

THE HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF CHINA

FIVE THEMES OF GEOGRAPHY

WebQuest Assignment

INTRODUCTION

When most people speak of China today, they are most likely speaking of the country's economic boom. They may also be reflecting on how China is moving from a tightly regimented communist government to one that embraces a free market economy. However, China is much more than her gross national product. While most individuals have some historical understanding of China's fifty-eight years as a communist country, her history is far older than that. In order to understand China today, it is imperative that one has an understanding her history in its entirety, from ancient to modern times.

In order to better understand modern day China you will be challenged to look to her past. Your task will be that of historical geographers. In groups, you will look into six major periods of Chinese history and create a PowerPoint for one of those historical periods by focusing on the *Five Themes of Geography*. As historians, you will focus on the major events, interactions with other peoples, and significant individuals of each period. As geographers you will focus on how the land has influenced the history of the time period.

By blending history and geography into a PowerPoint presentation, you will demonstrate an understanding of the significant role that geography has played in the history of China. Additionally, as you share your PowerPoint presentations with one another, you will gain a deeper understanding of China's historical roots. Through these various "historical roots" you will come to understand modern China as never before.

PROCESS

Teacher Introduction to the Assignment: Today's PowerPoint presentation has introduced you to the major geographical characteristics of China as well as to the *Five Themes of Geography*. This PowerPoint is available to you to access at a later date should you need to refer to it.

Task: The PowerPoint also served to briefly introduce you to the assignment. The following are the details you need in order to complete the assignment. Each group is responsible for the following:

- PowerPoint Presentation
- Oral Presentation
- Process Paper

Student PowerPoint Assignment: To accomplish the task you will assume the role of historical geographers. In groups of five, you will study an important period in China's history. Additionally, in each group, all students will be assigned one of the *Five Themes of Geography* to focus their attention on. It will be your task to tie your historical period to your assigned theme. All members of the group will be responsible for creating a PowerPoint presentation on

the assigned historical period. The presentation will primarily serve to briefly summarize the historical time period. Additionally, you are to incorporate the *Five Themes of Geography* into the PowerPoint presentation.

In creating your PowerPoint presentations and preparing for your oral presentations consider the following questions:

1. What made the historical period significant to China's history?
2. Who were the major figures associated with this time period?
3. What events were significant to this period of history?
4. What are the enduring legacies of this historical time period, both on China and the world?
5. How did China's geography impact her historical development?

The following are the requirements for the PowerPoint presentations:

1. Ten slides
2. Two images per slide, minimum requirement
3. No more than 15 words per slide
4. History of the time period is incorporated into the presentation
5. *Five Themes of Geography* incorporated into the presentation
6. Lastly, upon viewing the slides, ask your self if students come away with a sense of the significance of the historical time period your group was assigned

WebQuest: You will undertake a WebQuest in order to complete the assignment. The following are websites you should utilize as you research your topic

Ancient China

<http://www.42explore2.com/china.htm>

Asia for Educators

<http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/>

Chinese Cultural Studies

<http://acc6.its.brooklyn.cuny.edu/~phlsall/texts.html>

Chinese History Chart

<http://www.sacu.org/histchart.html>

Chinese Internet Resources

<http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/CHIINRES.HTM>

China-Related Web Sites

<http://orpheus.ucsd.edu/chinesehistory/othersites.html>

Internet East Asian History Sourcebook

www.fordham.edu/halsall/eastasia/eastasiasbook.html

The Earth and Its Peoples

[http://college.hmco.com/history.world/bulliet/earth_peoples/2e/students/index.html](http://college.hmco.com/history/world/bulliet/earth_peoples/2e/students/index.html)

The Silk Road Project

www.silkroadproject.org/silkroad/map.html

Traditions & Encounters

http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072424354/student__viewo/

Other Sources: Additionally you may utilize various additional resources as time and task necessitate. Our Media Center specialist has created a listing of appropriate books and additional websites that are readily available to you in the Media Center.

Process Paper: The process paper is a description as to how your group conducted their research and what was learned from the project. It should briefly explain the topic assigned and the focus of the topic. It should also serve to explain how the research proceeded and which sources proved to be the most valuable. The concluding part of the process paper summarizes the major developments of the assigned historical time period. Lastly, a bibliography should be attached. The process paper should be no more than 1500 words. The 3 – 4 page process paper is due, to the teacher, on the day that the student group makes their presentation to the entire class.

Oral Presentation: The following information is to be considered when making your oral presentation to the class:

1. Was the presentation well organized?
2. Was sufficient historical content presented?
3. Were the *Five Themes of Geography* incorporated into the presentation?
4. Were the student presenters comfortable presenting the material? Was it clear that they understood what they were presenting?
5. Were the presenters loud and clear when presenting?
6. Were all group members involved in the presentation?

Time Frame: The time frame for the lesson plan is ten days. Today you have been introduced to the project. Now, you will have three days to research your assigned topics and to create their PowerPoint presentations. During this time you will also chronicle the steps your group undertook in researching your assigned topic in order to write a process paper. Each of the six PowerPoint presentations will be presented to the entire class during a 40 minute class period over a six day period.

Due Dates: The following are the dates of the WebQuest: (List Due Dates Here)

Introduction to the WebQuest assignment: _____

Three Days for Group Work: _____

Six Days for Presentations: _____

Your Group's Assigned Presentation Day: _____

Additional Notes:

Evaluation

You will be evaluated as a group utilizing a rubric that has been developed for that purpose. Student groups may earn up 100 points for their research, PowerPoint presentation, oral presentation to the class, and their written process paper. The rubric is as follows:

	Excellent 20 - 17	Good 16 - 13	Fair 12 - 9	Weak 8 - 5	Poor 4 - 1	Total Points
PowerPoint 10 Slides No more than 15 words per slide Was the PowerPoint visually stimulating? Accurate?						
Content Historical Component Was enough content presented to give the audience an overview of the historical time period? Were student presenters comfortable with the material? Was it obvious that student presenters understood the material they were presenting?						
Content Five Themes Of Geography Did the students apply the Five Themes of Geography to the historical presentation?						
Oral Presentation Did the students present their topic in a logical manner? Did the students speak clearly and loudly enough for the class to hear?						
Process Paper Did the students stay within the guidelines for the Process Paper? Was their "process" clearly evident in the paper? Sources included?						
					Total Points	/100

Conclusion

By the conclusion of the unit on Chinese history, you will have gained an understanding of historical China. This historical understanding of Chinese history will allow you to understand modern day China in a new light. You will also be able to link China's history to geography by utilizing the *Five Themes of Geography*. Lastly it is hoped that you will be able to analyze how the past has created a living foundation for the present in terms of China today and where China's future may lie.