

Teacher's Guide for FACES

February 2015: Keeping Up with Hong Kong

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Getting Started

(L5) This issue's title uses the words "keeping up." What does it mean to "keep up" with someone? How does one "keep up" with another culture?

(RI6) There are numerous tourism videos about Hong Kong. Watch one and discuss the videographer's purpose. Which attractions seem to appear in various videos?

High Five

(RL2) Geography Theme: PLACE

What characteristics of Hong Kong distinguish it from other places on earth? Classify the five points into physical or human characteristics.

At a Glance

(RI1)

- Hong Kong's climate doesn't seem to fluctuate too much. Why?
- Why is it susceptible to destructive typhoons?
- If Hong Kong has no natural resources besides a harbor, why did people settle there?
- How could it grow to support 7 million people?

(RL3) The area of Hong Kong is 420-425 square miles. Compare/contrast this to where you live. How much of your state would be covered by an area this large?

Burmese Pythons: Threatened Species or Alien Invader?

(RL8) Geography Theme: HUMAN/ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

Find evidence of the positive and negative effects that have occurred because humans have interacted with the Burmese python.

(W1) What's your opinion? Is the python a threatened species or an alien invader? What, in your opinion, is the most convincing evidence?

(W3) If the python becomes extinct, imagine what would happen in Southeast Asia and South Florida. Write about the effects on both regions.

Hong Kong: Successes, Setbacks, and Survival

(L5) The subtitle uses alliteration. After reading the article, discuss the meaning of Hong Kong's successes, setbacks, and survival.

(RL7) Just by looking at the accompanying photos, which of the three "S" words seems to describe Hong Kong?

(RH3) Identify the key steps in Hong Kong's history that helped them emerge and thrive in modern times.

(W7/RL3) Conduct short research on the Capitalist and Communist systems. Compare and contrast the systems.

(SL1/RL8) Predict what will happen in 2047. Base your prediction on evidence in the text and historical issues.

Moving Around Hong Kong Then & Now

Geography Theme: MOVEMENT

(RL7) What can be learned about Hong Kong's transportation system just by the pictures? How is transportation tied to geography of this area?

(RST9) Google and look at images or YouTube videos of these three places:

- Central-Mid-Levels Escalator and Walkway
- Peak Tram
- Chek Lap Kok Airport

How do these aid your understanding of the article? What role does climate play in determining types of transportation suitable for a region?

(RI1) On the bottom of page 11, there is mention of Hong Kong's amount of green space. Why is this important, especially after reading an article on transportation in a densely populated area?

The Sweet, the Savory, and the Strange

(L5) We see another use of alliteration: sweet, savory, strange and sip supper, snack. What effect is created? Why does the author use "s" words?

Make up your own alliteration phrase to describe Hong Kong cuisine.

(RL8) Find evidence from the article stressing the importance of food in Hong Kong's culture.

(RI1) Why is there a need for neighborhood markets? What are the benefits of this?

From Sticky Buns to Dragon Racing

(RL7) What mood is created by the article's photographs? How do the photos add to your understanding of the festivals?

(RL8) Find evidence of the influence of other cultures in Hong Kong:

- Chinese: **note the colors of good fortune also happen to be the colors of the Chinese flag
- American: McDonald's (There is also a Disneyland in Hong Kong!)

(SL1) The article states, "Nearly every month, the streets are filled with colorful celebrations and festive merrymakers." Why are festivals held so often? What mood is created? How does the community benefit? Is there anything similar in the U.S.?

Dear Tommy

(RL8) Find evidence of how James and Tommy's interests have led them to their current jobs. How might this affect their college choices/ areas of study?

(SL1&2) Discuss James's comments about the Occupy movement. Then read this article from Forbes: "Occupy Hong Kong's Lessons for Entrepreneurs" by Joshua Steimle posted 1-6-15.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/joshsteimle/2015/01/06/occupy-hong-kongs-lessons-for-entrepreneurs/>

The Occupy movement is being watched by the world. What "business" lessons have been mastered by this movement?

Why is the Occupy movement popular NOW? Is this connected to 2047? How?

The Chinese Writing System

(RH9) Look at the author's credentials. Would you consider her a primary or secondary source? What would be an example of a secondary source? Find one and compare the information gleaned from them.

(RL1/RI1)

- Calculate the (known) age of the Chinese language. What can you infer from this?
- Explore the importance of forming a standard set of characters.
- Why is the Chinese language portrayed as difficult to learn?
- Based on what you learned here, is that an accurate portrayal?

Sky-High School

(RL3) Discuss the foreign exchange student program. How is this similar? How does it differ?

(RL1/RI1) The article states, "With so many cultures present, students develop respect and appreciation for all people."

1. How is this accomplished at HKIS?
2. Why is this vital?
3. Who benefits from this type of education?
4. Why is Hong Kong an ideal place for a school like this?
5. Does America have schools like this on American soil?

(RL3) Visit the school website at www.hkis.edu.hk to find middle school and high school clubs and organizations. The names of many of these will sound very familiar. But how would having such a wide variety of cultures represented in the student body make them quite unique?

The Boat Dwellers of Aberdeen Harbor

(RL7) Use the article photos to describe the economic status of the Tanka people. How does this contrast with the myriad of skyscrapers in the background?

(RH3) Create a cause/effect chart identifying the key steps leading to the demise of the Tanka culture.

(SL1) What are the ramifications of a complete culture disappearing from a region? Should steps be taken to preserve it? Who could/should lead such a movement? What can be done?

The Magic Bowl

(RL2) What is the moral of the story? Support your answer with details from the story.

(RL3) What adjectives describe these characters?

- Little Wong
- The woman
- The rich farmer
- The neighbors

Where do you see similarities? Why?

Wrap Up

Play: Would you Rather?

1. Visit a new culture or learn about it through books, media, etc.?
2. Live in a city with 7 million people or live in a rural area?
3. Live with a Burmese python or an infestation of mice?
4. Travel around Hong Kong by ferry or escalator?
5. Eat chicken feet or eel?
6. Race a dragon boat or climb a sticky bun tower?
7. Learn Chinese or Spanish?
8. Have recess on a roof or on the ground?
9. Live on a boat or in a skyscraper?

Encourage students to make up their own statements for the game. You might learn something new about the person sitting right next to you!