Creative Learning through the Silk Road

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World View Global Education Symposium
October 14, 2009
Agenda

- Brief introduction to Silk Road – explore historical events.
- Consider the music of the Silk Road and what it can teach us.
- Think about the historical impact of the Silk Road.
- Reflect and consider additional resources for teaching about the Silk Road.
The Silk Road

- The “Silk Road” refers to a series of routes that crisscrossed Eurasia from the first millennium BCE through the middle of the second millennium CE.

- The “Internet of antiquity” (Yo Yo Ma) and a “first real conduit of globalization.”

- Late 19th century German explorer Baron Ferdinand von Richthofen named it based on the importance of silk for the people along the route.
Three “golden eras” of the Silk Road

1. 200 BCE to 200 CE: conquest of Central Asia by Alexander the Great (Han Dynasty in China).

2. 7th – 10th century CE: Tang Dynasty and spread of Islam

3. 13th – 14th century CE: Mongol Empire

Culture spread through interaction among merchants, travelers, and conquerors.
Silk Road Timeline
Music of the Silk Road
Music of the Silk Road

- Why do you think music was an important part of the Silk Road?

- What does the music of the Silk Road represent?

http://virtuallabs.stanford.edu/silkroad/SilkRoad.html
Impact of the Silk Road

Considering the flow of goods, what is the historical impact of the Silk Road?

- From China to the West.
- From the West to China.
From China to the West OR West to China?

- Tomato
- Pear
- Sesame
- Drugs and medicine
- Polychrome (many colored) silks
- Rose
- Apricot
- Peach
- Wheelbarrow
- Spinning Wheel
What is surprising?

- What surprised you while you put your timeline together, listened to the music, and considered the historical impact?

- When learning about the Silk Road, what often surprises students?
Resources

- “Along the Silk Road” Developed by the Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE) and The Silk Road Project. (2006, 263 pp) http://spice.stanford.edu/


Resources Cont.

- Along the Silk Road [http://virtuallabs.stanford.edu/silkroad/SilkRoad.html](http://virtuallabs.stanford.edu/silkroad/SilkRoad.html)


- Online Museum Resources on Asian Art [http://afemuseums.easia.columbia.edu](http://afemuseums.easia.columbia.edu)

- *Silk Road Seattle* [http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/](http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/)

- The Silk Road Project. [http://www.silkroadproject.org/](http://www.silkroadproject.org/)

Thank you

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