Overview of Chinese Linguistic Characteristics

Chinese Name

- Jack Jinghui Liu
- 敬辉刘
- 刘敬辉
total area: 9,596,960 sq km
land area: 9,326,410 sq km
comparative area: slightly larger than the U.S.

Population: 1.5 Billion (2010 est.)
Map of China

Locations of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities.
Chinese Characters History

• The Chinese language has existed for probably 5,000 years or more.

• Original writing system was **pictographic**, similar to the Egyptian hieroglyphs.

• Since 1958, the PRC mandated a new simplification of Chinese characters. Taiwan still uses the traditional/older system.

Traditional Chinese:
學 漢 餐

Simplified Chinese:  
学 汉 餐 **(since 1958)**

Japanese:
学 漢 食
Japanese/Chinese/Korean differences
Languages

A. Chinese, Korean, Japanese
B. Chinese, Japanese, Korean
C. Japanese, Chinese, Korean
D. Japanese, Korean, Chinese
Picture and Chinese

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gr-9RXp1kzs&playnext=1&list=PL02BA89A04098B884
Activity: Chinese Websites

- www.baidu.com
- www.56.com
- www.sina.com
- http://www.cultural-china.com/
Pin-yin

• Pin-yin is an attempt at teaching Chinese pronunciation to native/non-native speakers.
A Chinese syllable is composed of an initial and final.

L ao
initial final

Z i
initial final
Give Tones

• Each syllable has a tone or movement of it's pitch which is important to the meaning of the word.

• In Chinese an incorrect intonation of a single word can completely change it's meaning.
mã mã mã mã

tảng tảng tảng tảng

wân wân wân wân
Activities

http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php (Typing Tones)
Please listen to me and mark the mark tones
Useful Expression

1. ní hǎo （Hello）
   你好

2. Hén hǎo （very good）
   很好

3. Xiè xiè （Thanks）
   谢谢

4. Zài Jiàn! （Bye-bye）
   再见

5. wǒ shì měi guó rén （I am an American）
   我是美国人
Typing Chinese

• www.typingchinese.com/main.htm

• www.nciku.com

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再见！