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East Asia Action Plan

School Overview

Overton is a metropolitan high school that serves students all over southern Nashville. We have a student body of over 1600 students with wide ranging backgrounds. In the classes I will be instructing I will have students from grades 9-12 with little background knowledge on Asia. The ability levels will be varied as well, from standard classes to the advanced placement. Due to the spectrum of students I teach I will break down the lessons on Asia based on each particular class throughout the school year.

Standard Geography Class

The students in this class are either freshmen or sophomores. We will start the basic knowledge of Asia by learning and studying the 7 continents of the world. We will spend at least 2 weeks going over the basics of each continent. Once we have completed this section we will go more in depth about the major countries around the world. We will start with the countries the students know well: United States, Canada, and Mexico. Once this unit is complete we will move to Asia, China, Japan, North Korea, and South Korea. With the previous knowledge given about the North American continent the students will be able to compare and contrast the new countries we discuss in Asia. We will start the unit by trying foods native to China, Japan, and the Koreas. This will help the students connect to the cultures of these nations. Once we have tried native foods we will look at several different maps to see why particular foods are commonly eaten in each country. Our first map will be a political map, second a physical map, and third a thematic or all-purpose map. With each of the maps the students will continue to learn new aspects about the nations of Asia. After we have studied the maps there will be quizzes having the students locate certain places on a map of Asia. Third, we will dive in to the basic cultures of China, Japan, North Korea, and South Korea. This unit should take a month with an assessment following.

We will start with the largest of these nations in China. First, we will watch a clip from united streaming about China. This will be an informative movie clip so the students have an

idea of what China looks like. Second, we will study the many religions of China such as Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism. Then we will cover a very brief history of China with notes for the students to learn and use in comparison to other countries of East Asia.

Our second country will be Japan. I will have the students look at a map of Japan superimposed on the United States, from the Global Studies Asia, Ellington. We will use this map to quickly understand the size of Japan. Second we will cover the connections between China and Japan. I will talk to the students about the major similarities and differences between the two, while teaching them new historical facts about Japan. We will finally watch a clip of Japan's hierarchy.

Our unit on Asia will finally be complete with the brief discussion of the two Koreas since these two nations are centrally located between China and Japan. The majority of this work will be a historical overview of why the two nations split and where they are today. We will use newspaper clippings discussing the disarmament of North Korea. We will talk about the strained relationship between the United States and North Korea.

World History Standard and Honors

This class is unique in that we will talk about Asia all throughout the year unlike Geography only receiving a month to go over facts. This class will cover Asia from prehistory all the way to present day 2008. In both standard and honors classes we will cover the major turning points in History for China, Japan, and the Koreas. The only difference between the classes will be the workload and the pace we go at for each section.

Religion

I always start the year with world religions. I feel this gives the students the basis for why people live where they do, why wars occur, and the makeup of their personal culture. The first day we will start off with pictures showing the students what Asian religions look like. I will use these images or icons to get the students interested in what we are learning. They will see pictures of Buddha's, Confucius, Laozi, and Shinto Shrines. Second, we will read excerpts from Confucius and Laozi to better understand what the religions are about. We will look at a map to see how many different religions are practiced in China, Japan, North and South Korea. We will see what religion is majority for that area. We will also discuss why Japan is not very religious and how the Shinto faith is practiced. I will then give the students a quick history about where the religions began and how they were followed throughout history. I will have the

students make a timeline to chart the major events in the Buddhist and Shinto religions. They will also make a pie chart listing facts about the 4 faiths: Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism, and Shinto.

Ancient Civilizations

Our second unit during September will incorporate East Asia discussing the time period of 1500 B.C.E. – 589 C.E. In China we will quickly cover the geography of this nation, discuss the ancient language, the use of oracle bones, and the great isolation from the rest of the ancient world. I will give notes on the Shang, Zhou, Qin, and Han Dynasties. For Japan the time period of discovery is believed to be much later around 100 C.E. I will discuss that this nation is made up of islands, is very mountainous, and was most likely settled by people that came over from the Asian mainland. I will talk about the similarities in China's and Japan's languages. The students will learn that Japanese has some Chinese characters called Kanji. We will also look at the other two languages for words that were not in the Chinese language: Hiragana and Katakana.

Growth and Expansion of China and Japan

Our third unit which will occur in October will be China and Japan from 600-1500 C.E. In this section we will start the unit with an excerpt on foot binding which will incorporate the Song Dynasty. We will then move toward the amazing inventions that were made during this time, such as gunpowder for weapons. Then we will move to the Mongol invasions of this time. We will work on a map charting what the Mongols conquered and how they influenced these regions. We will then read an article on Genghis Khan and Kublai Khan. We will make connections to how difficult it was under this time called the Yuan with competing languages, laws, and customs. Finally we will cover Japan during this time period. To grab their attention we will read an excerpt from *The Tale of Genji*. For homework the students will need to write an analysis of this story comparing and contrasting China to Japan. We will chart the feudal system of Japan, discovering who had power and how it was passed down. I will give notes on the history of Japan during this time. We will take a moment to comment on the Europeans coming to Japan for the first time in the 1500s.

Our fourth unit will focus on Exploration, Exploitation, and Scientific discoveries in January. This will be a huge section spanning from the late 1500s to 1800 C.E. We will begin this unit with China during the time of exploration. I will cover information with the students

about Columbus and Zheng He. As a class we will discuss the debate of who came to America first. I will give all them a document to read for homework comparing Christopher Columbus to Zheng He, comparing their voyages, and the size of their ships. We will then move to the isolation of China after these major voyages during the Ming Dynasty. Finally we will wrap up by describing the European voyages to China that occurred throughout exploration. We will talk in great length about the influence the British had on China. Japan will have a focus towards the Tokugawa period. We will take notes on their very prosperous and peaceful nation during this time. We will also note that throughout the Tokugawa rule the government became more controlling censoring most outward influences in Japan.

Imperialism in China and Industrialization in Japan

Our fifth unit on China and Japan will connect to the time period during Imperialism from 1800-1900. We will be studying this time period in March. As we previously stated in our fourth unit China will start under the control of many foreign nations. We will start with a map charting what nations ruled parts of China and Japan and what these nations traded. In China we will discuss the Opium War, The Treaty of Nanjing, and the many unequal treaties European nations had with China. We will not only focus on the British influence, but Russia, France, and the United States. We will also mention in this section that the British controlled the City of Hong Kong until 1997. We will move to Japan next and start this lesson with Commodore Perry arriving in Japan in 1853. We will then move to a two-day lesson plan on the Meiji Restoration. We will discuss that this period was a movement in Japan to be more modern, “Western”, and Industrialized unlike any other Asian nation at this time. We will also cover how impressed the Western world was with Japan winning the Sino-Japanese War.

Asia at War

Our sixth unit on China and Japan will occur during our section on the World Wars from 1900-1945 around April. China will play a small role during this lesson, but we will discuss the little power the Chinese government had at this time. We will create a timeline from 1917- 1949 of the ever-changing Chinese government. We will also discuss the fact that China was an ally to the Allied Powers during WWI and WWII. Japan’s story will be very different for this time period. We will discuss that Japan was an ally to the Allied Powers in WWI, but quite the opposite in WWII. We will cover why Japan became an enemy and how it was very difficult for the Allied Powers to finally defeat them on September 2, 1945. We will discuss the internment

camps in America as well as the POW camps and the Bataan Death March of Japan. Finally we will end this unit by discussing the restructuring of Japan by America. We will take notes on the constitution for Japan, written by Americans and the great economic boom Japan felt during the Korean War.

Asia from 1950-Today

We will hopefully reach the seventh and last unit before the end of May. Finally in our last unit of the year we will discuss the many changes in China since WWII. We will begin with the communist control of China by Mao ZeDong. We will cover the 5-year plan for economic growth, the Cultural Revolution in 1966, Tiananmen Square, and the major economic boom China has felt over the last decade. We will also discuss the outcome of the 2008 Olympics. Korea will also be discussed in the most detail at the end of the year. We will bring up these two nations many times throughout the school year through current events, but we will take a few notes about the history of Koreas split. We will take notes on the high percentage of those that are educated in North Korea and compare this to the number that are starving or living in poverty. We will also have a general discussion about the great threat North Korea is to the world, especially Japan. Japan will be our last East Asian country and we will cover the strong relations between this nation and the United States. We will cover the strenuous educational foundation, the strong economy, and the support Japan brings to the Americans at war.