

China launches first Chinese-made aircraft carrier

28th April, 2017



China's navy is growing stronger and stronger. On Wednesday, it launched its first aircraft carrier that it built completely on its own. China now has two aircraft carriers.

The first one was built by Russia and came into service in 2012. The new 50,000-ton carrier is the first to be developed and built by China. It was launched at a ceremony in the shipyard of the China Shipbuilding Corporation. Navy officials followed tradition and broke a bottle of champagne on the carrier's bow. Development of the new carrier started in 2013. The shipyard started building it in late 2015. The Chinese Navy will test the new carrier at sea for the next three years. It will go into service in 2020 after all of the airplanes it needs are ready.

A spokesperson for the Chinese said he was, "proud of the great achievement made by the country in modernizing the national defense and military". He added that the aircraft carrier would help to strengthen China's ability to protect itself. He also said China could now look after its borders and protect its shipping and trade routes. A social media user on Weibo (the Chinese Twitter) said the new carrier was, "a symbol of China's technological power, industrial capability and overall strength". There are reports that China is planning to build at least two and possibly up to four more carriers. The new carriers could be as big as the biggest U.S. Navy carriers. They could weigh as much as 100,000 tons.

Sources:
xinhuanet.com / SouthChinaMorningPost / Washington Post

Writing

Countries do not need navies and armies. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

navy / aircraft carrier / developed / ceremony / tradition / champagne / airplanes / proud / achievement / ability / protect / trade routes / symbol / industrial / weigh

True / False

- a) The article said China is now the strongest country in the world. T / F
- b) China now has two aircraft carriers. T / F
- c) Officials broke a bottle of champagne over the new aircraft carrier. T / F
- d) The carrier will go into service when its airplanes are ready. T / F
- e) A spokesperson said he was proud of China's modernization. T / F
- f) The spokesman said China needed more carriers to protect its borders. T / F
- g) A report said China would build another 10 aircraft carriers. T / F
- h) China will soon build a carrier that weighs 1,000,000 tons. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. growing | a. custom |
| 2. completely | b. emblem |
| 3. tradition | c. prepared |
| 4. building | d. boost |
| 5. ready | e. totally |
| 6. modernizing | f. getting |
| 7. strengthen | g. passages |
| 8. routes | h. constructing |
| 9. symbol | i. largest |
| 10. biggest | j. updating |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How proud are you of your country's military?
- c) How well can your country defend its borders?
- d) What are symbols of your country's strength?
- e) How many aircraft carriers does a country need?
- f) What does the rest of the world think about China's new carrier?
- g) How can China help to keep the world safe?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the head of China's navy?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. China's navy is growing stronger | a. protect itself |
| 2. completely on | b. in 2012 |
| 3. came into service | c. built by China |
| 4. the first to be developed and | d. achievement |
| 5. for the next | e. least two |
| 6. proud of the great | f. and stronger |
| 7. strengthen China's ability to | g. routes |
| 8. protect its shipping and trade | h. as big |
| 9. China is planning to build at | i. its own |
| 10. The new carriers could be | j. three years |

Discussion – Student B

- How important is it for a country to have a strong navy or army?
- How strong is your country's military?
- What do you think it's like to live and work on an aircraft carrier?
- What is the job of an aircraft carrier?
- What do you think of the tradition used to launch ships?
- What can you do on an aircraft carrier?
- Would you like to be in the navy?
- What kind of tests do you think the navy will do on the carrier?

Spelling

- lmyoteclpe on its own
- leeddepvo and built by China
- launched at a eonycrcm in the shipyard
- Navy officials followed tirdtioan
- The shipyard started gidunlbi it in late 2015
- It will go into ceivesr in 2020
- he was podru of the great achievement
- the national defense and tilarymi
- China's ability to topetrc itself
- shipping and trade toseru
- arllvoe strength
- whige as much as 100,000 tons

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. e	3. a	4. h	5. c
6. j	7. d	8. g	9. b	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Aircraft Carrier

You think an aircraft carrier is the most important thing for a country's military to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as necessary. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): helicopter, a tank or a submarine.

Role B – Helicopter

You think a helicopter is the most important thing for a country's military to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as necessary. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): aircraft carrier, a tank or a submarine.

Role C – Tank

You think a tank is the most important thing for a country's military to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as necessary. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): helicopter, aircraft carrier or a submarine.

Role D – Submarine

You think a submarine is the most important thing for a country's military to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as necessary. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): helicopter, a tank or aircraft carrier.

Speaking – Military

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important military hardware at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| • jeep | • aircraft carrier |
| • fighter jet | • tank |
| • personnel carrier | • helicopter |
| • battleship | • submarine |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.