

Lesson Plan: China

Purpose:

This lesson plan is intended to introduce the students to the many contributions China has made to the world.

Essential Questions:

1. What did the Chinese invent first?
2. How were the inventions modified after being exported to another part of the world?
3. Is the invention still used today? How?

Rationale:

Many students are unaware of the many contributions that China has made to our world. I hope this gives them a different perspective of China.

Materials:

Students will need access to the school media library. Each student will be able to choose which invention they want to research.

Activities:

As a warm up activity, we will begin by discussing as a class what they already know about China. Inevitably, it will come from the conversation that many cheap products are made in China today. This will lead us to discussing things that were first invented by the Chinese.

I will begin to write on the board the many inventions of the Chinese; books, cards, writing, abacus, fan, gunpowder, yo-yo, crossbow, helicopter top, embroidery, stirrup, ship's rudder, seismoscope, noodles, Chinese chess, umbrella, ink origami, cannon, medicine craniotomy ...etc. Students will then be able to choose a topic to research. The student will need then write a paper, and present to the class what they learned about their topic.

After all students have presented, I will ask them if their perception of China has changed now that they know all of the contributions that came from the Chinese.

Assessment:

The students' papers and presentations will be the assessment. Their paper must include a description of the invention, how it was invented, how it left China, how it was modified, and if it was used today. Their presentation must include a visual component, either through PowerPoint, or a sample of the invention.

Grade Adaptation:

The target grade of this class is 9th grade. Even the youngest grades can learn about inventions from China, and how they've changed today. The detail is up to the teacher.