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## **The Great Wall of China**

### **Lesson Plan:**

In this lesson, students will learn about the history of the Great Wall of China, the dynasties who participated in the building of the Great Wall, the diversity of the wall, and the cultural impact the wall has played in Chinese history.

### **Level/Class:**

This lesson is designed for a 9<sup>th</sup> grade class on World History. It could be adapted for a middle school social studies class or any grade 9-12 history course.

### **Objectives:**

Upon completing this lesson, students will be able to recount the history and origins of the Great Wall of China. Students will be able to distinguish between pieces of the Great Wall built during different dynasties of Chinese history. Students will have read and discussed the cultural impact the Great Wall has played in Chinese history. Students will view varying pieces of the Great Wall and replicate their own models and designs of the wall. Finally, students will be able to compare and contrast the Great Wall as it progressed through different periods of Chinese history and was affected by varying dynastic rule and events.

### **Time Period:**

This lesson should take approximately three block periods or four to five regular fifty minute periods. The first block day (or approximately two regular days) will be devoted to student research and may involve a trip to the media center or library if sufficient classroom computers are not available. The second block day (or approximately two regular days) will be devoted to student project development. Finally, the third block day (or one to two regular days) will be devoted to students presentations and class discussion.

### **Materials Needed:**

Rubric for project assessment

Computers with internet access (at least 5, as students will be divided into 5 groups)

Project design materials (this may be power point, poster board, markers, popsicle sticks, pipe cleaners, etc. as the project presentation will include several options from which students can choose.)

Large workspace for presentation design and presentation

**Assessment:**

Students will be assessed based on a rubric that details pieces of the Great Wall project that each group should include in their presentation. Students will be given options for presentation style, but will be expected to present their information within the project guidelines. Finally, students will be assessed based on the quality of their presentation, including the participation of all group members, and their ability to participate in the class discussion concerning the culmination of each group's information.

**References:**

Great Wall Panoramic Photos and Maps

[http://www.thebeijingguide.com/great\\_wall\\_of\\_china/index.html](http://www.thebeijingguide.com/great_wall_of_china/index.html)

<http://www.panoramas.dk/7-wonders/great-wall.html>

<http://www.world-heritage-tour.org/asia/china/great-wall/map.html>

Great Wall History and Culture

<http://www.chinahighlights.com/greatwall/>

<http://www.greatwall-of-china.com/>

<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/greatwall.htm>

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0301/feature1/>

<http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/previous/greatwall/>

\*Students may also find library resources or other websites helpful in their search for information. Any website should be submitted to the instructor for approval before use in the project. These websites are comprehensive sites that provide multiple resources for completion of the project.

## **Great Wall of China Project Rubric**

**Project:** You and your team are responsible for designing a museum exhibit detailing the history, culture, and diversity of the Great Wall of China. It is your job to design an exhibit that will be both educational and interesting. You want to capture your audience with the exciting history of Chinese society, culture, and architecture. The specifics of your exhibit are largely up to you, but the following will give you general guidelines upon which to center your exhibit.

### **Project Groups:**

Team 1: Qi Dynasty

Team 2: Zhao Dynasty

Team 3: Qin Dynasty

Team 4: Han Dynasty

Team 5: Ming Dynasty

### **Project Sections:**

- 1. History-** Each group will be responsible for providing the history of their dynasty as it pertains to the building of the Great Wall of China. The history section of the project should be a brief overview of the contributions of their dynasty to the building of the Great Wall. This section should be ½- 1 page typed, double spaced. This section can be included on a poster board, in a power point presentation, or as a separate oral presentation, and should be presented in a three to five minute segment. A hard copy of this information should be provided to the teacher. -10 pts.
- 2. Culture-** Each group will be responsible for detailing on cultural contribution of the Great Wall of China. This may be poetry, letters, stories, social effects, or any other aspect of culture. This cultural contribution may be modern or may pertain to the particular dynasty being researched. Groups may present these cultural attributes by way of skits, pictures, oral presentation, documents shared with the class, or any other teacher approved means. This portion of the presentation should be presented in a three to five minute segment. – 10 pts.
- 3. Visual-** Each group will be responsible for presenting at least three images of the portion of the Great Wall built during their dynasty. These images may be part of a poster, power point presentation, or as separate images. These images may be presented as a separate part of the presentation, or they may be included in various parts throughout the presentation.- 10 pts.
- 4. Great Wall Model-** Each group will be responsible for designing a model or replica of the portions of the Great Wall built during their dynasty. This replica

may be built from any materials chosen by the students. The replica should be between 6 inches and 1 foot long, and should reflect the structural design of the actual wall. Material choice is not as important as design. – 10 pts.