China overtakes USA for most diplomatic posts
29th November, 2019

China is now the country with the most diplomatic posts around the world. Diplomatic posts are embassies, consulates, high commissions and other places to represent a country overseas. China overtook the USA as the country with the most diplomatic posts. China now has 276 diplomatic posts globally, while the USA has 273. The two countries have an equal number of embassies, but China has more consulates than the U.S. China overtook the USA as the most diplomatically represented country after it opened five new embassies in the past two years. The embassies are in Burkina Faso, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, the Gambia and Sao Tome and the Principe.

Information about how many diplomatic posts countries have was published by an organization called the Lowy Institute. Bonnie Bley, a spokeswoman from the Lowy Institute, said the Institute’s report is called the Global Diplomacy Index. Ms Bley said: "The results suggest that, on a practical level, China's network of overseas consulates can support the rollout of Beijing's economic ambitions." While China is expanding its diplomatic presence around the world, Ms Bley said: "U.S. diplomacy has entered a period of limbo".

Sources: cnn.com / yahoo.com / lowyinstitute.org

True / False
a) China overtook the USA for the most diplomatic posts in South America.  T / F
b) A High Commission is a diplomatic post.  T / F
c) China has three more diplomatic posts than the USA.  T / F
d) China has opened five new diplomatic posts this year.  T / F
e) A report was published by an organization called the Lowy Institute.  T / F
f) A spokeswoman said China wants to be a key player in geo-tagging.  T / F
g) China's diplomatic posts cannot support its economic ambitions.  T / F
h) A spokeswoman said U.S. diplomacy is currently in a state of limbo.  T / F

Synonym Match
(The words in bold are from the news article.)
1. country     a. treading water
2. overseas    b. identical
3. globally    c. representative
4. equal       d. abroad
5. opened      e. details
6. information f. nation
7. spokeswoman g. major
8. influence   h. launched
9. key         i. worldwide
10. in limbo   j. power

Discussion – Student A
a) What do you think about what you read?
b) What do diplomats do?
c) What do you need to be a good diplomat?
d) How much influence does your country have in the world?
e) What do you think China's economic ambitions are?
f) What relations does China have with your country?
g) Why is U.S. diplomacy "in limbo"?
h) What questions would you like to ask a Chinese ambassador?

Writing
China is now the number one country in the world. Discuss.

Chat
Talk about these words from the article.
China / diplomatic / posts / embassy / overseas / globally / equal / two years / information / published / organization / influence / key / geopolitics / limbo
Phrase Match

1. other places to represent a country
2. China now has 276 diplomatic
3. The two countries have an equal
4. the most diplomatically represented
5. it opened five new embassies
6. Its report is called the
7. China is having more influence
8. it wants to be a key player in
9. the rollout of Beijing's
10. U.S. diplomacy has entered a

Discussion – Student B

a) Have you ever been to an embassy?
b) Would you like to be a diplomat?
c) What are the differences between embassies and consulates?
d) Why does China have so many embassies?
e) What do you know about China?
f) How important is diplomacy?
g) How diplomatic are you?
h) Where would you like to work overseas?

Spelling

1. Diplomatic posts are ebssiesma, consulates
2. represent a country aservoes
3. 276 diplomatic posts albolgyl
4. have an aleuq number
5. diplomatically dreenpetres
6. the Dominican lepubRci
7. having more nulnfeic around the world
8. a key player in liegoplsoct
9. on a itcaracpl level
10. Beijing's economic inaotsmib
11. expanding its diplomatic sepercen
12. a period of limob

Role Play

Role A – Japan
You think Japan is the most important global key player. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their countries aren't as key. Also, tell the others which is the least influential of these (and why): India, Saudi Arabia or the United Kingdom.

Role B – India
You think India is the most important global key player. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their countries aren't as key. Also, tell the others which is the least influential of these (and why): Japan, Saudi Arabia or the United Kingdom.

Role C – Saudi Arabia
You think Saudi Arabia is the most important global key player. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their countries aren't as key. Also, tell the others which is the least influential of these (and why): India, Japan or the United Kingdom.

Role D – United Kingdom
You think the United Kingdom is the most important global key player. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their countries aren't as key. Also, tell the others which is the least influential of these (and why): India, Saudi Arabia or Japan.

Speaking – Key Players

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest key players on the world stage at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- France
- Brazil
- India
- Japan
- Saudi Arabia
- Nigeria
- Canada
- United Kingdom

Answers – True False

a F b T c T d F e F f F g F h T

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.