

## **Lesson Plan: China**

**China:** Confucius Philosophy and Understanding: Is there relevance for today's students?

### **Sources**

- i. Cambridge Illustrated History: China Patricia Buckley Ebrey
- ii. The Dynasties of China: A History Bamber Gascoigne
- iii. The Analects of Confucius
- iv. Confucius; Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

**Purpose:** Students will develop an understanding of the basic principles of Confucian thought, and determine if they are relevant today.

### **Course Objectives:**

Students will develop understanding of Confucian thought and the circumstances in which it was developed; political, social, and educational.

Students will be asked to apply these understandings to current event situations.

Students will be asked to infer whether the application of Confucian principles changes the outcome.

Students will summarize their experience with a person activity.

Day 1: Students will:

- Be presented fortune cookies, with the essential question “Are all fortune cookie sayings from Confucius?”
- view a powerpoint introducing Confucius and China.
- be asked to read selected works on Confucianism
- be given selected excerpts from the *Analects of Confucius* and asked to re-write them in a contemporary manner

Day 2: Student will:

- Discuss the reading on Confucianism
- Share their re-written interpretation from the *Analects of Confucius* with the class.
- Use newspapers to select an article identifying a political, social, or educational current event.
- Determine if applying their understanding of Confucianism would change the decisions made in relationship to the current event; why, why not

Day 3: Students will:

- share their conclusions: orally, written or through another approved medium
- Students will create their own fortune cookies, they will create 5 saying applying Confucius thought to their current event assignment.