

EAST ASIA – Current Events

Purpose:

Students are exposed to current events in East Asia as they study the countries' pasts. This lesson can be tailored to the history being studied. For example, a recent article appeared on the BBC news about land being taken away from Koreans that collaborated with the Japanese. By completing this activity, students will see a connection between the history and present. See <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/6614299.stm> for the article.

Central Questions:

1. How is the past history relevant today?
2. What are the current news headlines in China, Japan or Korea?
3. How can the current events of China, Japan or Korea help us to understand the people of East Asia better?
4. What is the Chinese, Japanese or Korean perspective on different world events?

Ohio Content Standards: Social Studies and Language Arts

- Apply reading comprehension strategies, including making predictions, comparing and contrasting, recalling and summarizing and making inferences and drawing conclusions
- Answer literal, inferential, evaluative and synthesizing questions to demonstrate comprehension of grade-appropriate print texts and electronic and visual media.
- Uses correct spelling, punctuation and capitalization.
- Evaluate the reliability and credibility of sources
- Accurate use of facts
- Adequate support of statements
- Date of publication
- Other Social Studies standards may apply depending on the lesson parameters set by the teacher

Grade Level:

9th Grade Modern World History

Time:

1-2 class periods depending on teacher parameters.

Background:

This current event lesson can be used in many ways. Two ways that this can enhance student learning about East Asia is to help them see connections between historical events as they are revisited in the news. A second way is simply to provide students an understanding of current news in Japan, Korea, and China. This lesson can also be approached thematically where students are to select news articles on sports, entertainment, culture, economics, environment, etc. A sample evaluation rubric is provided at the end of this lesson.

Procedure:

1. Teacher selects parameters for the lesson as it pertains to the content being covered.

2. Students are directed to select an article based on teacher's instructions and to complete the following tasks. Teachers may want to stipulate the length of the article to ensure enough information is provided to allow students to complete parts C and D thoughtfully.
 - A. Read article
 - B. Summarize article - identify key people, places, dates, events
 - C. Explain the significance or the importance of the article in relation to the parameters set by the teacher
 - D. Provide a personal reflection on the article
3. Students share their article discussing parts B, C, and D above with class and locate the place or places on a map for class to see. Students should also share with class any relevant photos or illustrations that accompany the article. Teacher may want to modify lesson requirements depending on the theme or approach used with this lesson.
4. Teacher may wish to display articles in the class for others to view.

Reference Websites

Yahoo News

<http://sg.news.yahoo.com/asia/kr.html>

China Daily

<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/>

Asian News Network

<http://www.asianewsnet.net/>

North Korea Times

<http://www.northkoreatimes.com/>

CNN.com International

<http://edition.cnn.com/ASIA/>

News on Japan

<http://www.newsonjapan.com/>

Kyodo News On the Web

<http://home.kyodo.co.jp/>

The Korea Herald

<http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/>

The New York Times - International

<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/southkorea/index.html?inline=nyt-geo>

Worldnews Network
<http://www.worldnews.com>

BBC News – Asia-Pacific
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/default.stm>

Article fits assigned topic and is a minimum of 15-25 sentences	5
Concise summary includes people, places, dates and key facts 1 paragraph	5
Analysis of importance of article 1 paragraph	5
Personal reflection 1 paragraph	5
Shares required information with class and locates places correctly on map	5
Spelling, grammar, mechanics, usage	5
Total	30
Teacher comments/feedback	