

An Infographic History of Central Asia

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Introduction: Central Asia; the region encompassing modern-day Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan has a long and rich history which students are rarely exposed to in traditional Social Studies classroom. This lesson will help teachers and students investigate a variety of topics in Central Asian history by doing research and ultimately producing an infographic that serves as a visual representation of their research. Building an infographic asks students to research, distill knowledge and synthesize it to create an original understanding of the topic.

Infographics are graphic visual representations of information, data or knowledge. These graphics present complex information quickly and clearly.

What is an infographic?

1. It's a visual explanation that helps you more easily understand, find or do something.
2. It's visual, and when necessary, integrates words and pictures in a fluid, dynamic way.
3. It stands alone and is completely self-explanatory.
4. It reveals information that was formerly hidden or submerged.
5. It makes possible faster, more consistent understanding.
6. It's universally understandable.

(adapted from communicationnation.blogspot.com)

Examples:

- <http://visual.ly/beyond-7-billion>
- <http://www.fastcodesign.com/1670325/infographic-the-slave-ship-chart-that-kindled-the-abolitionist-movement>
- <http://www.newsilike.in/infographics/outbreak-deadliest-pandemics-in-history/>

Learning Objectives:

SWBAT:

- Conduct research using primary and secondary sources relating to a given topic
- Formulate a specific thesis as a result of research
- Represent thesis and research graphically in a clear manner

Lesson Procedure:

1. Working in small groups, students will be assigned one of the "Central Asian Infographic Topics" and directed to research their given topic. Groups should divide research responsibilities and gather information.

2. After researching their topic, students should work within their groups, then with their teacher to formulate a specific thesis which will guide the development of their infographic.
3. Students should look at examples of infographics; try: www.coolinfographics.com <http://dailyinfographic.com> or <http://www.fastcompany.com/tag/infographic-day>
4. Students should then brainstorm ideas for infographics relating to their topic
5. Students should build their infographic, utilizing excerpts from primary and secondary sources, data, text, graphics and a clear color scheme to visually answer their given topic question.

Central Asian Infographic Topics

1. Chingghis Khan: How did Chingghis Khan create the Mongol empire?
2. The Silk Road: Was the Silk Road more important for transmission of goods or ideas?
3. Islam in Central Asia: How does Islam in Central Asia reflect its pluralist nature?
4. Nomadic Peoples of Central Asia: How have nomads interacted with sedentary peoples in Central Asia?
5. Music of the Silk Road: In what way does the music of the Silk Road reflect Central Asian culture?
6. Russification of Central Asia: How did the Bolshevik Revolution impact Central Asian countries?
7. Central Asia and the dissolution of the Soviet Union: How did nation states develop in Central Asia following the dissolution of the Soviet Union?