回族居住在中国的北部

Task 5 – The Hui and Uyghur

- a) Islam
 - b) No, it is Arabic
 - c) They have domed roofs with crescent moon symbols similar to those in other Islamic countries
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- a) The largest Uyghur population is in Xinjiang. This province is bordered by Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgystan and Tajikistan
 - b) 10,001,302
 - c) Uyghurs have their own Uyghur language. It is a Turkic language, the Arabic alphabet is most commonly used to write. Uzbek is a closely related language, although Uyghur language is also influenced by Persian and Arabic. This is because of its location. The province historically has close ties with the Middle East and Eastern Europe via the Silk Road.

Task 6 – The Languages of China

Answer: Mandarin is spoken across most of China, predominantly in Central and North China.

Answer: 国语 – Literally language of the country i.e Standard Language

Answer: 普通话 means ‘common language’. This is used to refer to Mandarin as it is the official language of China.

Answer: 我会说普通话

Answer: 除了普通话，我还会说英语

Task 7 – Mandarin Knowledge Quiz

Peoples and Languages of China – Answers to Mandarin Knowledge Quiz

1. Which of the these is NOT a way to say ‘Mandarin’		
a) 汉语	b) 英文	c) 普通话
2. How many tones are there in Mandarin, including the ‘toneless’ tone?		
a) 5	b) 6	c) 4
3. What are the two main types of characters known as?		
a) basic and advanced characters	b) simplified and complicated characters	c) simplified and traditional characters
4. What is the part of a character called that tells us the meaning of that character, e.g. 木 (wood) or 女(female)?		
a) the wise part	b) the dictionary definition	c) the radical
5. What is the part of a character called that tells us the sound of that character, e.g. 且 in 姐姐?		
a) the radical	b) the pronounced part	c) the phonetic
6. How can Chinese be written		
a) left to right or top to bottom	b) left to right only	c) left to right, top to bottom and right to left
7. How should the verb 是 shì ‘to be’ be used?		
d) It can be used just like in ‘to be’ in English	e) It can only be used with nouns, e.g. 他是老师 = he is a teacher	f) It should only be used with adjectives, e.g. 你是漂亮 = You are pretty
8. How is 和 hé used?		
g) It means ‘and’, e.g. 我去买东西, 和我买了电视。 = I went shopping and I bought a TV.	h) It means also, e.g. 我和喜欢她。 = I also like her.	i) It means ‘and’ and is generally used to link nouns.