

Inter-Disciplinary Lesson Plan Guideline
Suited for all Grade Levels

Social Studies / Reading / Writing / Music / Art / Foreign Language

Discovering The Far East

(This, of course, can easily be adapted to Middle East, Ireland, Africa, etc.)

Main Objective: Students will discover the richness, diversity and complexity involved in understanding, respecting and learning about other cultures.

Each class/teacher will decide on a rubric that fits their personal objectives and grading scale.

Social Studies: Research and discover about the vast, varied, and rich culture of the Far Eastern Countries. After some brief reading students choose a topic – Example: The Impact that Chinese cultures had on Math – the Abacus, etc. or the discovery and use of fireworks, and write a research report on the topic of interest they have chosen. This could also be expanded to include a poster board or video. Included should be historical facts, uses in ancient cultures and its adaptation and uses in today's society. Another area of study may be the impact that a large population has on a culture, the type of Government and its impact on people's everyday lives.

Reading: Read the poetry, folk tales, writings of the great philosophers of Ancient China, and compare and contrast the subject matter, style and structure to other “more well known” counterparts. Example: The tales of the Grimm Brothers or Mark Twain in comparison to the tales of Chinese folklore.

Writing: Writing for a purpose. Create a travel brochure including artwork or a TV or radio commercial on trips to the Far East. This teaches the students that they must find and use royalty free music for their advertising to avoid getting into legal trouble....Just like in the real world - people must find and use royalty free music.

Music: Study the unique instrumentation that many of the Far Eastern cultures use; Example: Chinese Ruan Moon Guitar, Ghuzeng Zither or Xiao Flute , Japanese Shakuhachi Flute and play examples of their sounds. Study the modal scales used in this style of music and how it and why it makes their sound and songs so different from what we hear regularly.

Art: Study the beautiful paintings of ancient China, the importance of many of the animals they depict in their drawings. Learn to write the some Chinese or Japanese letters/symbols.

Foreign Language: Take some words that students are learning in French or Spanish (if not studying Chinese for example) and learn how to speak those same words or phrases in Chinese or Japanese.

Evaluation: Evidence of learning should include:

Redefine Objectives

- Understand the diversity, differences and similarities between different cultures
- Rubric
- Research paper, Brochure, Advertisement

Summary / Reflection

What did the student learn?

Outcome of project

Extensions:

Work in cooperative groups.

Share projects with other grade levels/classes.

Have a school wide multicultural event sharing: cultural qualities, foods, music, dress. Possibly even bring in guest speakers.