

Japan
Imperialism/Commodore Perry's Visit
Grade 11

Lesson Plan

Course: Advanced Placement U.S. History
Teacher: Don R. Haven
Unit: Imperialism

Period: 1/3/4
Week/Day: TBD
Lesson: TBD

Topic: Commodore Perry's Visit to Japan

Purpose or Rationale: To offer a little more complicated and sophisticated look at American Imperialism and its origins.

Instructional Objectives:

- Students will know the facts of the Perry visit and be able to place it on a time line.
- Students will understand that Perry's visit was the initial attempt by Americans to engage the Asian world and it didn't always go well.
- Students will be able to discuss Perry's visit in terms of imperialism

Standards/Benchmarks: Grades 11 & 12 Imperialism

Materials and Resources:

East Asia; A Cultural, Social, and Political History. Patricia Ebrey, Anne Walthall, James Palais

A History of the Modern World. R.R. Palmer and Joel Colton

American Military History. Edited by John Whiteclay Chambers II

Essential Question: How did Perry's visit "foretell" American imperialism in Asia?

Instructional Procedures:

Focusing Event: Review of handout on Perry's visit
(www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Matthew_C._Perry)

Connection Event: Relate Perry's visit to the time period we are studying

Content Presentation: Mini-lecture on Commodore Perry's visit

Assessment Event: Student's will make a list of what world events were taking place in the 1850's and how they fit with Perry's visit

Preview Event: Introduction of the William Sherman Incident

Homework: Read the handout on the William Sherman Incident.

TIP 1: Mini-lecture on Perry's visit

I. Who was Perry?

- a. Son of a navy captain and brother of Oliver Hazard Perry
- b. Became a midshipman (sort of an apprentice Naval officer) at age 15
- c. Later was known as the father of the steam navy
- d. Participated in the Mexican war

II. First visit to Japan 1852

- a. U.S. interest in Japan because of the opportunity for coaling stations for the fleet and support of the whaling fleet
- b. Perry studied everything about Japan for two years prior to voyage
- c. Handpicked crew and officers; only tall men need apply
- d. Left from Norfolk, Virginia

III. Effect on Japanese

- a. Japanese had never seen steamships; didn't know they existed
- b. Quickly surmised that they were over matched by naval guns and Marines
- c. Much well thought out "pomp and circumstance" displayed to impress Japanese
- d. After leaving the treaty proposal with the emperor, Perry said he would be back in six months for an answer
- e. Came back and signed the treaty of Kanagawa

IV. Results

- a. Visit led to the 1858 Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the U.S. and Japan
- b. Opened two ports for American trade
- c. Succeeded in protecting the U.S. primary source of oil at the time; Pacific whales

Commodore Perry's Visit-Activity

You will do the following in the time remaining. You may take it home and complete it.

1. What contact with Japan had the U.S. prior to Perry's visit? List three examples.
2. When did Perry's visit take place? What conflict had taken place in the U.S. just a few years prior to the visit? What impact did that event have on the visit?
3. What was the outcome of Perry's visit? Was it a positive outcome for the U.S.? In what way? Was it a positive outcome for the Japanese? Why or why not?
4. How did Perry's visit "foretell" American Imperialism in the post Civil War Period?