China’s Human-Environment Interaction Over Time

**Background:** In “Red Star Rising”, de Blij introduces us to China, and in doing so, tells his readers that most Westerners know very, very, little about the geography of China and how it impacts the Chinese throughout their significant and ancient history.

**Purpose:** Your purpose in this assignment is to gain a better understanding of not only China’s physical geography, but also a better understanding of one of the major themes of geography, Human-Environment interaction. In addition, you will be exploring some of the history of one of the most technologically advanced societies on earth, going back to dynastic times.

**Objective:** Your objective is to create a finished product that includes both a technology and written component. The technology component will showcase your research into five specific research items, and the written component will assess your ability to analyze and describe aspects of human-environment interaction through application of the research items.

**Methodology:** You will research, using approved sources, the Three Gorges Dam, Strip Mining in China, The Great Wall of China (as a means of altering the environment), Terraced Farming and the evolution of rice farming technology, and modern Chinese Air Pollution. These approved sources can be found on my website as a blendspace created in consultation with a high school librarian, Mrs. Lankau. In addition, you may use any HISD library resource (which are linked on the blendspace). After taking notes (evidence of which will be part of your final grade), you will exhibit your gained knowledge regarding the above mentioned research items via your choice of three Web 2.0 tools including Thinglink, TimeToast, or Piktochart. Finally, you will apply your recently gained knowledge in written form to a series of questions based on National Geography Standard 14, “The geographically informed person must understand the human imprint on the physical environment. Many of the important issues facing modern society are the result of human modifications of the physical environment. Some of these modifications are intended and positive; others unintended and negative. These changes have political, economic, and social implications at all scales, from the global to local.” (National Geographic)

**Product:** Your final product will include two equally weighted components. The first, the technology component will consists of your choice of following tools. Thinglink, TimeToast, or Piktochart. The second, the written component, will include your application of recently gained knowledge to four questions. Instructions for what is expected on the various technology tools and the questions follow this project page. In addition, a daily grade will be given for you MLA, APA, or Chicago/Turabian Bibliography.

**Scoring:** Several grades will be taken from this project. The bibliography will be one daily grade. The technology component will also constitute a daily grade AND will be 50% of the last grade, which will be a summative grade. You will be assessed on your technology piece, as well as your written application and analysis. A rubric is attached.
TECHNOLOGY COMPONENT: You have the choice of creating a Thinglink, a TimeToast timeline, or Piktochart infographic. All three of these Web 2.0 tools have free account access and are great ways to visually help exhibit your research to others. 50% of your summative grade will come from these tools. Links to all three tools can be found on the project blendspace. Depending on your chosen tool, you will have slightly different expectations as follows.

**Thinglink**
www.thinglink.com – your background image (that you will “tag”) must be a physical map of China. You will include a minimum of five tags of each of the five research items. These tags must include an image and description of the researched item and the tags need to be placed in the geographic location of the research item. (e.g. – the Three Gorges Dam tag should be located where the dam exists). You may include additional tags if you feel your research requires more explanation.

**TimeToast**
www.timetoast.com all researched items will be placed in correct chronological order based on their first appearance. Each item on the timeline will include an image and description of each research item. Please note that times do not need to be extremely exact. In many cases, especially with ancient dates such as you might find with terraced farming, dates might be given in categories of hundreds of years. This is perfectly okay, as it will still allow you to create a general chronological timeline. You must have a minimum of five events on your timeline, but more are welcome if you feel this shows the evolution of human environment interaction in China in a more sophisticated manner.

**Piktochart Infographics**
www.piktochart.com your infographic will be titled “Human-Environment Interaction in China” and will reference all five research items with an image and description. This is a more holistic assessment as you will need to be creative in exhibiting your research through the use of an infographic, but a well done infographic is a VERY effective means to exhibit your knowledge.

**WRITTEN COMPONENT**: You will answer the following questions in written form. No one answer shall be more than 250 words (this isn’t meant to be an exhaustive research paper, just evidence than you can use your new knowledge to analyze human-environment interaction in China). You shall answer the questions in 12 pt Times New Roman Font. A word document can be found on the project blendspace to use if you’d like. Ensure that each of your answers references at least one of the five research items.

1. Human induced changes in one place can affect the physical environment in other places. Please describe and explain how the construction of dams and levees on rivers in one region affects places downstream?

2. Explain how industrial activities (e.g., factories, electric power generating plants) affect other locations (smog).

3. The use of technology has changed the scale at which the people can modify the physical environment. Describe and explain how strip-mining technology has altered the physical environment.

4. Explain how changes in technology have altered the methods and amount of travel and therefore the effects on this physical environment (e.g.; car emissions, road building, airplane jet exhaust and noise).

5. Can the alteration of the earth’s physical environment by humans ever be positive for humans? (You may use an example outside of your researched information).