BBC 英伦网

China: too old to get rich? 中国: 致富太老了吗？

Vocabulary: growing 词汇: 增长（更大和更老）

As China's economy has **grown bigger**, its population has **grown older**. But is China growing too old, too fast?

The one-child policy has caused a decline in the **birth rate**, while the **average age** has gone up. One in four permanent residents in Shanghai is **retired**, and the rest of China will soon be just as **mature**. The Chinese population is **no spring chicken**: by the year 2050, a third of Chinese people will be over the age of 60.

A **demographer** from Fudan University said that "the speed of ageing in China is unique." It has only taken China 20 years to reach an **age profile** that took Britain or France 60 or 70 years.

But what problems are associated with living **until a ripe old age**? Fewer than 2% of the **elderly** will find a place in a state **nursing home** because all the beds are taken up.

China's economy also depends on a supply of cheap, young workers – and this supply is running out. "You can see the way an **ageing society** is affecting the labour force" says Jerry Mo, owner of a small factory. "We are becoming unprofitable."

An **ancient** Chinese saying sums up why this challenge is so worrying: China will become "too old to get rich." Despite its **booming** economy, China is still a **developing** country. Can it find solutions as quickly as new challenges are born?

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. Find four words or expressions in the article that mean 'old'.
2. Is this statement true, false or not given? *One in four Chinese people is retired.*
3. Is this statement true, false or not given? *In 2050, a third of Chinese people will be in their 60s.*
4. Name two problems caused by China's ageing population and low birth rate.
5. Find two words in the article that mean 'growing'.

Exercise 练习
请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. My grandmother is _____. She'll be 93 next month!

no spring roll chicken	no spring chicken	not a chicken	no autumn

2. A _____ is someone who studies human populations.

saying	birth rate	booming	demographer

3. William is not very _____ for his age! He always acts like a child.

developed	mature	old	ancient

4. There's a _____ near my house that looks after the elderly.

nursing home	policy	factory	country

5. This plant was tiny when I bought it. It's _____ in the last few months.

grown out	grown up	grown bigger	grown older

Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. Find four words or expressions in the article that mean 'old'. <u>Mature, no spring chicken, ageing, elderly.</u>
2. Is this statement true, false or not given? *One in four Chinese people is retired.* <u>False. One in four residents in Shanghai is retired, and soon the situation will be the same in the rest of China.</u>
3. Is this statement true, false or not given? *In 2050, a third of Chinese people will be in their 60s.* <u>False. In 2050, a third of Chinese people will be over the age of 60, but not necessarily in their 60s.</u>
4. Name two problems caused by China's ageing population and low birth rate. <u>1) Fewer than 2% of the elderly will find a place in a state nursing home. 2) The supply of young workers is disappearing.</u>
5. Find two words in the article that mean 'growing'. <u>Booming and developing.</u>

Exercise 练习

1. My grandmother is **no spring chicken**. She'll be 93 next month**!**
2. A **demographer** is someone who studies human populations.
3. William is not very **mature** for his age**!** He always acts like a child.
4 There's a **nursing home** near my house that looks after the elderly.
5. This plant was tiny when I bought it. It's **grown bigger** in the last few months.

Glossary 词汇表

grown bigger	已经越来越大
grown older	已经越来越老
birth rate	出生率
average age	平均年龄
retired	退休的
mature	成熟的
no spring chicken	不再年轻了
demographer	人口统计学家
age profile	年龄轮廓
until a ripe old age	直到老年
elderly	老年人
nursing home	养老院
ageing society	老龄化社会
ancient	古老的
booming	蓬勃增长的
developing	发展中的