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HIS 111 Ancient China

This is my comprehensive website evaluation of sites that I used to implement instruction. I teach second grade and recently taught my students about China as an Ancient Civilization. Included below are some of the websites that were used in class as a means for teaching about China's history.

Background Information

Ancient China was a very advanced and efficient civilization. Dating back thousands of years, the Chinese began to make impressive and lasting inventions. Many of these are still used today in their original form, including the kite, bronze, zodiac calendar, paper, wheelbarrow, silk and the compass. These inventions have greatly influenced the culture we have today. Our main focus in 2nd grade is the understanding of how the Chinese contributed to the development of their society through inventions. We also focus on geographic aspects of the country, including the Yellow and Yangtze River, Himalayan Mountains, Gobi Desert, Asia, Pacific and Indian Oceans. We discuss how geography affected this civilization and the adaptations that were made to allow people to survive in China.

Some Suggested Websites:

"Welcome to China."

<http://www.culpeperschools.org/jdugger/2nd/China/index.htm>

Author: unkown

Last update: unknown

This website was a very good tool to both introduce China and review. This site is clearly based off the Virginia SOL's, therefore containing exactly the information 2nd Grade is responsible for learning. This website is intended for elementary age students. The site contains factual information, however it is not cited. Multiple pictures are provided to help reinforce information. Each picture contains a hyperlink allowing you to see where it originated from. This adds more credibility to the sites designer. It appears that a teacher (or group of teachers) in Culpeper County Schools is the author. For my intended purposes this site was perfect.

"History of Chinese Invention-The Kite"

<http://www.computersmiths.com/chineseinvention/kite.htm>

Author: unknown

Last update: unknown

One of the main points we focus on in 2nd grade is the Chinese Inventions. This helps the students understand where many things we use originate from, and also the concept of contribution. This website contains a great deal of information on the kite and its design. The site is referenced which makes the information have a higher level of credibility. It is important that when teaching, you are teaching correct and factual information. There are a few pictures which add detail but are not cited. For my intended purposes this site is dry. It would be better fit for older students.

"Great Chinese Inventions"

<http://www.minnesota-china.com/Education/emSciTech/inventions.htm>

Author: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Last update: unknown

This website is a great resource. It provides a lot of information about the Chinese inventions and provides pictures. The information is accurate and cited. It is not an interactive site, but the children were able to listen to information and match it to text online. The site provides links to other websites regarding Chinese Inventions. This is resourceful for older students especially.

"The Great Wall of China"

http://www.thebeijingguide.com/great_wall_of_china/index.html

Author: Peter Danford

Last Update: 2008

This site was fantastic in that it allows the children to hear various phrases in Chinese. They can then practice along and learn to speak the language! There are great images on this website of The Great Wall and some valuable information on present day activities one can do in China. There is a lot of information on the design on the towers which I was unable to find on many other sites. The children were very inquisitive on this topic so I found this helpful. The virtual tour of sleeping on the Great Wall was fascinating. One can see real people traveling and actually camping out on the wall! Here is the direct link for that

http://www.thebeijingguide.com/great_wall_of_china/accommodation_great_wall_of_china.html

"Get your name in Chinese"

<http://www.mandarintools.com/chinesename.html>

Author: Erik

Last update: unknown

This is a very interactive site that the children love. You can type in various information about yourself such as name, and birthday and then see it translated into Chinese. There are no credentials listed so I used the site as a fun tool, but a basis of information. The layout and presentation is somewhat boring, but the idea of the site is intriguing. My students thought it was very "cool" to see their names in another language.

All About Great China

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/greatwall/>

Author: Enchanted Learning

Last Update: 2008

Enchanted Learning is usually a member's only site. However, this link has educational information at an elementary appropriate level. It provides links to other information as well. Overall it covers, the Great Wall, the first emperor Qin Shi, and a map of China that shows the Great Wall. This site reviewed information on other pages and in our text. It does provide member's with reproducibles such as the Chinese flag.

Some Images:

Here are various images that I shared with my students to help further their understanding of the material:



