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Chinese First Emperor & Terracotta Warriors

秦(qín)始(shǐ)皇(huáng)帝(dì) 和(hé) 兵(bīng)马(mǎ)俑(yǒng)

Level/Class:

Elementary School 3rd-4th grade class

Subject matter:

Chinese Language and Culture

Objectives:

Students will learn about the first emperor of China and his accomplishments. Terracotta Warriors and the Great Wall of China will be examples of his greatness. Students will learn key words in Chinese for this topic.

Time:

Two 60 minutes class periods

Materials needed:

Handout for students

Papers, pencils, and glue

Computer and projector

Miniature terracotta soldier

Map of China

PowerPoint file: PP A. Chinese First Emperor & Terracotta Warriors

PP B. Terracotta Figures

Assessment:

Students will be assessed by their participation in class discussion, and their works on assignments. Students will be also assessed by “Jeopardy” game format—teacher will state the answers while students respond with questions.

Procedure:

First class period:

Use the PowerPoint presentation A to present the subject matter, use the teacher's reference sheet to enrich the presentation. Ask students to point out the location of Xian on the map of China. Observe the Terracotta soldiers' and Qin Shi Huang di's outfits. Compare the territory of modern China with Qin Dynasty from the maps. Teach the students all the key words in Chinese: 秦(qín)始(shǐ)皇(huáng)帝(dì), 兵(bīng)马(mǎ)俑(yǒng), 西(xī)安(ān), 中(zhōng)国(guó), 汉(hàn)人(rén), 中(zhōng)国(guó)人(rén), 汉(hàn)语(yǔ), 中(zhōng)文(wén) and 长(cháng)城(chéng). Finally, explain to students the take home assignments:

Assignments:

1. Find out more information, especially the parts that were not covered at the class about Chinese First Emperor, Terracotta Warriors, and/or the Great Wall of China through websites during the school computer class. Please print out the information or copy down onto paper.
 2. Write down a list of the possessions that they are important to you. If you were Qin Shi Huang di in Chinese ancient time, what important possessions would you want to take with you all the time?
 3. Find an empty plastic water bottle for the next class usage.
- *Ask the students to bring all the above 3 items to the next class.

Second class period:

Use the PowerPoint presentation B to revisit "Qin Shi Huang di and Terracotta Warriors." Ask students to present their findings from the websites that we did not cover (assignment 1). Discuss what is important in the students' lives; ask students to identify what is important to them. They may read from their list (assignment 2). Afterwards, have the students fold the list and put it in the plastic empty bottle (assignment 3), and use the glue to seal the lid. Make a label and tape it on the surface of the bottle with students' names and date on it, titled "Important Things." Ask the students do not open the bottle until they reach the senior year of his or her high school. This bottle will become a time capsule. See if students' values change over time, and report back to me if students choose to.

Extensions:

- When talking about the Great Wall and Terracotta Soldiers think about the following:
 - How good an idea do you think it is to try to keep people out by building a wall? Do you think the wall on its own could keep out enemies?

- How many workers would be needed to build the wall and the Terracotta Soldiers? How would they get all the materials they needed?

- Review the pronunciation of and practice writing the key Chinese words:

秦(qín)始(shǐ)皇(huáng)帝(dì), 兵(bīng)马(mǎ)佣(yōng), 西(xī)安(ān), 中(zhōng) 国(guó), 汉(hàn) 人(rén), 中(zhōng) 国(guó) 人(rén), 汉(hàn) 语(yǔ), 中(zhōng) 文(wén) and 长(cháng)城(chéng).

-The modern city of Xian in Shaanxi Province, the site of Qin Shi Huang di's capital. Which city in China (Beijing, Tianjin, Nanjing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chongqing, Hong Kong) is closest to Xian?

References:

- <http://terracottawarriors.co.uk/terracotta-warriors.php>
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