

Chinese Culture, Traditions and Family Life

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Class: International Seminar and Global Scholars Seminar

Grade Level: 9-12

Subject Matter: Chinese Culture

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Essential Questions:

What is culture? What does culture look like? What is the purpose of culture?

Goals and Activities:

This research project and learning exercises will be completed by high school students from an International Seminar class or international club within a five day time period and then shared and presented during a culmination celebration of Chinese New Year.

This project is an accumulated effort in teaching world history and cultures across the curriculum and from an interdisciplinary approach.

Students will effectively research and create a visual aid of their choice (brochure, poster or PowerPoint) on the topics of Chinese culture, traditions and family life and present a well-organized and well-researched project to show understanding.

Materials:

Poster, Construction Paper, Color Pencils, Markers, Glue, Scissors

Power Point presentation

Computer and Internet

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Objectives:

- Students define culture; students find evidence of culture in the Chinese society and how it has influence other regions of the world, students make project depicting Chinese culture.
- To educate you and your audience about China
- To learn about food and language of China
- To learn about Chinese traditions, education and family structure
- To learn about the religions, spiritual practices and beliefs of Chinese people
- To create a detailed and thorough visual aid (brochure, poster or PowerPoint) and oral presentation about Chinese culture.

Common Core Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.1 Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.7 Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W1 Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.



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Directions: The students will define “culture” and orally report about the Chinese family culture using a visual aid (brochure, poster or PowerPoint). Students may also focus on a specific region in China (Northern, Western, etc.) rather than the entire country for their project.

Summary of the Issue: Culture is a shared set of practices and traditions that characterize a society or group of people. Culture can include clothing, food, traditions, ceremonies, spiritual practices and beliefs, language, family structure, and communication styles.

Moreover, understanding traditions and rituals create a celebration of life that enriches one’s cultural pride and sense of history. Knowledge about foreign cultures helps students gain an appreciation, respect, and interest in other countries.

Introduction:

1. Have students define culture in their own words.
2. Who can say culture in a sentence?
3. Have students brainstorm and write down ten words they know about China.
4. What words come to mind when they think about Chinese culture?

After the students have written down their key words, have students say some of their key words and write a list up on the board. Be sure the word “culture” does not have one solid meaning. It could be where your ancestors are from or the environment you have lived in.

Include the following six categories in your visual aid:

Title, Topic Picture, Your Name, Date, Class

1. General Information about CHINA:

- A map and a general description of the country or specific region of China.
- Size and population of China or a specific region in China
- Discuss the various ethnic groups of China and their clothing, arts and music

Websites:

<http://www.chinatoday.com/general/china-flag-emblem-anthem.htm>

<https://wosu.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/af18b1ce-3f2b-4769-86e1-32872402b55b/chinese-national-anthem-whcp/#.WXiSC0UrLIU>

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2. Language and Regional Dialects in China

- Official language of China
- How many dialects are there in China? Why are dialects important and what purpose it serve?
- Why dialects are pass down from generations to generations even though China has an official language?

Websites:

<http://asiasociety.org/china-learning-initiatives/three-teachings>

<https://www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/chinese-language/chinas-languages.htm>

<https://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2014/02/economist-explains-8>

http://www.mtholyoke.edu/~yu25s/classweb/worldpolitics/Site/Dialects_in_China.html



3. Religion, spiritual practices and beliefs

- What are some religions in China? (Choose 2)
Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Islam
- What are the spiritual practices and beliefs for each? How are they the same and different?
- Why is practicing religion important for many Chinese people? How is religion incorporated in their daily lives?

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- Is there an official religion in China? Do citizens have the right to practice any religion freely? Explain.
- Research a religious site and include a picture. For example: How would you describe the site? Where is it located? What the significance of the site? What is the site's most interesting details?

Websites:

<http://www.advantour.com/china/religion.htm>

<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/religion-china>

<http://thediplomat.com/2016/08/the-politics-of-religion-in-china/>



4. Foods in China and Different Types of Regional Foods

- What kinds of foods or dishes will you eat in the regions? Compare and explain the Canton, Peking, Shanghai, and Szechuan foods.
- Explain the specialty foods like “Dim Sum” or “Peking Duck”
- List some of the every foods and meals that a family may serve at home or order out at a restaurant.
- Include pictures.

Websites:

<https://www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/chinese-food/>

<https://www.splendidtable.org/story/know-your-cuisines-the-four-distinct-regions-of-chinese-food>

http://www.kas.ku.edu/archived-site/chinese_food/regional_cuisine.html

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5. Important Holidays, Festivals and Celebrations in China

- What are some major holidays and festivals in China?
- Explain their origins and how do China people celebrate them? What are they for?
- What is Chinese New Year and Moon Festival? How are they celebrated?

Websites:

<https://www.chinahighlights.com/travelguide/special-report/chinese-new-year/>

<http://www.topchinatravel.com/china-guide/chinese-festivals-celebrations/>

<http://people.wku.edu/haiwang.yuan/China/holiday.html>



6. What is Daily Life and Family Structure Like?

- Explain what a typical day is like for a Chinese family or teenager.
- How are elder's treated in society? What are some family customs?
- Why is education valued in China?
- What do they do for fun? What do they do at home or outside the home?
- How has Chinese culture influence many parts of the world today?

Websites:

<https://chinaculturecorner.com/2013/06/21/the-chinese-family/>

<http://www.everyculture.com/Bo-Co/China.html>

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Assessment:

Students will be given several days to work on their projects at a computer lab. They will create a visual aid (brochure, poster or PowerPoint presentation) and orally share their findings with an audience. Students will be graded on their knowledge and accuracy of content, creativity and organization of the product, and presentation skills.