

Guided Viewing: My Country Is Tibet

Answer Key

1. What does Trichen hope Western people get from the movie?

**Answer: 1. To understand the reality of the Tibetan community
2. To see what Tibetan people are doing in exile
3. To see what is their hope**

2. Who was Trichen's father?

Answer: The 17th Lhagan Trichen and descendant of Tibetan Dharma kings.

3. Even though he is the descendant of Tibetan kings, what does Trichen still do for himself?

Answer: Wash his own clothes and perform all of his own personal work.

4. When did the People's Liberation Army take over parts of Tibet?

Answer: 1949 the PLA took over parts of the Tibetan area- but not the TAR. The TAR was "peacefully liberated" in 1959, the year that the Dalai Lama fled to India.

5. In what country does Trichen live?

Answer: India

6. What is the main purpose of the Rajpur Tibetan Refugee Factory?

Answer: To preserve Tibetan religion and culture.

7. How do you think it does this?

Answer: By providing a place where Tibetans can gather and meet other Tibetans.

8. Why does Trichen attend a Tibetan school rather than an Indian school?

Answer: Because if he attended an Indian school, he would have to speak Hindi or English and he might forget the Tibetan language and culture.

9. Of the three great historical religious kings of Tibet, who sent many scholars to India to learn Buddhism?

Answer: Songtsen Gampo.

10. What did the other two kings accomplish?

Answer: Built many Buddhist temples and created a Tibetan written language.

11. As the son, what was Trichen's responsibility to perform at his father's funeral?

Answer: To burn his body (light his funeral pyre).

12. What happened to Trichen one year after his father's death?

Answer: He was coronated as the 18th Lhangyari Trichen by his Holiness the Dalai Lama.

13. What is Trichen's relationship with His Holiness, the Dalai Lama?

Answer: That of teacher and student.

14. Trichen's friend says that as Tibetans, they have the right to live in their own land. Do people have such a right? Why or why not?

Answer: Students' answers will vary

15. What do Trichen and his friend believe Trichen must do to help Tibet regain its independence?

Answer: To study and learn. Students' answers will vary.

Worksheet: Major Asian Rivers of the Plateau of Tibet: The Basics Answer Sheet

1. Explain the importance of monsoonal rains to the rivers of the Tibetan Plateau.

Answer: Student answers will vary but should include a discussion of the seasonal offshore and onshore winds that bring dry and wet conditions, respectively in the winter and summer. Moreover, answers should discuss the fact that the rivers in the western part of the Plateau receive little additional moisture once out of the mountain snowpack, thus making for a more consistent flow while rivers to the east traditionally have had low water seasons followed by floods or near floods.

2. Why are the waters of these rivers becoming increasingly important?

Answer: Student answers will vary but should include a discussion that these rivers provide fresh water to almost one half of the world's population and that with climate change, the areas through which the rivers flow are becoming increasingly drier and, therefore, are increasingly becoming the primary source of water for this region.

3. In addition to fresh water, what other important natural resource do these rivers supply?

Answer: Student answers will vary but should include a discussion of silt and its importance for farming along the rivers' banks and feeding the delta areas at the mouths of the rivers.

4. Using a political map that shows the countries of Asia, what countries border the Tibetan Autonomous Republic (TAR)?

Answer: Myanmar (Burma), Bhutan, Nepal and India.

5. Why do you think that it would be important for countries such as China to maintain favorable relations and/or control territories in which the rivers of the Himalayas originate?

Answer: Student answers will vary but should include a discussion that countries downriver rely on the rivers for fresh water and do not want to have to depend on the good graces of countries upriver for maintaining their water supply.