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Bullet Trains in Japan and Korea

Bullet Trains in Japan and Korea **A Model for the United States?**

Target Group - International Baccalaureate Diploma Program students in grades eleven and twelve. Length of lesson = two days.

Purpose - To explain how bullet trains have been developed and used in Japan. To provide students with a general overview of the use of and further plans for bullet trains in South Korea. To use the development of bullet trains in Korea as a basis for discussion of the potential for train usage in the United States.

Essential Questions -

1. What has been the plan for development and use of bullet trains in Japan?
2. What is the plan for bullet trains in South Korea?
3. What will be the impact of such trains on the Korean economy and people?
4. How has this plan in Korea been facilitated?
5. In what parts of the United States could a plan for such bullet trains be implemented?
6. What would be the advantages of bullet trains in the United States?
The disadvantages?
7. What are the impediments to such a plan in the United States?

Rationale -

Consideration of the continued use of bullet trains in Japan.
Consideration of Korean bullet trains and their impact in that country as a basis for analysis of their potential use in the United States.

Materials/ Resources -

www.bechtel.com/assets/files

[www/aluminum.org](http://www.aluminum.org)

www/trains.suite101.com/article.cfm/japanese_bullet_trains

[www/time.com/time/magazine](http://www.time.com/time/magazine)

www.time.com/time/asia/features/journey2002

www.asiamedia.ucla.edu

www.asiasentinel.com/index

www.huffingtonpost.com/raymond-j-leary/the-stimulus-package

www.planetizen.com

www.blueridgenow.com/article

www.nytimes.com/2009/02/20/us

Activities -

1. Teacher presentation of information about the bullet trains in South Korea and Japan. Use photos in the websites.
 - Use of bullet trains currently in Japan
 - Korea's far-reaching plan
 - current status of bullet trains in Korea
 - predicted results/ impact of implementation on people and economy
2. Handout on President Obama's Stimulus Package –
 - inclusion of money for high-speed rail
 - dollar amount allotted
 - lack of master plan for public transportation in the US
 - potential high-speed rail corridors identified in the US

Assessment -

1. Final Discussion - grading on individual participation
2. Short Response Paper on the potential for the use of high-speed rail as part of a public transportation system in the United States