

Transportation in East Asia

Purpose: To explore various aspects of transportation in China, Japan, and Korea.

Target Grade Levels: This lesson could be used in the middle grades or in high school.

Essential questions:

1. What are the transportation needs of East Asian countries?
2. What types of transportation are used in East Asian countries?
3. How have transportation systems changed over the years? What types of modern transportation systems have been built recently?
4. How many cities in East Asia have subway systems? How extensive are these systems? How many countries have high-speed rail systems? What are the costs associated with building new transportation systems? How are decisions made to construct new transportation systems? How are new transportation systems funded? In what ways are the decision-making processes and funding plans different around the world?
5. How has air travel changed within East Asia? Have new airline companies emerged?
6. What are the major international airports in East Asia? From what major worldwide cities do these airports receive flights? What are the major airlines with headquarters in East Asia?
7. In what ways have the transportation needs of less urbanized areas changed over the years? What types of visas are needed to visit East Asian countries?
8. How have advances in transportation impacted globalization?
9. How have advances in transportation impacted the environment?
10. How have advances in transportation impacted popular culture?

Rationale: Over 1.5 billion people live in East Asia. How do they get around within their city and from city to city? The population density of some cities makes it necessary to have extensive subway and highway systems. Transportation in less urbanized areas may not be so modern. Tourism is a growing industry, so the airlines in East Asia are part of the transportation picture as well. It will be useful for students to investigate transportation in East Asia and compare it to our transportation systems in the US.

Materials: Internet, additional resource materials

Activities:

1. Have the class divide into three groups (China, Japan, and Korea). Each group should research transportation issues in their country and prepare a presentation for the class. Presentations should focus on the essential questions, but can address additional issues related to transportation.
2. Access the website www.asiasource.org to collect transportation information about China, Japan, and Korea. Students can compare facts and figures from these countries and others if desired. Sample charts are included here:

	China	Japan	North Korea	South Korea
Highways	1400000.00 total km	1152207.00 total km	31200.00 total km	87534.00 total km
Pipeline Crude Oil	9070.00 km	84.00 km	37.00 km	455.00 km
Pipeline Natural Gas	9383.00 km	1800.00 km	N/A	N/A
Pipeline Petroleum	560.00 km	322.00 km	180.00 km	N/A
Railways	67524.00 total km	23654.00 total km	5000.00 total km	3124.00 total km
Waterways	110000.00 total km	1770.00 total km	2253.00 total km	1609.00 total km

	China	Japan	North Korea	South Korea
Country Size	4 th largest country	N/A	N/A	N/A
Land Area	9326410 sq. km.	374744 sq. km.	120410 sq. km.	98190 sq. km.
Total Area	9596960 sq. km.	377835 sq. km.	120540 sq. km.	98480 sq. km.

Students can answer and generate questions based on these charts and other charts that they create. A sample question: The land area ratio of China to Japan is nearly 25:1. The ratio of highway kilometers of China to Japan is only about 1.2:1. What factors account for such a difference?

Another website of interest is <http://urbanrail.net>. This website provides links to transit maps from all parts of the world. Select Asia to find information and maps of transportation systems in Asia. Along with the maps of the transit systems, a large amount of additional information is available

Assessment: Student presentations will be assessed by the teacher for quality and level of attention paid to the essential questions. Teachers can add to the essential questions to modify the lesson.

Grade Adaptation: The essential questions could be modified for lower grade levels.