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| Lesson Topic | China’s Dynasties Unraveled |
| Class/Grade | Middle School Social Studies |
| Activity Type | Timeline Construction |
| Lesson Objectives | **The student will be able to:**   * Identify China’s ten main dynasties * Identify main achievements of each dynasty * Strengthen sequential reasoning skills * Strengthen cooperative group work skills |
| Essential Questions | How do societies maintain traditions while incorporating new ideas and technologies? |
| Standards/  Benchmarks | KSDE Social Studies: 4.2 The student will analyze the context and draw conclusions about continuity and change.  KSDE Literacy/Common Core: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.5 |
| Sources Used | * The Art of Asia – History and Maps <http://www.artsmia.org/art-of-asia/history> * Chinese Dynasties Chart: <http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/timelines/china_timeline.htm> * World History Atlas, 2003 Maps.com, Santa Barbara, CA * History Grades 4-6; Ancient China, by Maria Backus, 2002 Milliken Publishing |
| Required Materials | * Copies of ***The Dynasties of China*** chart * Copies of ***Dynasties Question & Answer*** sheet (below) * Construction paper, glue, scissors, pencil * Calculators (optional) |
| Time Requirement | Two 45 minute class periods |

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| Procedure |  |
| Pre-lesson Preparation | Note:Before beginning this activity in class, I prepare the dynasty envelopes (or have a student aid do this). For each class, cut up one chart into long strips and place it into a long envelope. I make about 5-6 of these for each class for a total of about 25-30 envelopes. I re-use the envelopes every year.   * Before starting this activity, share several maps of China displaying some of the different dynasties and their history (refer to primary source bibliography above).      * Additionally, share some of the colored overhead transparencies from Milliken’s History Grades 4-6; Ancient China. |
| Lesson introduction | * Discuss the definition for the word *dynasty* and how China was ruled by ten different dynasties during the period of ancient history and each dynasty made unique contributions. (May also contrast the length of China’s history- about 30 centuries - with that of the United States to help students appreciate the length and depth of China’s ancient civilization). |
| Activity | * Assign students into teams of 4-5 members in each team and tell them they will work together on this activity. Give each group a long envelope, a piece of construction paper on which to glue the strips, glue stick and the *Dynasties Q & A* sheet that they will work on as a team. * Each group will try and put the dynasties in sequential order from the oldest (Shang) to the last (Qing) dynasty. I encourage the students to arrange the slips fist before they glue them onto the construction paper. * Students will then answer the questions on the *Dynasties Q & A* sheet. The first question asks them to determine how main years each dynasty was in power. (You may want to give out calculators for this part of the activity) Each team may choose to answer their questions directly on the construction paper or write them on the Q & A sheet. * After the teams have answered all the questions (use discretion to allow a specific amount of time for this – some groups will work faster than others). When you call time, review the order of the dynasties and review answers to questions. |
| Wrap-up | * Allow discussion time for students to share observations they made during the course of this activity. |
| Extension/  Assessment | * Teacher observation of group work – in particular, how the student determine the sequential order of the dynasties. * Dynasties Q & A sheet * Follow-up discussion |

**Dynasty Q & Q**

Class: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Group Members:

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When your group has finished putting the timeline of dynasties together, answer the following questions. Number each answer on your dynasty sheet and answer it directly on there.

1. How many years did each of the 10 dynasties rule? Write the number right next to each dynasty.
2. How many total numbers of years were dynasties in control of ancient China? How many centuries is that?
3. Which dynasty ruled the longest? Which one ruled the shortest?
4. During the Qin Dynasty it says “*writing, weights and measures are standardized.*” What does that mean?
5. During the Zhou Dynasty who was the influential Chinese philosopher who teaches a code of behavior ?
6. During the Ming Dynasty it says “*commerce flourishes*.” What does that mean?
7. The height of trade along the Silk Road occurred during which dynasty?
8. In which dynasty did printing, poetry and calligraphy flourish?
9. During the Han Dynasty what religion was started?
10. During which dynasty did Marco Polo visit?
11. What was the name of the structure built to link the Huang and Chang rivers during the Sui Dynasty?
12. During which dynasty were oracle bones discovered that described the customs of this time period?

Bonus: During which dynasty did the United States become an independent nation? Explain your answer.