

Asia and Innovation: Teaching Resources

Books and Publications

Ainslie T. Embree and Carol Gluck, eds., *Asia in Western and World History*,” (Armonk, New York: M.E. Sharpe, 1997), paperback.

This comprehensive work is a great resource for any teacher interested in Asia and world history. It contains over fifty entries by superb scholars who write well for broad audiences. One of the best entries is Rhoads Murphey’s “The Shape of the World: Eurasia.”

Education About Asia (<http://www.asian-studies.org/EAA/>).

This is the Web site for the Association of Asian Studies teaching journal *Education About Asia*. EAA is intended primarily for middle and high school teachers, as well as undergraduate instructors. A recently enhanced Web site contains some lessons and links to Web resources.

Stewart Gordon, *When Asia Was the World* (Philadelphia: Da Capo Press, 2007).

This highly readable book is recommended for teachers at all levels and for high school students who are at reading grade level. Through biographical vignettes, Gordon examines Asia from 500 to 1500. Most of the chapters focus on both famous (e.g., Ibn Battuta [b. 1304], Babur [1483–1531], and Xuanzang [ca. 602–664]) and little-known individuals, to impart significant understanding of the Pan-Asian networks, interactions, commerce, and religions that made Asia the center of the world during the period addressed.

Web sites

Asia for Educators, Columbia University at <http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/song/>.

This is a comprehensive Web site on East Asian geography, history, humanities, and social science topics, and new features are added regularly. “Life in the Song seen through a 12th-century Scroll” is a superb teaching visual that helps students understand the commercial vibrancy of Song China (960–1279 CE). Students utilize close ups of various urban scenes and access related readings, maps, and other materials to learn about entrepreneurs, technology, and the rich urban culture of Song China.

Asia for Kids at <http://www.asiaforkids.com/>.

This commercial Web site is the best resource for materials for elementary teachers interested in Asia.

Choi, Yong Jin, project director, "Silla Korea and the Silk Road: Golden Age, Golden Threads."
The Korea Society at
http://www.pacificasiamuseum.org/library/Silla_Korea_and_the_Silk_Road_Color.pdf.

This Power Point presentation contains beautiful slides illustrating Korea's role in Asian economic interaction before 1000 CE. Related resources may be found at the Korea Society Web site.

Japan Teaching Module. "Japan in World History." Chattanooga, TN: University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, 2007.

The world history component has student and teacher resources that focus upon innovation in the economy in each of Japan's historical eras, at
<http://www.utc.edu/Research/AsiaProgram/teaching/index.php?section=3>.

Rossabi, Morris, et. al. "From Silk to Oil: Cross-Cultural Connections along The Silk Roads."
New York, NY: China Institute, 2005 at
<http://www.chinainstitute.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.viewPage&pageId=577&grandparentID=554&parentID=576>.

This online curriculum guide contains a variety of resources that are suitable for upper elementary through undergraduate survey classes. There are excellent short essays on the Silk Roads, a "monopoly-style" caravan game, and a number of other lessons.