China: Travel Adventure

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PURPOSE

To become familiar with customs and cultural attitudes of the Chinese people. To plan and prepare carefully for a journey to ________ (province or city). (For the trip and business venture to succeed, the student group must be sensitive to cultural and societal customs in China).

SUGGESTED TIME:

Teacher discretion.

MATERIALS NEEDED

Culturegram on China, visa and passport applications, health certificates, world atlas, bottled water, materials for "Discovery Day 1", maps.

INITIATION (Inquiry, Preview, Involvement)

1. Students met at that door with Chinese greeting "Ni hao ma". To enter the room, students must nod or bow slightly and return the greeting to their teachers.
2. Students must present a small gift during the first class.
3. Shoes will be left on a mat outside the door and socks will be worn in the classroom.
4. Play CD with popular Chinese songs while the students visits stations to try the following:
   a. Play GO, a popular Chinese game.
   b. Carve a Chinese junk out of balsa wood and design colorful cloth sails in triangular shape.
   c. Try to use chopsticks.
   d. Read Chinese poems or fables.
   e. Build a model of a house on stilts found in southern China using cardboard, glue, and sticks.
   f. Make a physical map of China.
   g. Design a political map of China.
   h. Try to copy Chinese script with calligraphy pen.
   i. Play Chinese jump rope games.

SUMMARY

Adaptable Levels
6-10

Related Themes
IPG

Values
Acceptance, comparison, respect, lifestyles, understanding, and tolerance

Skills
Acquisition of information, research skills, use of primary sources; organization, compilation, and comparison of data; clarification of information and decision-making, team-building, and problem-solving skills

Integration
Geography, history, language arts, foods and nutrition, physical education, health, mathematics
DEVELOPMENT (Instruction, Data Collection, Organization)

1. Homework assignment:
   a. Read and highlight important information found in the China culturegram.
   b. Fill out visa and passport applications.
   c. Fill out health certificate. May need parental help.
   d. Determine which shots one will need for the trip.

* Cholera: Students should avoid eating raw vegetables or unpeeled fruit in China.

* Malaria: Students must pack bug spray, pills.

* Hepatitis and Hepatitis B: Students should make sure eating utensils they use in China are clean.

2. Students read culture gram and discuss in their groups the customs and manners that are important to remember in order not to insult their hosts. Students role play certain scenarios they may encounter on their trip and in business meetings.

3. Students compile a list of personal and professional items to take on their trip to China. Consult an atlas for climate and weather conditions in the area they will visit. The trip will last ten days. Luggage on airplanes is limited to one suitcase and carry on not to exceed 70 lbs. total. Students will need to weigh their luggage and also describe what they will carry with them to pass their time on the 21 hour flight.

4. Students use a world map and atlas to chart their course from Indiana to in China. Label each airport and use a ruler to draw a line from airport to airport. One member of the team calls the local airport, travel office, AAA or other travel service to ask for the best price on a round trip ticket to China. Students need to check on prices from Indianapolis, Evansville, Louisville, or Chicago and see which departure airport would give the best price.

5. One member of the team should measure and report back to the team the number of miles from Indiana to China.

EXTENSION:

1. After looking at the climate map of China, students make a list of items that they will take in suitcase. Have them compare list with others in their group. Notice the seasonal changes (August to June) found in China to determine appropriate clothing and shoes.

2. Teams determine exchange rate for the yuan (This might involve cooperation with the math department).

3. Teams prepare Oriental style food for the class. Teacher supplies the wok, extension cord, utensils, and chopsticks. Teams divide up responsibilities of copying recipes for each student, bringing napkins, bowls, plates, forks, and ingredients, and asking Home Ec. teacher to use refrigerator and microwave (Thank you notes should be written the next day). Send leftovers to other staff members and custodial staff. The traditional greetings are given as the food is served.

4. Serve bottled water, hot water, or hot tea.
ASSESSMENT:
1. Rubrics used for each food item prepared.
2. Class discussion following completion of lesson about what students have learned from their experiences and how we can improve this unit.

REFERENCES:
Discussion with school faculty: Home economics (oriental cooking, recipes, refrigerator, microwave), mathematics (figure mileage and exchange rate), health teacher and school nurse (necessary shots for trip), language arts (Chinese poetry, fables, short stories, calligraphy), physical education (Chinese jumprope, table tennis, soccer, gymnastics), art (calligraphy, Chinese artists).

Texts on calligraphy from library, chopsticks from local restaurant, health certificate from country Department of Health, passport applications from US Post Office. Since Go is a difficult game, teach honor students and let them teach other students.

Educational kits are available from Boston’s Children’s Museum for grades 6-9. Rental is $29.00. The following are available for rent: Chinese Games, Chinese Shadow Puppets, Chinese Celebrations, Chinese Architecture.

The Children’s Museum
300 Congress Ave.
Boston, MA 02210-1034
1-800-370-5487

Posters of Chinese festivals: Lunar New Year, Mid Autumn Moon Festival, Ch’ing-ming, Dragon Boat Festival

Social Studies School Service
10200 Jefferson Blvd. Room 16
PO Box 802
Culver City, CA 90328

Kate Waters and Madeline Slovenz-Low, Liam Dance: Ernie Wan’s Chinese New Year (Scholastic, 1990).
Decoding the Chinese Language: The Art of Chinese Calligraphy, Chinese Information and Culture Center, 1230 Avenue of America, New York, NY 10020.


Chinese Exercises, Spice, Littlefield Center Rm. 14, 300 Lasven St., Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305, 1-800-578-1114

The Music of China (CD at Best Buy for $4.99)

Center for Cultural Resources
Indiana University Southeast
4201 Grantline Rd.
New Albany, IN 47150