

Asian Studies Unit

(6 weeks)

China

Purpose:

Although similar in some cultural and historical aspects, China, Japan, and Korea are distinct societies with unique history, traditions, and lifestyles.

Essential Questions:

1. What are some shared traits?
2. What are some differences?
3. How does geography affect the culture of a place?
4. What are some basic facts about China?

Rationale:

To familiarize students with some key concepts, ideas, and facts about China.

Materials:

A reference library and Internet options for research about China.
A guest speaker.
Art materials for projects.

Activities:

1. In groups, students will research specific information about China.
2. Students will write 6 paragraphs sharing their research.
Paragraph #1 will include a summary of their required research.
Paragraphs #2-6 will summarize their findings on their chosen topics.
3. Students will construct a paper fan.
4. On one side of the fan, students will decorate it using traditional Chinese designs and colors.
5. On the other side of the fan, students will display their researched items.
6. Students will present their fans to the other groups.
7. Culmination activity: Students will drink Chinese tea following a traditional Chinese tea ceremony under a ceiling decorated with their fans.

Handout C-1: List of required and elected items for research.

Handout C-2: List of terms and explanations.

Handout C-3: Directions for making a Chinese fan.

Handouts: Information about a traditional Chinese tea ceremony and the history of Chinese fans.

Assessment:

Pre-assessment:

Students will make a list of what they know about China. This list will be collected by the teacher and used as part of the final assessment.

Post-assessment:

Following the entire project (five lessons), students will return to their lists of “what they know” about each country. They will cross off any information that they have learned is erroneous and will add new information learned about each culture. Their ability to determine which information is false will show a high level of understanding of the purpose and essential questions of the unit.

10 facts = C

15 facts = B

20 facts = A

Student projects (fans) will be assessed based on effort and accuracy of information as well as fulfilling all information.

Grade Adaptation:

These lessons are targeted to 7th-grade students in a World History/language arts inclusive class.

To use these lessons with elementary students, you would select books on their reading level and make certain that reference materials were available on various levels. You could eliminate some of the requirements for the projects and presentations.

To use these lessons with high school students, you would select higher-level reading and research materials. You might also add more requirements to the projects and presentations.

Handout C-1

Project/Presentation Requirements – China

Your group will make a Chinese fan using paper and other materials. It will be designed and decorated in traditional Chinese style. On one side you will include the following information, which you will have discovered during your research.

Required Items:

- A timeline of at least 5 significant historical events.
- A tracing of the country from an atlas which will include:
 - time zone
 - distance from Columbus, Ohio
 - 2 lines of latitude /longitude
 - current population
 - one significant landmark
 - major resource(s)
 - capital
- Where our name for the country came from as well as what the natives call the country.
- Information about the major religion(s) practiced or historically practiced.
- The current country flag draw and colored and on it include:
 - current government: type and leader
 - year flag was adopted

Selected Items:

Students will then need to add 5 more researched items from the list below. Students may select other items not found on the list, with teacher permission.

music	education	marriage
clothing	food	heritage
art	language	written language
symbols	family	holiday
celebrations	inventions	past-time for teens

For each item you may want to include a bulleted list or words and phrases rather than paragraphs since your space will be limited, and your project should be visually interesting.

An example of a finished project will be displayed in class.

List of Terms and Explanations

C-2

Art: information about traditional arts and art forms in China.

Symbols: these could be traditional symbols or symbols you feel are important to the culture and country today. Include an explanation.

Family: information about the traditional family structure in the country. How are women treated? How are children treated? The old? What groups have high and low status in the family or community?

Education: information about who gets an education, what type of education is offered, and an education valued by the people of China. Are certain subjects focused on more than others? Describe a typical school day for a 12-13 year old Chinese student. Can compare past to current.

Music: information would include traditional music, major instruments, and occasions for which music is played. Can compare past to current.

Clothing: information would include traditional dress for men, women, boys, girls, old, etc. Do people still wear the traditional clothing today? If so, when? And if not, what do the people of China wear today?

Inventions: What inventions came from China? What impact did these inventions have on the country of China and on other countries, particularly the United States?

Food: What are some traditional foods of China? What foods do we readily eat in our country? What role does food play in celebrations and rituals?

Language: What is the language (s) of China. Did the language originally come from somewhere else?

Written language: What form of written communication do the Chinese use? Where did the written language come from? Supply a small sample.

Past -time for teens: information can include what a typical teenager did for entertainment and socialization in the past and currently.

Marriage: information could include average age of marriage, arranged marriages, and traditional wedding ceremonies.

Heritage: information could include anything interesting you find about Chinese heritage and how it is preserved within the country.

China References:

1. The Heritage of Chinese Civilization by Albert M. Craig
2. East Asia: A New History by Rhoads Murphey
3. China by Suzanne Ogden
4. History of Chinese Fans <http://209.164.103.16/english/txt/Gallery/c.htm>
5. Chinese Arts Crafts: Chinese Fans www.chinatown.com
6. Chinese Fans www.activityvillage.co.uk
7. Chinese Tea and Tea Culture www.travelchinaguide.com