

Jeff Kho

“The Opium Wars”

Subject: 9th Grade U.S. History

Length: 1 class period, 45 min

Essential Question: How and why were the British able to manipulate the Chinese in to a dependency on opium and trading for opium?

TSWBAT: Explain the causes of the Opium wars, list and describe some conflicts between the Chinese and British during this time period, relate this situation to examples of U.S. imperialism, and judge the merits of the British-Chinese trade relationship.

Content Standards:

National Curriculum Standard #3, People, Places, and Environments, “The study of people, places, and environments enables us to understand the relationship between human populations and the physical world.”

Ohio Content Standard-2010 –World Geography-Topic Movement-Content standard #10

Resources:

1. Attached pre/post assessment page.
2. PowerPoint or lecture where the students are introduced to the following concepts: Britain’s increased need for tea, economic dependency, opium: where it came from and how it’s addiction spread to China, how different Chinese leaders tried to limit/suppress opium addiction, how/why Great Britain and China fought over this problem.
3. Attached “Benefits Chart”, to be completed in class in pairs at the end of the lecture/powerpoint.

Lesson Instructions:

1. Pass out pre/post assessment page. Have students check their knowledge according to the chart. Have the students put chart aside until the end of the lesson, where they will use the chart to self-assess knowledge acquired. (maps from a textbook will be needed for this activity)
2. Present information listed above as either a lecture or PowerPoint (preferred) including concepts listed above.
3. Distribute “Benefits Chart” (attached). Have the students work in pairs to fill out the benefits to both China and Great Britain in having this trade relationship. For homework, have the students respond to the essay question at the bottom of the chart.

4. Finish the lesson by having the students fill-out again the pre/post assessment page.
5. Follow up with the students the next day on their responses to the essay question and discuss.

The Opium Wars: A Study in Imperialism and Dependence

“PRE / POST LESSON CHECKLIST”

Please check the all of the following that applies:

Currently able:	Skill/Knowledge:	Post-lesson ability:
_____	I can locate China and Great Britain on a map.	_____
_____	I can identify (by tracing) potential shipping routes from Great Britain to China on a map.	_____
_____	I can define “dependency.”	_____
_____	I can explain the importance of tea to Great Britain.	_____
_____	I can explain Chinese opium addiction.	_____
_____	I can describe 2 ways in which China tried to rid itself of economic dependency.	_____

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“BENEFITS CHART”

With a partner, and using your notes, text, maps, or other materials, please fill out the following chart. Answer the essay question below for homework.

For each of the following areas, define how China and Great Britain lost or benefitted in each of the following areas:

CHINA
BRITAIN

GREAT

ECONOMIC

SOCIAL

POLITICAL

PHYSICAL

MILITARY

***Essay:** What conclusions can you make about the relationship between these two nations?
Explain your conclusions citing evidence from this chart.