

FUN FACTS ABOUT CHINA:

1. Fortune cookies are not a traditional Chinese custom. They were invented in 1920 by a worker in the Key Heong Noodle Factory in San Francisco.
2. China is also known as the “Flowery Kingdom” and many of the fruits and flowers (such as the orange and orchid) are now grown all over the world.

3. Toilet paper was invented in China in the late 1300s. It was for emperors only.



Invented in China, toilet paper was initially only for emperors

4. The Chinese invented paper, the compass, gunpowder, and printing.
5. Ping-pong is one of the most popular games in China, but it was not invented in China. It originated in Britain, where it is called table tennis.

6. The number one hobby in China is stamp collecting.



Viewed as a status symbol, stamp collecting is China's number one hobby

7. Giant Pandas (“bear cat”) date back two to three million years. The early Chinese emperors kept pandas to ward off evil spirits and natural disasters. Pandas also were considered symbols of might and bravery.
8. China invented ice cream, and Marco Polo is rumored to have taken the recipe (along with the recipe for noodles) back with him to Europe
9. It was customary for wealthy men and women in the late empire to grow the nails of their little fingers extremely long as a sign of their rank. They often wore decorative gold and silver nail guards to protect their nails.
10. some parts of China, “pigtails” were associated with a girl’s marital status. A young girl would wear two pigtails, and when she married, she would wear just one. This may have contributed to the Western view that pigtails are associated with children and young girls.
11. The 2008 [Olympic Games](#) in Beijing were the most expensive games in history.^b While the 2004 Athens Games were estimated to cost around \$15 billion, the Beijing Games were estimated to cost a whopping \$40 billion.