

# Patterns of Traditional Chinese Life

	Traditional China	21 <sup>st</sup> Century America
Social Classes	<p>1. What determined social classes in China? <b><i>A person's age, sex, education, and occupation.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>(Age- youngsters had to respect their elders, Women were inferior to men, Scholars held higher positions, and Peasants who worked the land were considered valuable.)</i></b></p> <p>List the social classes in China. <b><i>Gentry, Peasants, Artisans &amp; Merchants, Soldiers</i></b></p>	<p>What determines social class in America?</p> <p>List the social classes in America.</p>
	<p>2. Describe the life of the gentry. <b><i>Wealthy land owners, educated, leisure class (grew fingernails long to show they didn't work with their hands), government officials, had the time and wealth to support arts.</i></b></p>	How do the lives of the classes differ in America?
	<p>3. Describe the life of peasants. <b><i>Majority of the people!</i></b> <b><i>Owned and worked small plots of land, tenant farmers, or landless laborers.</i></b> <b><i>Avoided contact with imperial government.</i></b></p>	
	<p>4. Describe social mobility in traditional China. <b><i>To move up in society, use wealth to educate sons who may pass exams to become government officials.</i></b></p>	Describe social mobility in traditional America.
Family Life	<p>5. Describe the joint family <b><i>"Ideal" in China</i></b> <b><i>Many generations included with oldest male holding authority (Patriarchal)</i></b></p>	Describe the ideal family structure of America.
	<p>6. Describe filial piety. <b><i>Children put family's interests before their own wishes. Parents expected complete obedience.</i></b></p>	Describe the respect for parents in America.

Family Life	<p>7. Who is included in a Chinese extended family? <b><i>Living, dead, and all future generations.</i></b></p> <p>How did the Chinese show respect for their ancestors? <b><i>Needed to provide them with food and clothing and offered them. A family wanted a son to carry on the ritual.</i></b></p>	<p>Who is included in American extended families?</p> <p>How do you show respect for your ancestors?</p>
	<p>8. Describe a traditional Chinese marriage.</p> <p><b><i>Parents arranged marriages for their children. Men looked for women who could work hard and bear him many children. A dowry was paid to the bride's family.</i></b></p> <p>How did marriages relate to social class? <b><i>The gentry strengthened their position in society by marrying in the same class. Lower classes could marry up and move socially if possible.</i></b></p>	<p>Describe a traditional American marriage.</p> <p>Do marriages today relate to social class? How?</p>
Role of Women	<p>9. How were women viewed and valued in traditional China? <b><i>Believed women were inferior to men. Girls were valued for their work and the children they would bear.</i></b></p> <p>Describe the role a bride would play in her husband's family. <b><i>When married, the bride became part of her husband's family. She had to obey her husband's mother. If she gave birth to a son, she gained respect. Because of filial piety, she did not criticize her husband's mother.</i></b></p>	<p>How are women viewed and valued in America today?</p> <p>Describe the role a person plays when they marry into a family.</p>