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Lesson Plan for China

Purpose:

Women in China have made progress in expanding their roles in Chinese society.

Essential Questions:

1. What factors have led to the changes in women's roles in China?
2. What segment of the female population has benefited the most from these changes?
3. What obstacles still need to be overcome to continue the expansion of women's roles in China?

Rationale:

Students will gain an understanding of the roles of women in a different culture.

Materials:

*Holding Up Half the Sky: Women in China*  by Susan Perry Article 3 Global Studies  
China (2004)

Attached definition list.

Activities:

Using a dictionary, have students define the words from the reading before beginning the reading.

Students should read the article  *Holding Up Half the Sky: Women in China*  by Susan Perry

Divide the class into three groups. Each group is responsible for answering one of the essential questions and presenting the answer to the class.

The teacher leads the class in a discussion of whether students agree with the answers.

Assessment:

The teacher assess understanding of the lesson through the presentations and resulting discussion.

Target grade level:  
High School

Grade Adaptation:

This article could be read aloud in class either by the students or the teacher at the jr. high level.

State Standards:

Analyze how issues may be viewed differently by various cultural groups.

Identify the causes of political, economic and social oppression and analyze ways individuals, organizations and countries respond to resulting conflicts.

## Definition Word List

Before reading the assigned article define the following *italicized* words. Make sure the definition you choose fits in the sentence and makes sense.

1. This stems in large part from the economic reform program that has transformed China from a poor, isolated nation into a *burgeoning* economic powerhouse.
2. At the same time, booming private businesses and farming for profit have created a new class of urban and rural elites whose *exploitative* tendencies recall feudal China.
3. During the late nineteenth century, foreign *incursions* into China's coastal cities resulted in the partial industrialization and altered traditional marriage patterns.
4. The *nascent* urban communist movement gained considerable female support because it called for a change in the traditional Confucian gender relations the relegated women to a subservient existence.
5. During this period femininity was criticized as a "petty *bourgeois* characteristic."
6. Three female ministers have been appointed to the State Council, the country's main administrative body; they represent 7 percent of all ministers, *commensurate* with the world average.
7. She has reached the highest *echelon* of political power because of her competence and ability to weather political storms.
8. Like their great-grandmothers in the textile mills at the turn of the century, these young peasant workers are a *malleable* workforce, with few dependents and a willingness to work long hours for low wages.
9. The feminization of agriculture men, in the long run, adversely affect traditional *patriarchal* values.
10. The government's *draconian* measures appear to have lowered fertility in urban areas.