

China & The World Curriculum Project: The Strategy of the Belt & Road Initiative

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Explanation: This is a multi-day lesson plan designed for World History students to explore China's Belt and Road Initiative

Rationale: In this three day lesson I will incorporate China and the World into my World History classes as a case study to deepen understanding of the core content.

Content Objectives: Students will learn about China's Belt and Road Initiative and consider the strategy behind various locations on the proposed plan. They will complete a mini-presentation about their findings and consider the most compelling arguments for why each location was chosen/is important.

Materials:

1. [Worksheet](#) (Intro & Research – Days 1 & 2)
2. [Worksheet](#) (Collaborative Mapping Task & Presentation Notes - Day 3)
3. [Slides](#)
4. [Class Map](#) (this is an example of a completed one)

Day 1: 50 minutes (see slides 2-4)

1. Students will be introduced to China's Belt and Road Initiative:
 - a. First, students will watch the introduction video
 - i. Class discussion of the listed questions will follow
 - b. Second, students will read the World Bank's overview of the BRI and answer the reading questions on Worksheet #1 linked above

Day 2: 90 minutes (see slides 5-8 and worksheet #1)

1. Students will work in small groups and be assigned one strategic location on the BRI plan.
2. They will have to research WHY the integration of that location is important to the modern initiative proposed by China
 - a. Students will research the following:
 - i. They must track and cite their sources - see worksheet #1 above

Location: How is the location of this city strategic? What major markets or cities is it near? Does it provide access to ports and/or major bodies of water?
Tourist Sites: What sites in this city or the surrounding area might draw tourism revenue?
Existing Infrastructure: What existing transportation infrastructure does the city have? For example, is there an international airport? Is the city on railroad routes?
Natural Resources: What are important natural resources available for export from this country or region?

Products: What manufactured products are exported from this country or region?

Other economic assets: What are other strengths of this city or region? Why would it be useful to include in the Belt and Road Initiative?

Day 3: 90 minutes (see slides 9-end and worksheet #2)

1. Students will :
 - a. Using their research notes from the previous class and identify at least three specific economic or geographic advantages of their city and its surrounding area. Why is it being included in the Belt and Road Initiative?
 - b.
2. Once those 3 locations are identified they will complete the following:

Go to the collaborative map URL provided by your instructor.

3rd: bit.ly/3rdperiodmap

Type the city's name in the search bar to "fly" to the city.

Choose three locations in or around the city relevant to the advantages you identified in step one. For example, if an advantage of the city is its location near a port, the port might be one of the three locations.

1. _____(pair with advantage one)

2. _____(pair with advantage two)

3. _____(pair with advantage three)

Place a marker in the first location you chose by clicking on the "add marker" icon and moving the cursor to the relevant spot on the map. Change the title of the marker by typing in the title space. Add a caption to explain the importance of this location using information from your notes. Be sure to include a source citation at the end of your caption. Then add a relevant image. To add a relevant image, click on the camera icon.

Repeat step four for each of the locations you chose.

3. Once students have completed their class map, they will present in brief (they have 2 minutes)
 - a. They will present their top 3 arguments for why that location is of strategic importance
 - b. Audience members will identify what they believe to be the most compelling argument & why and track that on their notes
4. Once all groups have presented their findings, all students will complete the debrief / check for understanding questions as follows:
 - a. **Your topic:** What does your assigned city have to offer that makes it a draw for developers of the Belt and Road initiative?
 - b. **As a whole:** What economic and geographic factors did the cities researched share in common?
 - c. **Essential Question:** How is the Belt and Road project likely to promote economic development and trade in these cities?
 - d. **Opinion:** Knowing what you know now, what do you think the benefits and drawbacks are to

the new Belt and Road Initiative? And do you think it will be successful? Answer using at least 2 pros and 2 cons.

Assessing Student Achievement:

Students' understanding will be assessed through both formative and summative assessments. Discussion will be an important tool for assessment, they will also give a presentation on their findings and complete a reflection at the end of the presentations regarding their findings.