

WORLD CULTURES II

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Learning Unit No. 10

P.R.C. - Geography

General Information

Unit Outcome: To develop a basic knowledge of the geography of the P.R.C. and its implications.

I. Names (Zhung-Guo or Middle Kingdom)

- A. People's Republic of China (P.R.C., Communist China, Red China, Mainland China)
- B. Republic of China (Taiwan, Nationalist China, Formosa)

II. Size and Shape

- A. third largest country in the world
 - Russia. - 6.5 mil. sq. miles
 - Canada - 3.83
 - China - 3.70
 - U.S.A. - 3.68
 - (Brazil - 3.29)
- B. along with size, the dimensions of China are similar to those of the United States
 - 3,000 miles east-to-west
 - 2,500 miles north-to-south

III. Population

- A. China has the largest population in the world – 6,060, 884, 000 (4/2000) China = 21.1%
 - P.R.C. - 1,246,871,000 (1999 est.)
 - India - 1,000,848,000 (1999 est.)
 - U.S.A. - 272,639,000 (1999 est.)
 - Indonesia - 216,108,000 (1999 est.)
 - (followed by Brazil and Russia)
- B. Ethnic groups
 - 1. 92% Han Chinese
 - 2. minorities include Tibetans, Mongols, Koreans, Manchus, etc.
- C. Language - the official language is Mandarin Chinese

IV. Neighbors and other countries in close proximity

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| A. Russia | K. Myanmar (Burma) |
| B. North Korea | L. India |
| C. South Korea | M. Nepal |
| D. Japan | N. Bhutan |
| E. Taiwan | O. Afghanistan |
| F. Vietnam | P. Pakistan |
| G. Laos | Q. Macao (Port |
| H. Thailand | R. Tadjikistan |
| I. Philippines | S. Kyrgyzstan |
| J. Mongolia | T. Kazakhstan |

V. Bodies of Water

- A. Sea of Japan
- B. Yellow Sea
- C. East China Sea
- D. South China Sea
- E. Pacific Ocean

VI. Rivers (lacks north-south transportation = Grand Canal)

- A. Huang He (Yellow River) - "China's Sorrow"
- B. Chang Kiang (Yangtze River)
- C. Xi Kiang (West River)

VII. Cities

- A. Shanghai (7.5 or 17 mil.?) - possibly the largest city in the world
 - B. Beijing - Peking (5.9) - means "northern capital"
 - C. Nanjing - Nanking
 - D. Guangzhou - Canton (3.3)
 - E. Chongqing - Chungking
 - F. Tianjin - Tientsin (5.4)
 - G. Shenyang - Mukden
 - H. Wuhan
 - I. Hong Kong
- Nearby Cities-
J. Hanoi (Vietnam)
K. Taipei (R.O.C.)
L. Tokyo (Japan)
M. Seoul (South Korea)

VIII. Mountains

- A. Altai Mts.
- B. Tsingling Mts.
- C. Himalaya Mts.

IX. Regions (2/3rds mountainous or desert and only 1/10th is cultivated)

- A. South China Proper
- B. North China Proper
- C. Outlying Regions
 - 1. Xinjiang - Sinkiang
 - 2. Inner Mongolia
 - 3. Tibet
 - 4. Manchuria

X. Desert - Gobi

XII. Analysis

- A. China is isolated (N-Great Wall, E-water, S-rainforest, SW-mountains, NW-desert)
 - 1. isolated from Western civilization
 - 2. aided in the formation of a uniform culture (inhibits cultural diffusion)
- B. contrasts ("China" video)
 - 1. urban (27%) - rural (73%) "a country of peasants"
 - 2. tillable - nontillable (2/3rds mountainous or desert)
 - 3. North China proper - South China proper

Readings:

- _____ 1. pp. ix - 11 (overview)
- _____ 2. pp. 12 - 17 (rivers/food)
- _____ 3. pp. 18 - 23 (Chinese people)
- _____ 4. pp. 24 - 30 (language)