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NCTA Tip - China  
Grades 9-12 Language Arts  
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# The Nanking Massacre

**Purpose:** This lesson will provide students with an understanding of the dark days in China during the Nanking Massacre. Each student will gain a basic interpretation of the occurrences, and reflect upon the events through a personal journal entry and letter.

**Estimated Duration:** 2-3 45 minute class periods

**Materials & Resources:**

Nanking Web Quest      Computer with Internet Access  
Pencil/Pen                      Copy of Nanking Storybook  
Journal                      Paper                      Envelope  
Copy of The Rape of Nanking      Map of China

This Lesson can be cross-curricular with Social Studies exploration of China.

**Web Resources for this Lesson:**

<http://www.nanking-massacre.com>

**Teacher Preparation:**

Understanding of time period in China  
Familiarity with Nanking Massacre Website

**Day One:**

View Nanking Storybook

Discuss and explain time period in China

- How would you feel if our country were invaded by Mexico?

- Imagine if they came in and took everything we were familiar with.

They destroy our homes, torture and kill our family and friends,  
and terrorize our community.

- Split the class into two groups, on the victim the other the attacker. Have students creatively describe the feelings of each group,

the setting, the actions, and describe how people are affected

by large groups terrorizing or attacking each other.

**Day Two:**

Read Excerpt from The Rape of Nanking

- Students will be put into small groups, each group will read a

different selection from the book.

- Students creatively reflect on what they have read

- Students will then share out in chronological order of the book in

order for the whole group to get a feel for the entire work.

**Day Three:**

Web Quest - students complete the attached webquest online to gain more knowledge on the background and situation of Nanking from a historical standpoint.

**Day Four:**

Reflective Journal Response

Write a letter to a victim - victim's family - soldier

- Students compose a letter describing what they have learned about the situation that occurred. Then they will address their feelings about the situation and what they have learned from the experience.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# The Nanking Massacre

Access the following site to respond to the required questions:

<http://www.nanking-massacre.com>

1.) In 1928 the Chinese Nationalist Government moved the capital of China from

\_\_\_\_\_ to  
\_\_\_\_\_.

2.) What happened on December 9<sup>th</sup>?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3.) What are some of the things that occurred during the 6 weeks that created/brought on the massacre?

4.) What happened at the Yangtze River? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5.) What caused the streets of the city to become the "streets of blood?"

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6.) What happened to the large number of captives? \_\_\_\_\_

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7.) What occurred in the Safety Zone? \_\_\_\_\_

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8.) What did the city look like when the Japanese were finished with it?

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9.) View one of the photo groups and reflectively respond to it in writing.

10.) Read one of the "Other Articles" and briefly summarize it.