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Ming Dynasty and the Voyages of Zheng He

Lesson Plan:

The students will understand the rise and fall of the Ming Dynasty in China. In addition they will also learn of the technological advances of this time period as well as the voyages of discovery and trade under Zheng He.

Level/Class:

The classroom is comprised of tenth grade world history students of average ability. The class is one semester in duration and prior to this the students are familiar with the history of China from Qin to Yuan period, as well as the Europeans voyages throughout the world.

Objectives:

The students will understand how the Ming dynasty overthrew the Yuan/Mongol rule of China. Learning will be accomplished through a variety of methods. The students will take notes in outline form while the teacher uses a powerpoint to deliver the lecture. The lecture will focus on the Ming dynasty and the voyages of Zheng He. In conjunction with the powerpoint the students will watch a short video describing the Chinese junks. Using the internet the students will read and be able to compare and contrast European and Asian voyages. Finally, the students will work in small groups utilizing their notes as well as the internet to map Zheng He and other explorer's voyages around the globe.

Time Period:

The lesson should take approximately two class periods. The first portion will be the delivery of the information and the beginning of the maps. The second portion will consist of finalizing the maps using the internet and atlas.

Materials needed:

Handouts
Pencils
Maps
Atlas
Computers w/ internet connection

Assessment:

The students will complete the outline/notes and maps by labeling the appropriate countries and drawing the path of each of the explorers.