



Calligraphy Brush

The Chinese invented paper during the reign of Emperor He Di, from 89-105. Today they use a special kind of paper for calligraphy. In China, people learn the art of calligraphy—writing in a beautiful way. It takes a lot of practice and skill to write Chinese calligraphy. Many students learn calligraphy in school.



Candy Container

Chinese children love candy just as much as
American kids do!



Hat for small children

Chinese people are very superstitious. They believe that ghosts will try to get into small children, since they are so young and their soul is weaker. Children wear hats like this to fool the ghosts into thinking they are animals instead of children. Often, their parents also call them “puppy” or “kitty” until they get a little older, instead of their real names.



Chopsticks

Chinese people eat most of their food with chopsticks. These chopsticks are on top of a napkin, much like we set our tables with a fork on top of the napkin. There are small chopsticks for children, and bigger ones for adults. They usually do not use forks, but they do use spoons for soup.



Combs

These combs were made entirely by hand at a factory. They are made out of wood. Many people in China work at factories. These combs have been made for centuries. They are very fine-toothed, and are good at getting out lice or other small bugs. Long ago, combs just like these were made for the emperor!



Cricket Cage

Crickets are a popular pet in China, and have been for many centuries. The Chinese love the beautiful music that their crickets make. They believe that a cricket chirping in your house brings good luck! They keep them in small cages like this. This one is made from bone. Some people also use their crickets in fighting matches. Two crickets will fight each other. Sometimes these matches are even on TV!

Here's a picture of a real
cricket pet in China!





Chinese Fan

In the summer, it is very, very hot and humid in many places in China. People carry fans like this to fan themselves as they walk. The breeze from the fan really does keep you cooler! They also use umbrellas to shield themselves from the hot sun.



Ghost Money

In China, they believe that when you die, your spirit lives on in the afterlife. To honor and help their ancestors and other family members who have died, they burn money like this. They believe that once it is burned, their ancestors have it to spend in the afterlife! They burn other things, too, like cell phones, clothes, cars, food, and many other things—all made out of paper.



Gum

This is *Extra* brand gum, but in China they sell it in a little plastic cylinder like this.

Do you notice any similarities between it and the packaging used in America?



Kite

Did you know that the Chinese invented the kite more than 3,000 years ago? The first kites were made from wood, then silk, then paper. The airplane is modeled after the Chinese kite! Today kites in China are brightly colored in the shapes of butterflies, birds, tadpoles, and dragons.







Teapots

Tea is an important drink in China, which makes teapots also very important! You can get teapots in many different shapes, colors, and sizes. This green one is in the shape of a lotus flower, with a little frog on top!



Tea Cup

Tea is served at every meal in China. This tea cup has a cover on it to keep your tea warm!



Tea Ball

At first this looks just like a little green ball, but if you drop it into the hot water in your tea cup, it blossoms into a beautiful flower! It also makes your tea taste delicious. There are many different kinds of tea ball flowers, and each of them helps to keep a different part of you healthy. This tea ball came in a fancy green satin pouch.



Olympic Mascots

China is hosting the Summer Olympics in 2008 in Beijing, and the whole city is excitedly preparing for it! These figures are the mascots for the Olympics, and are called the Fuwa. They stand for China's most popular animals: the fish, the Tibetan antelope, the panda, the swallow, and of course, the Olympic flame!



Toothpaste

Chinese children have to brush their teeth, just like you do! Do you see any similarities between this box of toothpaste and the tube you use at home?



Young Pioneer Neck Scarf

In China, there is a group called the Young Pioneers. Many children belong to this group, and wear a scarf like this around their necks to show how proud they are to be a member.



Young Pioneers in school in Changzhou, China.



Young Pioneer's Emblem

This is a pin with the Young Pioneer's emblem on it. The star stands for the communist party (China's government is Communist). The torch stands for brightness down the path of communism. Chinese children between the ages of 6 and 14 can join the Young Pioneers.