

iCONN Learning Activity

Religious Influence in Asian Literature

Level: High School (Grade 12)

Task: World Religions students will research world religions to understand part of the cultural background of literature discussed in the Asian Literature course.

Research Question: What is the nature of one of these religions: Buddhism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Zen Buddhism, Islam (Shi'a / Sunni), Shintoism, Jainism (branch of Hinduism), Sikhism, Daoism (Taoism), Christianity, or Sufism (sect of Islam)? List 5 beliefs of the religion. Explain 1 ritual. Describe 1 festival. Discuss 2 main events in the history of the religion. Relate 1 belief about death/ the afterlife. List 2 facts about the founder and number of adherents in various Asian countries.

Content Area(s): Language Arts – English

State Content Standard(s):

Language Arts:

Standard 2. Exploring and Responding to Literature: How does literature enrich our lives? Students will recognize that readers and writers are influenced by individual, social, cultural and historical contexts.

iCONN Database(s): *Discovering Collection, Expanded Academic ASAP, InfoTrac Student Edition*

Search Strategy:

1. Go to <http://www.iconn.org/>
2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on “Select iCONN resources”
3. Open *Discovering Collection*
4. Enter the *name of the religion* you have selected in the search box (The first search results are *Reference documents*.)
5. Look at the *Type of Article* in the far right, such as *Culture Overview, Topic Overview* or *Era Overview*, to determine relevance
6. Look at the title of the article before you open the article (You are not interested in *Asian Americans: Religion* because you are studying Asian Literature and religions in Asia.)
7. Open, read and print relevant documents
8. Click on the *additional pages*, if necessary, to see all of the *Reference documents*
9. Follow the same strategy for *Primary Sources* and *Multimedia*
10. Also, note the *related topics* to the left of the search results

Alternate Search Strategy:

1. Go to <http://www.iconn.org/>

2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on “Select iCONN resources”
3. Open *Expanded Academic ASAP*
4. Click on *Advanced Search*
5. Enter the *name of the religion* in the first search box, use the connector *AND*, and enter *Asia* in the second
6. Limit the search *to documents with full text*
7. Click *Search* (or hit ENTER)
8. Review the results list for relevant articles
9. Click on title or *Full-text* to read article
10. Print or email yourself relevant articles

Adaptations for Differentiated Learning:

Students having difficulty are given extra assistance.

Students could also use *InfoTrac Student Edition*

Search Strategy:

1. Go to <http://www.iconn.org/>
2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on “Select iCONN resources”
3. Open *InfoTrac Student Edition*
4. Click on *Advanced Search*
5. Enter the *name of the religion* (e.g., Islam) in the first search box, use the connector *AND* and enter *Asia* in the second search box
6. Limit the search *to documents with full text*
7. Click *Search* (or hit ENTER)
8. Review the list for relevant articles
9. Click on title or *Full-text* to read article
10. Print or email yourself relevant articles

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