China Before and After Mao

Purpose:
To understand how China has changed and grown during the Mao revolution and after the Mao revolution.

Essential Questions:
1. How did Mao’s China differ from the Nationalist China? What accounts for such differences?
2. Were there any advancements made in Mao’s Great Leap Forward?
3. What economic changes have taken place following Mao’s rule in China? What effects are those changes having now in China?

Rationale:
Exposure of students to the political and economic changes in China in the last half of the century.

Materials:
Poster boards, access to internet and Chinese book in the LMC.

Activities:
- Place 3 students in a group together to research China
- Assign each student one of the 3 roles
  - A person living in China when Mao took control
  - A person living in China during the Great Leap Forward
  - A person living in present day China
- Each student researches how their life would be in China during their time period and they need to create 5 facts about their time period.
- As a group they create a fact poster with photos and their 15 facts about life in China.
- The 3 students write a dialogue about how their lives were similar and different.
- Students present their dialogues in front of the class.

Assessment:
Students will be assessed on their research about life in China. They will be assessed on their poster as well as their written dialogues.

Grade Adaptation:
This lesson is prepared for a 9th or 10th grade history class. It could easily be given to younger students, but teacher may want to give more structure to the research and have the materials available for the students in the classroom.