

Chinese Lesson Plan

Purpose

The goal of this lesson is to all students to create for themselves, an understanding of the Ming dynasty.

Essential Questions:

1. When did the Ming dynasty occur?

Answer: 1368 – 1644

2. Who were the leaders of the Ming dynasty and when did they rule?

Answer:

Hongwu (1368-1398)	Hongzhi (1488-1505)
Jianwen (1399-1402)	Zhengde (1506-1521)
Yongle (1403-1424)	Jiajing (1522-1567)
Hongxi (1425)	Longqing (1567-1572)
Xuande (1426-1435)	Wanli (1573-1620)
Zhengtong/ (1436-1449,	Taichang (1620)
Tianshun 1457-1464)	Tianqi (1621-1627)
Jingtai (1450-1457)	Chongzhen (1628-1644)
Chenghua (1465-1487)	

3. What were some of the advancements made during the Ming dynasty?

Answer: The Chinese were able to explore all of the Indian Ocean. They also were able to reach Africa by sea. The Chinese were able to assemble and outfit a huge navy. The Chinese were also able to produce several thousand tons of iron a year, as well as print books using movable type.

4. What were some of the architectural advancements made during the Ming dynasty?

Answer: The majority of the Great Wall of China was completed during the Ming dynasty and the Imperial palace was built.

5. What types of art and religion were practiced during the Ming dynasty?

Answer: Art – poetry, calligraphy, painting, silk, lacquer, porcelain, jade, drama

Religion – Daoism, Confucianism, Buddhism

6. Describe the attitude of the Chinese towards foreigners during the Ming dynasty?

Answer: The Ming dynasty was the first to accept foreigners into their country. Specifically, the Portuguese, Dutch, English and Spanish were allowed into China during the Ming dynasty.

Rationale

The textbook for the Toledo Public Schools, seventh grade curriculum dedicates less than one page to the Ming dynasty. Not only will this lesson allow students to use and improve their researching skills, it will allow them to hone their technological skills and learn about an underrepresented portion of Chinese history.

Materials

- Students will need access to their school library and computer lab for at least three class periods.
- Ideally, the teacher will need access to the technology necessary/available for power point presentations to be run in the classroom.
- The teacher should bring some research sources into the room as a starting off point for the students to begin their research (see starred entries in bibliography section for options)

Activities

1. On the first day of the lesson, the teacher should give and explain the assignment to the students. This should take no more than 15 minutes.

Assignment:

Students should, in pairs, research, design and create a power point presentation on the Chinese Ming dynasty. The power point presentations should include the following items: dates of the Ming dynasty, names and dates of the Ming emperors, examples and descriptions of religions, art, architecture, advancements that occurred during the dynasty, attitude of the Chinese towards foreigners. The power point presentations should include pictures and graphics.

2. The students should be given the following three days to research and work on their presentations. During this time, the teacher should be assisting them with all aspects of their assignment (i.e. helping find sources both in the library and the Internet, assisting students with downloading graphics, assisting students with creating their presentations.
3. On the fourth day, the pairs should begin presenting their presentations. Each pair should be encouraged to discuss their findings with the class. The presentations should be turned into the teacher on disc so that they may be evaluated individually.

Assessment

Suggested Rubric:

***The following point values should be given for the best work. The point values may be deducted for less than complete or incorrect work.*

Dates of the Ming Dynasty	10 points
Names and dates of Ming rulers	15 points
Religions	10 points
Examples of art	10 points
Ming dynasty advancements	20 points
Ming dynasty architecture	15 points
Attitude toward foreigners	15 points
Graphics and/or pictures	5 points

Grade Adaptation

This lesson was designed for a seventh grade social studies classroom. For a higher-grade level, I would suggest that each student be required to create their own presentation and that the presentations be required to contain more detailed information about each of the topics evaluated. An alternative assignment could be to assign each student to a specific Ming dynasty ruler and have them create a power point presentation, with the same guidelines, for their individual ruler.

Reference List

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