5 Themes of Geography- China
Andrea Dumolt East Asian Studies 3-9-04

Purpose; This lesson will provide the students with an opportunity to apply their knowledge of the 5 themes of geography and relate the 5 themes to China and the Silk Road.

1. How did the Silk Road end China's isolation from the West?
2. Why was the Silk Road important to China?
3. What affect did the 5 Themes of Geography have on the Silk Road?
4.

Target Grade Level:
Students with Special Needs grades 9-10

Topic:
How the 5 Themes of Geography in China had an impact on the Silk Road.

Concepts:
5 Themes of Geography
China and the Silk Road

Materials:
* Internet access: Student Use: www.country reports.org (country profile)
www.china.org.cn/english/index.htm (click on China: Facts & Figures)
http://www.central.k12.ca.us/akers/silk_road.html
http://www.artsmia.org/arts-of-asia/china/maps/silk-road-map.cfm

* Internet access: Teacher Background: http://library.thinkquest.org/13406/sr/
http://www.humboldt.edu/~geog309i/ideas/raysilk.html

* Handout 1

- Map of Silk Road one for each student and an overhead taken from: http://www.artsmia.org/arts-of-asia/china/maps/silk-road-map.cfm
- Yarn (red green, and blue)
- Empty pizza boxes
- Flour/salt/water for physical map
* Large physical map of China

Key Idea:
Geographic features (Mts. and deserts) have kept Asian countries in isolation for centuries. The Silk Road connected China to other nations.

Procedures:

Activity One-

1. Review 5 Themes of Geography. Students write definitions to each theme on Handout 1.
2. Have students complete Handout 1 either in groups or individually depending on class size and computer availability.
3. Discuss results.

Activity Two-

1. After reviewing the 5 themes and completing Handout 1 look at large physical map of China and surrounding countries (of the silk road) ask students to locate the following geographic features: Gobi Desert, Taklimakan Desert (the Land of the Dead), Lopnor Desert, and the Himalayas, Korakourm, Kunkun, Tianshan, and Pamir mountain ranges.
2. Discuss how these features kept China and other countries isolated. Discuss climate and terrain of both deserts and mountains. Why was Taklimakan called "the Land of the Dead?" Ask students how did China over come these obstacles- refer to Handout 1 Movement question 5. How is it that they broke this isolationism? How come we have Chinese food, Americans practicing Buddhism, silk, gun powder etc…?
3. Refer to http://www.central.k12.ca.us/akers/silk_road.html Read through the information together. Point out that the Silk Road was navigated around these geographic features.
4. Using the overhead map of the silk road discuss present day countries along the road and where the mountains and deserts are located that were discussed earlier.

Activity Three-

1. Students will create a 3-D model of the silk road.
2. Draw outline of Silk Road map on the bottom of a clean pizza box.
3. Students will build mountains with the flour/salt/water mixture.
4. Students will outline the Silk Road with red yarn and the Great Wall of China in green and rivers in blue.

Evaluation:

Class discussions, Handout 1 and 3-D model of the Silk Road.

Grade Adaptation: Students at the High School level in regular history class can research the Silk Road to a deeper level and not do the 3-D model.

Relationship to Social Studies Standards:

Students use knowledge of geographic locations, patterns and processes to show the interrelationship between the physical environment and human activity, and to explain the interactions that occur in an increasingly interdependent world.

> Explain how political and economic conditions, resources, geographic locations and cultures have contributed to cooperation and conflict.
>
> Analyze the social, political, economic and environmental factors that have contributed to human migration now and in the past.

HANDOUT 1

Directions: Use the following web sites to answer the below questions on the 5 Themes of Geography.
www.country reports.org (country profile)
www.china.org.cn/english/index.htm (click on China: Facts & Figures)

LOCATION -

1. On what continent is China located?
2. Find the Latitude and Longitude of China.
3. Name one place North of China
4. Name one place South of China

5. Name one place East of China
6. Name one place West of China
7. Write2 sentences to describe the location of China.

PLACE-

1. Climate-

2. Landforms-

3. Languages

4. Customs and religions

5. Fauna and Flora- what animals and plants are found in China?

6. Labor force- how do people earn a living?

7. What do people do for fun?

8. Write a short paragraph, 4 to 6 sentences long, describing China

HUMAN/ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION-

1. Name 3 resources found in China.
   How do people use these resources?

2. How have people used the land and bodies of water?

3. What jobs do people do? How do their jobs affect the environment?

MOVEMENT-

1. What waterways are in China?

2. Name 3 goods China imports and exports.

3. With what country do you think China is most likely to trade with? Why?

4. List 2 common forms of transportation.

5. Name 3 ways China's culture has impacted the world. (think about, food, language, religion, inventions) How did these idea's spread?

REGION-

1. To what region does China belong?

2. What other countries are a part of China's region? What do they share? Give an example using any of the following:
   landforms, climate, government, language, religion, history, economy, culture, industry

3. How is the region of China different from the region in which you live?

4. What problems does this region face? (natural disasters, over population, resources)

6. Write 3 sentences explaining how this region is important and interesting.

ANSWERS HANDOUT 1-

Directions: Use the following web sites to answer the below questions on the 5 Themes of Geography.
www.country reports.org (country profile)
www.china.org.cn/english/index.htm (click on China: Facts & Figures)

LOCATION - tell us where people and places are. Absolute location is given in Latitude and Longitude. Relative location is given with directions- compare the place to other places.

1. On what continent is China located? ASIA
2. Find the Latitude and Longitude of China. 35 00 N 105 00 E
3. Name one place North of China MONGOLIA
4. Name one place South of China BURMA, VIETNAM, THAILAND, INDIA
5. Name one place East of China JAPAN
6. Name one place West of China AFHGANISTAN, PAKASTAN, THE UNITED STATES
7. Write2 sentences to describe the location of China. STUDENT RESPONSES

PLACE-

1. Climate- EXTREMELY DIVERSE; TROPICAL IN SOUTH TO SUBARCTIC IN NORTH

2. Terrain/Landforms- MOSTLY MOUNTAINS, HIGH PLATEAUS, DESERTS IN WEST; PLAINS, DELTAS, AND HILLS IN EAST

3. Languages- STANDARD CHINESE OR MANDARIN (PUTONGHUA, BASED ON THE BEIJING DIALECT), YUE (CANTONESE), WU (SHANGHAIESE), MINBEI (FUZHOU), MINNAN (HOKKIEN-TAIWANESE), XIANG, GAN, HAKKA DIALECTS, MINORITY LANGUAGES

4. Customs and religions- DAOIST (TAOIST), BUDDHIST, MUSLIM 1%-2%, CHRISTIAN 3%-4% *NOTE:* OFFICIALLY ATHEIST (2002 EST.

5. Fauna and Flora- what animals and plants are found in China?

7. Labor force- how do people earn a living? AGRICULTURE 50%, INDUSTRY 22%, SERVICES 28%

8. What do people do for fun?

9. Write a short paragraph, 4 to 6 sentences long, describing China STUDENT REPEONSES

HUMAN/ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION-

1. Name 3 resources found in China. COAL, IRON ORE, PETROLEUM, NATURAL GAS, MERCURY, TIN, TUNGSTEN, ANTIMONY, MANGANESE, MOLYBDENUM, VANADIUM, MAGNETITE, ALUMINUM, LEAD, ZINC, URANIUM, HYDROPOWER POTENTIAL (WORLD'S LARGEST)
   How do people use these resources? STUDENT RESPONSES

2. How have people used the land and bodies of water? FARMING, SHIPPING, TRADING, FISHING

3. What jobs do people do? How do their jobs affect the environment? FARMING, FACTORY, SERVICE JOBS: POLLUTION, EROSION

MOVEMENT-

1. What waterways are in China? HAUNG HE (YELLOW RIVER), XI JIANG (WEST RIVER), AND CHANG JIANG (YANGTZE RIVER)

2. Name 3 goods China imports and exports.

EXPORTS- MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT; TEXTILES AND CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR, TOYS AND SPORTING GOODS; MINERAL FUELS
IMPORTS- MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, MINERAL FUELS, PLASTICS, IRON AND STEEL, CHEMICALS

3. With what country do you think China is most likely to trade with? Why?
STUDENT RESPONSE- JAPAN USE THE SEA AS A TRADE ROUTE, INDIA, VIETMAN – NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES- THEY ARE CLOSE IN DISTANCE

4. List 2 common forms of transportation. BIKES, RAILWAYS, CARS, AIRPLANE

5. Name 3 ways China's culture has impacted the world. (think about, food, language, religion, inventions) How did these idea's spread? STUDENT RESPONSES

REGION-

1. To what region does China belong? EAST ASIA

2. What other countries are a part of China's region? AFGHANISTAN 76 KM, BHUTAN 470 KM, BURMA 2,185 KM, HONG KONG 30 KM, INDIA 3,380 KM, KAZAKHSTAN 1,533 KM, NORTH KOREA 1,416 KM, KYRGYZSTAN 858 KM, LAOS 423 KM, MACAU 0.34 KM, MONGOLIA 4,677 KM, NEPAL 1,236 KM, PAKISTAN 523 KM, RUSSIA (NORTHEAST) 3,605 KM, RUSSIA (NORTHWEST) 40 KM, TAJIKISTAN 414 KM, VIETNAM 1,281 KM What do they share? Give an example using any of the following:
   landforms, climate, government, language, religion, history, economy, culture, industry STUDENT RESPONSES

3. How is the region of China different from the region in which you live? STUDENT RESPONSES

4. What problems does this region face? (natural disasters, over population, resources)
NATURAL HAZARDS: FREQUENT TYPHOONS (ABOUT FIVE PER YEAR ALONG SOUTHERN AND EASTERN COASTS); DAMAGING FLOODS; TSUNAMIS; EARTHQUAKES; DROUGHTS; LAND SUBSIDENCE
ENVIRONMENT - CURRENT ISSUES: AIR POLLUTION (GREENHOUSE GASES, SULFUR DIOXIDE PARTICULATES) FROM RELIANCE ON COAL PRODUCES ACID RAIN; WATER SHORTAGES, PARTICULARLY IN THE NORTH; WATER POLLUTION FROM UNTREATED WASTES; DEFORESTATION; ESTIMATED LOSS OF ONE-FIFTH OF AGRICULTURAL LAND SINCE 1949 TO

SOIL EROSION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; DESERTIFICATION; TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES

4. Write 3 sentences explaining how this region is important and interesting.
   STUDENT RESPONSES