

Are Yao Going My Way? Chinese Basketball Geography

Ryan Ryzner- 9th Grade Geography

Duration: Three (3) 45 minute class periods. Two (2) periods of instruction/presentation. One (1) period of review and assessment.

Purpose: As an ice breaker for Chinese Geography, students will be given a brief history of the recent increase in interest in basketball in China, which was sparked by the success of Chinese legend Yao Ming. I will then divide the class and give each small group a team from the Chinese Basketball Association. They will then do some basic research on the team and be able to identify on a map where they play their home games. They should also take note of any additional geographical features such as mountains, bodies of water etc. that are associated with their specific group's baseball city. The goal would be to find where Yao Ming played his games. It would help familiarize the students with the basic geography of China.

Materials:

- 1.) Computers or maps of China for groups
- 2.) Computers or pen and paper for notes
- 3.) Map of China (either physical or projected) to be viewed by all students

Websites:

- 1.) <http://www.asia-basket.com/China/basketball.asp> and <http://www.biography.com/people/yao-ming-507291>
- 2.) <http://www.china.org.cn/english/features/2004-2005cba/118959.htm>
- 3.) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_Basketball_Association
- 4.) http://hoopedia.nba.com/index.php?title=Chinese_Basketball_Association
- 5.) http://www.abcteach.com/free/m/map_china_unlabeled.pdf
- 6.) http://www.maps-of-china.net/g_topography.html
- 7.) <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/asia/china/>

The Chinese Basketball history and Yao's biographical information can be found in the first 5 websites. If classes do not have computers, then the teacher should consider providing an information packet. The last site is a blank map which should be provided to the students if computers are not available. The same map should be projected for the class to view and for the map review/quiz. A topographic map is found on site #6. Bodies of water can be found on site #7.

Essential questions:

- 1.) What are the major cities in the People's Republic of China and where are they located?
- 2.) What major geographical features surround these cities?
- 3.) How does basketball factor into contemporary Chinese culture? How do sports in general factor into Chinese history/culture?

Knowledge and Skills :

- 1.) Basic Map Reading skills
- 2.) Internet research/note taking skills
- 3.) Working as a group
- 4.) Public speaking/ presentation of researched information

Assessment Information:

- 1.) Map quiz on Chinese Basketball cities and basic Chinese Basketball questions
- 2.) Group discussion
- 3.) Group participation grade.

Procedures:

- 1.) Provide the background information about Chinese basketball and Yao (15-20 min)
- 2.) Split the class into groups. Each group will become an expert on the location and surroundings of that team's city. If the class is larger, use 12 groups and have each group research 1 team/city. If the class is smaller, use 6 groups and have each group research 2 teams/cities. Record data for submission. (20 minutes)
- 3.) Group presentations of findings (45 minutes)
- 4.) Review team locations and geographical surroundings (20 mins)
- 5.) Map/Chinese Basketball Quiz (25 minutes)

Team	City, Region
Northern	
Beijing Shougang Ducks	Beijing
Guangdong Foshan Dralions	Foshan, Guangdong
Jilin GBT Northeast Tigers	Changchun, Jilin
Liaoning Dinosaurs	Yingkou, Liaoning
Qingdao Double Star Eagles	Qingdao, Shandong
Shandong Kingston Lions	Jinan, Shandong
Shanxi Zhongyu Brave Dragons	Taiyuan, Shanxi
Tianjin Ronggang Gold Lions	Tianjin
Xinjiang Guanghui Flying Tigers	Ürümqi, Xinjiang
Southern	
Bayi Fubang Rockets	Ningbo, Zhejiang
Dongguan New Century Leopards	Dongguan, Guangdong
Fujian SBS Sturgeons	Jinjiang, Fujian
Guangdong Hongyuan Southern Tigers	Dongguan, Guangdong
Zhejiang Guangsha Lions	Hangzhou, Zhejiang
Jiangsu Nangang Dragons	Nanjing, Jiangsu
Shanghai Dongfang Sharks	Shanghai
Zhejiang Chouzhou Golden Bulls	Yiwu, Zhejiang