

Sociology Lesson Comparing the Family System in the US, China, Japan and Korea and its Impact on these Societies

Grade Level: 10-12

Overview:

Explain • family is the most important institution in a society as it has the first and most crucial role in socializing the individual. In addition to creating an environment that will meet the needs of new born children it has been created to prepare people for future success in their society.

Describe • the institution of family and compare it with the four cultures. Focus on how each culture defines marriage and how it impacts the organization of family.

Compare each cultures patterns of:

Marriage-partner

Residential

Descent

Authority

Summarize • the contemporary issues or trends facing families in each culture.

Time required: 40-50 minutes or expanded to a 3 day unit

Materials needed: Computer and internet access for all students, supplemental handouts and paper to take notes.

Objective:

To provide students with an understanding of the impact of family on each of the cultures by answering the following:

What function does family serve in each of the cultures?

What is the role of each family member and how does it differ among cultures?

What are the advantages and disadvantages to each culture of the patterns listed above?

Focus and Motivate:

Write the following statement on the chalkboard: The social institution of the American family is undergoing so much change that the institution might eventually cease. Ask students to write a few sentences as to whether they agree or disagree with this statement.

Instruct:

Discuss the main ideas and terms related to the family including family systems, patterns and functions.

Assess:

Students will analyze the cultural patterns and be able to identify one norm of families in each of the four cultures.

Re-teach:

Students will compare the data on families in US, China, Japan and Korea. Discussion will center on the motivator statement and discussion will take place on why or why not this could possibly happen in China, Japan or Korea.