

Seeing China

Activities for ages 8 - 12

Crossing Continents: Connecting Communities

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Introduction

The Crossing Continents: Connecting Communities project opens the Royal Geographical Society with IBG's collections to new audiences. This project reveals the hidden histories of Chinese, African, Afghani and Punjabi people through community partnerships to develop exhibitions and educational resources based on our collections.

The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) was formed in 1830 as a learned society promoting the advancement of geographical science. The Society is a registered charity and supports geographical teaching and learning, educating people of all ages for life as British and global citizens in a rapidly changing world.

The Society has an archive collection of 2 million items. The collection consists of approximately 150,000 books, 500,000 photographs, 1 million maps (comprising one of the largest map collections in the world) and over 1,000 artefacts. These materials trace 500 years of geographical discovery and research and provide a unique resource for exploring Britain's multicultural heritage. Public access is provided to the collection through our Foyle Reading Room and an online catalogue. Please visit www.rgs.org/collections for further details.

The Chinese exhibition entitled 'Seeing China: Community Reflections', which this pack complements, was developed to explore the Society's historic collection of maps and photographs of China from 1850 onwards through the personal reminiscences and collective reflections of Chinese communities living in the London Neighbourhoods of Camden, Soho and King's Cross.

The historical relationship between Britain and China provided a backdrop for contemporary issues such as global migration and identity alongside an examination of shared histories.

This education pack aims to explore a country that is rarely out of the headlines, whether for its rapid industrial growth, its politics or more recently the Beijing Olympics and is designed particularly for informal education sessions in supplementary and extended schools. A wealth of additional educational resources exploring China have been developed for use in schools and are available online at www.unlockingthearchives.rgs.org. This pack contains a range of activities based on archive resources to use with young people from the ages of 8 to 12 and explores the themes of migration, exploration and identity. It supports the teaching of geography, history and citizenship and can be adapted for use by Key Stage 2 and 3 teachers.

- **Key Stage 2/3 Geography** Discover the human and physical geography of China
- **Key Stage 2/3 History** Discover China's past through viewing archive photos
- **Key Stage 2/3 Citizenship** Explore the reasons behind migration and discover your own migration history

Further resources can be found at www.unlockingthearchives.rgs.org
and at www.geographyteachingtoday.org.uk/ks3-resources/resources/

For further information about the Society's work with schools, see :
www.rgs.org/schools

The Society's archives in Kensington are open to the public from Monday to Friday, 10.00am to 5.00pm.
For more information, see www.rgs.org/collections