Day 7: Technology

**Standard**: 6th Grade Social Studies

**Strand**: History

**Topic**: Early Civilizations

**Content** **Statement**: 2 – Early civilizations (India, Egypt, China and Mesopotamia) with unique governments, economic systems, social structures, religions, technologies and agricultural practices and products flourished as a result of favorable geographic characteristics. The cultural practices and products of these early civilizations can be used to help understand the Eastern Hemisphere today.

**Standard**: 6-8th Grade English Language Arts (Common Core)

**Strand**: History/Social Studies

**Topic**: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

**Content** **Statement**: 6-8.8 – Distinguish among fact, opinion, and reasoned judgment in a text.

**Standard**: 6-8th Grade English Language Arts (Common Core)

**Strand**: History/Social Studies

**Topic**: Craft and Structure

**Content** **Statement**: 6-8.4 – Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.

**Objectives**

Students will be able to identify different technologies used in ancient China.

Students will be able to elaborate on the importance of technologies of ancient China.

**Intro**

Students will be shown a ceramic bowl and a bronze bowl and asked to brainstorm in pairs how life would be different based on having the technology for ceramic bowls and then bronze bowls. Ask them to make inferences about what results would happen because of newer technologies like bronze. Then, give students some images of technologies from ancient China and ask them to discuss how life would improve because of them. Students can rotate pictures after 30 seconds to a minute.

Ask students to consider why they created new technologies, and how the geography of China affected what they needed to improve upon and what they had available to create (ex. mining allowed for bronze, flooding required them to create different irrigation techniques).

Students can jot notes into their learning logs.

**Lesson Activities**

The rest of class will be time for students to conduct further research using the provided links (or printed versions) or going further on their own. They can work on how they will represent their information in their final project during this time, too. This will also be time to meet with students from the previous day’s lesson who didn’t understand the religion lesson, as evidenced by their learning log entries.

**Closure**

Students will go to their learning logs and summarize some major themes from the technologies they studied. They should focus on why the technologies were important and how the technologies can be related back to geography of China. This can be monitored as an informal assessment to see how students understand the concepts.

**Annotated Bibliography**

**Ancient Chinese science and technology. (n.d.). Confucianism and the Chinese scholastic system. Retrieved on August 1, 2013 from:** [**http://www.csupomona.edu/~plin/ls201/confucian5.html**](http://www.csupomona.edu/~plin/ls201/confucian5.html)

This site explains technologies related to astronomy and math. It also explains navigational systems created by the Chinese.

**Frater, J. (April 18, 2009). 10 great ancient Chinese inventions. Retrieved on August 1, 2013 from:** [**http://listverse.com/2009/04/18/10-great-ancient-chinese-inventions/**](http://listverse.com/2009/04/18/10-great-ancient-chinese-inventions/)

Ten different inventions with images are listed with an explanation and some history.

**Globerove. (March 29, 2010). Ancient Chinese technology. Retrieved on August 1, 2013 from:** [**http://globerove.com/china/ancient-china-technology/2378**](http://globerove.com/china/ancient-china-technology/2378)

Paper, printing, and the Great Wall of China are a few of the technologies explained in this site. Also included are the compass and gunpowder. The impact of the inventions is discussed, too.

**Inventions and Technology. (n.d.). Ancient China. Retrieved on August 2, 2013 from:** [**http://www.ducksters.com/history/china/inventions\_technology.php**](http://www.ducksters.com/history/china/inventions_technology.php)

Different technologies are listed and briefly explained. This is less detailed but provides more technologies.

**Science and technology of ancient China. (n.d.). China Travel Guide. Retrieved on August 2, 2013 from:** [**http://www.tour-beijing.com/china\_travel\_guide/china\_facts/science\_and\_technology\_of\_ancient\_china.php**](http://www.tour-beijing.com/china_travel_guide/china_facts/science_and_technology_of_ancient_china.php)

Different technologies are discussed including textile technique, pi and mathematics, gunpowder, printing, and papermaking.