

ASIA – 6th Grade
9 Class Periods

I. Asia Geography

- A. Where is it? This is a region that is located east of Europe and Africa.
- B. Students should be able to label important countries such as: China, Japan, Russia, North and South Korea, North and South Vietnam, Taiwan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Tibet.
They need to label physical features such as: Himalayas, Yangtze River, Indus River, Ganges River, Huang He River, Gobi Desert.
Know: Peninsula – an area of land that is surrounded by water on three sides.
Archipelago – a group of islands.

II. China

- A. Geography – mountainous; rivers and plains in the eastern part, high plateaus in the southwest, deserts in the northwest.
1. Himalayas – highest mountains in the world dividing China from Nepal.
 2. Mt. Everest – highest mountain in the world
 3. Rivers – 3 great rivers flowing east to the Pacific Ocean.
 - a. Xi Jiang (Pearl River)
 - b. Huang He (Yellow River) – “China’s Sorrow”. It often overflows. Yellow because of the color of the silt.
 - c. Yangtze (Chang Jiang)
 4. Deserts
 - a. Gobi – north central China. Best-known desert. It has extreme temp. Rocky.
- B. History of China – Chinese history is generally divided into periods based upon the dynasty, or ruling family, that governed China during that time. Three important dynasties were the Zhou, Qin and the Han.
1. Chinese civilization began in the Huang He River valley around 1700 BC by the Shang
 2. The Zhou dynasty conquered the lands between the Huang He River and the Yangtze River. Their greatest legacy was the work of two philosophers.
 - a. Confucius – believed in preserving the social order. Society depended on both good family relationships and good government.
- C. Communism in China
1. Mao Zedong and the Communists turned against Chaing Kai-shek after the end of World War II. Mao was the 1st Communist leader

of China. On October 1st, he declared China a Communist state and changed the name to the People's Republic of China.

2. Definitions.

- a. Communism – an economic and political system in which property is owned collectively and labor is organized in a way that is supposed to benefit all of the people.
- b. Economy – the system by which business owners in a region use productive resources to provide goods and services that satisfy peoples wants.

Facts: Chinese Life Expectancy: 73% (male 71%, female 75 %)

Religions: Taoist, Buddhist, Christian, and Muslim

China is officially Atheist

Literacy Rate: 90%

Personal income: \$5,300

Suffrage – 18 years of age

- D. Blended Economy – Most of China is still Communist, however, certain areas have been opened to capitalist ventures. Hong Kong is a financial center in China. It was once controlled by Great Britain, but was given back to China in 1992.
- E. Taiwan – is an island off the coast of China. It is where Chang Kai-shek fled after his defeat. Taiwan had been a colony of China, but since 1949, it has formed it's own multi-party democratic system. There has been much conflict between China and Taiwan.
- F. Tianamen Square – In 1989, Chinese protestors called for democracy in China. They protested in Beijing, the Capital, in Tianamen Square. The Chinese Government sent in the military to stop the demonstrators. Hundreds of protestors were killed.

III. Japan

- A. Japan's Economy – has grown significantly since World War II. Japan is a small nation with few natural resources and little farmland.
- B. Industry – a skilled, educated work force is important to Japan. Japan imports raw materials and manufactures them into goods for export; ships, automobiles, steel, plastic, machinery, cameras and electronics are Japan's major exports.
- C. Japanese facts: Life expectancy: 82 years, male-78, female-85
Religions: Shinto and Buddhism combine for 84%.
It has a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary government.

Suffrage: 20 years of age
Per capita- 33%
Literacy – 99%

IV. India

A. Geography

1. Location – Sub-continent of Asia
2. Features – Himalayas – highest mountains in the world. Mt. Everest – highest mountain.

B. Early History

1. Approximately 2500 BC – The Harappan civilization grew along the Indus River.
2. Major Cities – Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro
3. Aryans – people migrated from Russia and joined the Indus River people. Language – Sanskrit.

C. Religion

1. Hinduism – base on Aryan practices.
 - a. Karma – person's action determine what happens to them after death.
 - b. Reincarnation – person's soul is reborn into a different body.
 - c. Caste System – social classes – cannot get out of them.
Ex., untouchables – lowest, inferior to all other classes.
2. Buddhism – started by Siddhartha Gautama around 500 BC.
 - a. Belief – give up worldly possessions to find inner peace.

D. Later History

1. Part of British Empire until 1947
2. Mohandas Gandhi – political leader who used peaceful, nonviolent methods of protesting against British rule. Helped India gain Independence. Ex., Hunger strikes.
3. Indira Gandhi – 1st woman Prime Minister
4. Mother Teresa – designated a saint and given a Nobel Peace Prize for her work with the poor of India.

E. Facts: Life expectancy: 69 years, 66 male- 71 female

F. Religions: Hindu (80%) Muslim, Christian

G. Literacy: 61 % overall, Male-73%, Female 47 %

H. Government type: federal republic

I. Suffrage- 18 years of age

J. Per Capita income \$2,700

___ Afghanistan:

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Life expectancy: 44 years, male 44 years- female 44 years

Religions: Muslim (Sunni 80%, Shia 19 %)

Literacy: 28%- Male 43%, female 12%

Government type: Islamic Republic
Legal system is based on Shari'a law
Per capita : \$1,000
Suffrage: 18 years of age

Pakistan:

Life expectancy: 64 years. Male-63, female 65
Religions: Muslim (Sunni 77%, Shia 20%)
Literacy: 49%. Male-63%, female 36%
Government type: Federal republic- military is the most important political

force.

Per Capita: \$2,600
Suffrage: 18 years of age

Nepal: Life expectancy- 60. Male-61, female-60
Religions: Hindu (80%) Buddhist, and Muslim. Nepal is the only official Hindu country in the world.

Literacy: 48 % , Male 62%, female 34%
Government type: constitutional monarchy
Suffrage: 18 years of age
Per Capita income: \$1,200

V. Korea

A. North Korea - Communist government. Leader – Kim Jong IL.
Facts: Life expectancy: 72 years. Male-69, female-75
Religions: Buddhism, Confucianism: Note: autonomous religious activities are almost non-existent. The government does sponsor some religious groups to give the appearance of religious freedom.
Literacy Rate: 99%- for both groups
Government type: Communist one man dictatorship
Suffrage- 17 years of age
Per Capita: \$1,900

B. South Korea – Capitalist economy. Democratic government.
Facts: Life expectancy: 72 years, male-74, female 81
Religions: NONE (49%) Christian, Buddhism
Literacy Rate: 97% - male-99%, female- 96%
Government type: Republic
Suffrage: 19 years of age
Per Capita income: \$24,800

VI. Vietnam

A. Became Communist under Ho Chi Minh
B. Vietnam War – North against South. U. S. Backed South Vietnam. North Vietnam won the war. The country was united.
C. Facts: Life Expectancy: 71 years, Male-68, female-74

Religions: NONE (80%) Buddhism, Christianity
Literacy Rate: 90 %, male-93%, female-86%
Government Type: communist state
Suffrage: 18 years of age
Per Capita Income: \$2,600

VII. Terms

- A. Natural Resources – products generated naturally that can be used and/or consumed by humans.