

Rebekah Van Eaton
Boyd Buchanan School
Chattanooga, TN 37411

Three Gorges Dam

Objectives:

Students will examine the historic, geographic and economic importance of the Three Gorges Dam. Students will answer questions by conducting research on the topic from a variety of perspectives. These questions will serve as suggested topics to address in a Power Point presentation to be shared with the class. Finally, students will engage in a class discussion on China's modern economic needs and the benefits and costs of building the dam.

Level/Class:

This lesson is designed for seventh grade students in a year-long World Geography course. Students will collaborate with one other classmate during most of this assignment.

Time Requirements:

This lesson will take approximately four full class periods. The first will be used to introduce the assignment and allow students to begin research. The second will be devoted to research and to beginning the Power Point. The students will present their Power Point presentations to the class during the third class period. The final day will be devoted to class discussion.

Materials:

Project Description and Questions

Computer lab with Internet access

Assessment:

Student presentations will be evaluated on the visual content, factual content, organization, citation and conventions of writing. See rubric below for specific requirements.

References:

<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/lessonplans/programs/threegorges/>

<http://www.econedlink.org/lessons/index.cfm?lesson=EM347&page=teacher>

<http://www.ctgpc.com/>

<http://www.pbs.org/itvs/greatwall/>

<http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,1671000,00.html#>

<http://aquadoc.typepad.com/waterwired/2008/01/this-week-natio.html>

http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2001/05/0515_threegorges.html

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=39621>

<http://www.hrw.org/summaries/s.china952.html>

<http://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/vis/a000000/a003400/a003433/>

Three Gorges Dam Power Point Presentation

You and one of your classmates will prepare together a visually interesting and informative Power point presentation on the Three Gorges Dam in China. Your first task is to learn as much as you can about this manmade wonder. You have been given a list of questions that look at the dam from a variety of perspectives. Your answers to these questions are examples of the types of information your presentation should contain, though you may discover other facets about the topic to present. Your presentation should provide the viewer with a well rounded understanding of, and glimpse at, China in general, and the dam specifically. Please refer to the Evaluation Criteria listed below as you prepare your presentation. Your Power point will count as a project grade and is equal to a test grade.

Our textbook, periodicals, research database and the internet will help you in your research. Here are a few of the websites that I found helpful.

<http://www.ctgpc.com/>

<http://www.pbs.org/itvs/greatwall/>

<http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,1671000,00.html#>

<http://aquadoc.typepad.com/waterwired/2008/01/this-week-natio.html>

http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2001/05/0515_threegorges.html

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=39621>

<http://www.hrw.org/summaries/s.china952.html>

<http://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/vis/a000000/a003400/a003433/>

Finally, we will discuss as a class the benefits and drawbacks of the building of the dam in the context of China's modern economic needs. Your participation in this class discussion will count as a daily class work grade.

Project Evaluation

Three Gorges Dam Presentation

<u>Visual Content:</u>	<u>Points Possible</u>	<u>Points Earned</u>
The presentation contains a variety of clear, interesting pictures related to the facts presented in the Powerpoint.	25	
<u>Factual Content:</u> All facts presented are accurate and clearly stated. The presentation provides the viewer with a well-rounded, balanced look at the topic.	25	
<u>Organization:</u> The order and pacing of slides creates a coherent flow of ideas. The presentation introduces, presents and summarizes the main idea.	25	
<u>Bibliography:</u> A typed, correctly formatted Bibliography is turned in with the presentation.	10	
<u>Writing Conventions:</u> Spelling, grammar and punctuation are correct throughout the presentation.	15	
<u>Total Points</u>	100	_____

Three Gorges Dam

1. On what river in China has the dam been built?
2. Where is that river in China? Be specific.
3. Describe the size and nature of the river.
4. Historically, what advantages and problems has the river presented to the people living along its banks?
5. What was the purpose of the dam in terms of flood control, shipping benefits and the production of hydroelectricity?
6. When did construction of the dam begin and what was its projected cost?
7. How is the dam being paid for?
8. Describe the size of the dam (height and width, etc). How does it compare to one of the dams along the Tennessee River?
9. At what stage and level of completion is it now?
10. Approximately how many people will be displaced from their homes once the dam is completed? Are they being compensated in any way?
11. What effect will the dam have on communities that once existed along the river? Can you name a few of these villages?
12. What archaeological sites and artifacts have been lost by the building of the dam?
13. What historical artifacts have been rescued? Can you identify and show us any specific artifacts that were preserved?
14. Why is it important, from a cultural and economic point of view, to preserve these artifacts?
15. Have there been any negative environmental consequences caused by the building of the dam? If so, describe them in general terms.
16. What benefits has the dam brought to the people of China?
17. Have there been any controversies connected to the families that have had to move out of the area to make way for the dam? If so, explain.
18. How have citizens who have protested the building of the dam been treated?

19. Why can we only guess at the full extent of the negative consequences and treat its purported success with at least a degree of skepticism?
20. Have there been any allegations of corruption among government officials who are involved in the project? If so, describe in general terms.