



Welcome to Southeast Asia!

Grade Level: 9-12

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Rationale: Most students have had little to no exposure to the cultures and landscapes of Southeast Asia, and many may have under-developed understandings of the region. The purpose of this lesson is to provide students with an entry level collection of sounds and visuals which they can refer back upon while building further knowledge of the region. It is intended to be used as the very first lesson of the unit, but the photo essay itself can reappear throughout the unit for various purposes – including as a prompt for a final analysis of the region.

Time Frame: One 55 minute class period

Learning Outcomes: After completing this lesson, students should be able to:

1. Identify key geographic features of Southeast Asia,
2. Identify cultural elements found in Southeast Asia, such as clothing, economic activities, sports, transportation, music, religion, food, etc.

TEKS Objective(s):

- 5 (A) analyze how the character of a place is related to its political, economic, social, and cultural elements;
- 9 (A) identify physical and/or human factors such as climate, vegetation, language, trade networks, political units, river systems, and religion that constitute a region;
- 16(A) describe distinctive cultural patterns and landscapes associated with different places in Texas, the United States, and other regions of the world and how these patterns influenced the processes of innovation and diffusion;
- (B) describe elements of culture, including language, religion, beliefs and customs, institutions, and technologies;

Materials:

“Southeast Asia Photo Essay” - SEAsiaPhoto.wmv
“Welcome To Southeast Asia” Power Point
Computer with Projection Device and Speakers

Strategies:

OPTIC Photo Analysis Technique – TEA Lighthouse Project



Procedures:

Focus Activity: Timed Writing (5 minutes for writing + 10 for discussion)

Display the following writing prompt and give students 5 minutes to write their answer.

Describe what you know about Southeast Asia in as much detail as possible. Explain where your knowledge of Southeast Asia comes from.

After students have completed their writing, call upon a few to share their answers.

Introduction: (35 minutes)

Show the video "Southeast Asia Photo Essay". Explain to the students that the video is designed to build visual references of many of the features of Southeast Asian geography. They will analyze some of the photos in more detail later, but for now, they are just to watch the images and listen to the music. You may want to tell them that the songs are a collection of traditional and modern music from Thailand, Indonesia, and Vietnam.

After viewing the photo essay, ask the students to discuss the images they have seen. Which stood out to them the most? Why? Did these images reinforce what the students already knew, or did they change students' understanding about this region?

Photo Analysis and Notes:

Use the "Welcome to Southeast Asia" power point to further introduce students to the region. During the power point, students will be asked to complete an OPTIC photo analysis for several photos which represent different aspects of the geography of the region. Give students enough time to study and list details and perform an analysis of each photo (3 to 5 minutes each).

After completing the OPTIC for each photo, students will use their notes to determine some of the key geographic features of Southeast Asia. The students should record their analysis and notes (using whatever style of note-taking the teacher prefers) for future reference during the unit.

Note to Teacher: Make sure to note that these photos, while somewhat representative of the region, may not reflect the entire region. They will be re-evaluating their key geographic concepts as they continue the unit. Alternative or additional photos may be added as the teacher sees fit.

Closing Activity: Timed Writing (5 minutes)

Have the students answer the following question and hand in as they leave class.

How have your perceptions of Southeast Asia changed or been reinforced by today's activity?



Evaluation/ Assessment : Teacher can check student notes for completion and grade the timed writings, if desired. Below is a list of the key geographic elements students should be able to determine from the photos provided:

1. The landscape of Southeast Asia contains many rivers and mountains. It is very fragmented, and contains numerous islands and peninsulas (They will need to look at the map for this one.).
2. There is evidence of subsistence level economic activities (floating market) and commercial activities (rice paddies). There is also evidence of international trade (Coca-cola at floating market).
3. There are cities (Phnom Penh), but they may not be as developed as others found around the world. The cities are crowded, and people use many different means of transportation (boats, bikes, cars).
4. People have adapted to their environment to find places for housing (floating row houses) and economic activities (floating market). In addition, they have adapted their environment to fit their needs (terraced farming).
5. Climate must be warm and wet to support rice farming.
6. Buddhism is an important religion and receives a great deal of support – enough to generate massive icons made of precious materials. This also suggests that there is wealth in this region, but perhaps it is not evenly distributed.

Resources: The following resources were used in developing this lesson:

Photos:

"Photo Of The Day." *National Geographic Photography*. National Geographic, n.d. Web. 13 Mar. 2013. <http://photography.nationalgeographic.com/photography/>.

Songs:

All songs acquired from Amazon.com, 18 Mar. 2013.

365 DaBand. "Saigon Here We Come." *The Love Box*. N.d. MP3.

All Finalists Indonesia Idol 2007. "Bendera." *Masterpiece*. Sony BMG Music Entertainment, 2008. MP3.

"My Heart Is In Thailand." *Traditional Asian Music*. One Earth Music, Inc., 2010. MP3.

Map on Power Point:

"Southeast Asia (Reference Map)." Map. *Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection*. University of Texas Libraries, 2007. Web. 05 Mar. 2013. http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/middle_east_and_asia/southeast_asia_ref_2007.jpg.

Lesson Resources:

"Social Studies: Strategies and Skills." *Texas Education Agency Lighthouse Initiative*. Texas Education Agency, 2006. Web. 18 Mar. 2013. <http://www.tealighthouse.org/socialstudies/content.php>.