Zheng He-China’s Naval Ambassador

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Grade Levels: 6 and High School
Duration: 2-3 class periods

Overview
Students often learn about the explorations of Christopher Columbus, Neil Armstrong, and Lewis and Clark. But how many students could cite the achievements of a Chinese explorer? Zheng He is not well known outside of Asia, but his contributions are great. By exploring his life and voyages,
students will learn about their impact on both China and the places he visited.

## Purpose

In this lesson, students will learn about the life and voyages of Zheng He and how they affected China and the places to which he traveled.

## Materials

- Life of Zheng He Graphic Organizer and Answer Key
- Life of Zheng He PowerPoint
- Voyages of Zheng He Graphic Organizer and Answer Key
- Voyages of Zheng He Map (unlabeled) [https://geoalliance.asu.edu/sites/default/files/maps/ZhengHe('_', 'Unlabeled.pdf](https://geoalliance.asu.edu/sites/default/files/maps/ZhengHe_Unlabeled.pdf)
- Voyages of Zheng He Map (labeled) [https://geoalliance.asu.edu/sites/default/files/maps/ZhengHe_Labeled.pdf](https://geoalliance.asu.edu/sites/default/files/maps/ZhengHe_Labeled.pdf)
- Voyages of Zheng He PowerPoint
- Poster Requirements with Scoring Guide
- Poster paper, crayons, colored pencils, markers
- Computer and projector

## Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Integrate information from several sources on a graphic organizer.
2. Use a map to locate places.
3. Produce a visual displaying research.

## Procedures

### SESSION ONE

1. Introduce the lesson by asking students to name any Chinese explorers they have heard of and record any student responses on the whiteboard. (Chances are, there will be nothing to record.)
2. Distribute the Life of Zheng He Graphic Organizer. Explain to students that they are going to view a PowerPoint on the life of Zheng He, a Chinese explorer. They are to complete the graphic organizer while they are watching the PowerPoint.
3. After viewing the PowerPoint, go over the organizer as a class so students may add or adjust information on it.

4. Instruct students to keep this organizer as they will need it in the future sessions.

### SESSION TWO

1. Distribute the unlabeled version of the Voyages of Zheng He Map. Project the labeled version of the map and have students label their map showing key geographic features and the locations visited by Zheng He on his voyages.
2. Next, distribute the Voyages of Zheng He Graphic Organizer. Explain to students that they are going to view a PowerPoint on the voyages of Zheng He and that they are to complete the graphic organizer while they are watching it.
3. After viewing the PowerPoint, go over the graphic organizer as a class so that students may add or adjust information.
4. Instruct students to keep the map and organizer as they will need it in the future session.

### SESSION THREE

Prior to this session, decide if this will be an individual assignment or a group assignment.

1. Distribute and project the Poster Requirements. Explain to students that they are going to make a poster on the life and voyages of Zheng He. The poster will incorporate the map they created and information from the two graphic organizers.
2. They may also do additional research on the topic using the library and/or internet.
3. Explain that their poster will be evaluated according to the Poster Requirements and Scoring Guide. The visual display can be no larger than one poster board. Writing must be large enough to read easily.
4. If posters are not completed in class, it can be homework.

## Assessment

### ELA and Social Sciences

The poster may be assessed for a social science and ELA grades using the Scoring Guide provided. A score of 80% or higher would be considered mastery. (16 out of 20 points)

## Extensions

Students could research other Chinese explorers, such as Ma Huan, Wang Dayuan, Yishiha, or Zhang

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Qian. They could report their findings in the form of a power point, brochure, or poster.

Sources


“Two Significant Maritime Achievements”, Education About Asia, Winter, 2005
Zhang, Song Nan and Hao Yu, The Great Voyages Of Zheng He, Pan Asian Publications, 2005
World Book Encyclopedia