

#10594 THAILAND

FILM IDEAS, 2004
Grade Level: 4-9
24 Minutes
3 Instructional
Graphics



CAPTIONED MEDIA PROGRAM RELATED RESOURCES

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THAILAND

Known as the "Land of Smiles", Thailand is a country filled with friendly faces and warm welcomes. Located in Southeast Asia, this enchanting land until 1939 was for centuries known as Siam. Having never been taken over by a European power, Siam was unique among countries of Southeast Asia. Its resistance against foreign occupation is a true testament to the character of the Thai people.

With an area of 198,000 square miles Thailand is a country rich with natural resources and fertile lands. Divided among four geographical regions; The Northern Mountains, The Khorat Plateau, The Central Plain, and The Malay Peninsula, its terrain dramatically changes from one region to the next.

Traces of early nomadic tribes date back nearly 40,000 years. These nomadic tribes settled into villages along the Chao Phraya River. Eventually, around 3,500 BCE, they learned farming and hunting methods along with techniques to create pottery and metals. By the mid to late 9th century competing empires such as the Khmer and Funan sought to control the region. However, in 1238 a Thai speaking people established their own kingdom known as the Sukhothai. But they too were expelled by a competing Thai monarchy known as the Ayutthaya Kingdom in 1380.

The Portuguese became the first Europeans to arrive into the region by the early part of the 16th century. Trading was established between the Europeans and Thai. However, as Europe mingled into Thai politics the Thai King banned Europeans from using any of its ports for trading.

Throughout the reign of the Rama Dynasty, which has ruled Thailand since 1782, the nation has sustained a 90% literacy rate and has developed one of the most proficient public school systems in all of Southeast Asia. Although the monarchy today is considered a figure head much like that of Great Britain it continues to receive the honor and respect of the Thai people.

Today, Thailand boasts a rich economy while becoming the world's largest exporter of rice and a major exporter of silk and electronics equipment. Its capital city Bangkok is known as the Venice of the orient and is a popular destination for many world travelers. From its white pearly beaches along the Malay Peninsula to its shopping malls in downtown Bangkok to its emerald Buddha in the Grand Palace Complex Thailand is a nation offering a smiling face for all the world to see.

Introduction & Geography of *Thailand*

For MORE geography SEE maps on pgs. 12-16

Q & A:

- 1) Q -What was the name of Thailand before 1939?
A - Siam
- 2) Q -On what peninsula is Thailand located?
A - Indochinese Peninsula
- 3) Q - Name the highest point in all of Thailand?
A - Mount Doi Inthanon at 8,514 feet.
- 4) Q - Thailand is divided into 4 distinct geographical regions. Name two of these regions?
A - The Northern Mountains, The Khorat Plateau, The Central Plain, and the Malay Peninsula
- 5) Q - What country is located along Thailand's southern border?
A- Malaysia

DISCUSSION POINTS / ACTIVITIES:

- 1) Review with the class some of the important geographic locations of Thailand on a large map.
- 2) Assign the students to create their own detailed maps on paper or a computer. Indicate on the map cities, mountains, famous sites, rivers, etc.

VOCABULARY:

THAILAND: A country located in Southeast Asia on the Indochinese Peninsula.

MOUNT DOI INTHANON: The highest point in all of Thailand at 8,514 feet.

SIAM: The name given to Thailand until 1939.

Rivers, Climates, and Seasons of Thailand

Q & A :

- 1) Q - Name Thailand's main river?
A - Chao Phraya River
 - 2) Q - Where are the headwaters of the Chao Phraya River?
A - Taunggyi Mountains
 - 3) Q - When is the cool season in Thailand?
A - From November to February
 - 4) Q - What weather pattern produces high winds and heavy rains in Thailand throughout all the seasons?
A - Monsoon
-

DISCUSSION POINTS / ACTIVITIES:

- 1) Invite a meteorologist to explain the different climate experienced throughout Thailand.
 - 2) Discuss the weather patterns which form during the wet and dry seasons in Thailand. How is the weather in Thailand the same or different from the area you live.
-

VOCABULARY:

CHAO PHRAYA RIVER: A body of water flowing 225 miles from the Taunggyi Mountains to the Gulf of Thailand.

MONSOON: A season of weather experienced in Thailand which produces high winds and heavy rainfall.

Thailand: Early History

Q & A :

- 1) Q - Explain the societies of early nomadic tribes?
A - Dating back 40,000 years they migrated throughout the region developing pottery, metals, farming and hunting methods.
 - 2) Q- What was the name of the first recorded kingdom in Thailand? Who established this first kingdom?
A- Funan / Mon
 - 3) Q - What religious teachings was introduced to Thailand in the fifth century?
A - Buddhism and Hinduism
-

DISCUSSION POINTS / ACTIVITIES:

- 1) Have the students research the origins of the Thai people using a variety of resources; internet, library, museums etc.
 - 2) Discuss how early Thai cultures lived. How were their homes built, what food did they eat and what clothes did they wear etc.
-

VOCABULARY:

FUNAN: The name of the first established kingdom in Thailand.

MON: The name of the ethnic group who established the first kingdom in Thailand.

The Khmer in Thailand

Q & A:

- 1) Q - What was the name of the kingdom which defeated Funan?
A - Khmer
 - 2) Q - What kingdom defeated Khmer?
A- Sukhothai (Thai speaking people).
 - 3) Q- What kingdom defeated the Sukhothai?
A- Ayutthaya
 - 4) Q- What does the word "Thai" mean?
A- "Free People".
 - 5) Q- What teachings did the Khmer adopt from Funan?
A- Buddhism & Hinduism
-

DISCUSSION POINTS / ACTIVITIES:

- 1) Discuss how the different kingdoms were established in Thailand. How were they the same? How were they different?
-

VOCABULARY:

KHMER: The kingdom which defeated the Funan, form Cambodia.

SUKHOTHA: The name of the kingdom which defeated Khmer.

THAI: Word meaning "Free People".

AYUTTHAYA: The kingdom which defeated the Sukhothai Kingdom.

The Arrival of Europeans in Thailand

Q & A:

- 1) Q - Who were the first Europeans to arrive in Thailand by the early 16th century?
A - The Portuguese
 - 2) Q - Why did the Thai king banned the Europeans from trading with Thailand?
A - Because they meddled in Thai politics.
 - 3) Q- Who moved the capital city to Bangkok? What name did he give the kingdom of Ayutthaya?
A - Rama I / Siam
 - 4) Q- What happen on December 8th, 1941 the day after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor?
A- Japan attacked Thailand
-

DISCUSSION POINTS / ACTIVITIES:

- 1) Have the students write a brief biography about the Rama Dynasty. Why did the people of Thailand honor and respect this popular Dynasty. What did this Dynasty do for Thailand and its people.
-

VOCABULARY:

RAMA DYNASTY: A popular line of Thai rulers whose achievements include: trade agreements with Great Britain, introduced industrial and scientific developments, abolished slavery, opened public schools and reformed the tax system.

SIAM: The name Rama I gave to the Ayutthaya Kingdom.

Thailand Today

Q & A :

- 1) Q - How many people live in Thailand today ?
A - 65 Million.
 - 2) Q - What defined the Thai Rama Dynasty from other monarchies?
A - They served the people and not their own interests.
 - 3) Q- Name two of Thailand's great modern-day accomplishments?
A- 1) A proficient school system
2) 90% of population is literate.
-

DISCUSSION POINTS / ACTIVITIES:

- 1) Discuss how Thailand has modernized itself during the past century. What are the similarities and differences between Thailand today and when Thailand was called Siam.
-

VOCABULARY:

RAMA DYNASTY: A popular line of Thai rulers whose achievements include: trade agreements with Great Britain, introduced industrial and scientific developments, abolished slavery, opened public schools and reformed the tax system.

The Capital

Q & A :

- 1) Q - What is the capital city of Thailand today?
A - Bangkok
 - 2) Q - Who moved the capital city of Thailand to Bangkok?
A - King Rama I
 - 3) Q- What main river flows through Bangkok?
A- Chao Phraya River
-

DISCUSSION POINTS / ACTIVITIES:

- 1) Assign the students to locate Bangkok on a map. Then imagine you are a world traveler about to visit Bangkok. Research sites you would like to visit in Bangkok and throughout Thailand.
 - 2) Cultural understanding is key toward creating a better world. Assign the students to exchange their cultural background with a Thai American. Perhaps eat at a Thai restaurant, interview a Thai American immigrant, research authentic Thai clothing, visit a Buddhist temple, read about the teachings of Hinduism and Buddhism, listen to Thai music, etc.
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VOCABULARY:

BANGKOK: The capital city of Thailand.

GRAND PALACE COMPLEX: The most popular "Wat" or Buddhist temple built by Rama I to house the emerald Buddha one of Thailand's most unique art treasures.

KLONGS: Small canals flowing through Bangkok which are connected to the Chao Phraya River.

WATS: The name of buddhist temples.

The Government of Thailand

Q & A :

- 1) Q - Who holds the ceremonial and symbolic power in Thailand today?
A - The King
- 2) Q - Who holds the real power in Thailand today?
A - Parliament and Prime Minister.
- 3) Q- Who makes the laws in Thailand today?
A- Members of the National Assembly which consists of the House of Representatives and Senate.
- 4) Q-Who elects the Prime Minister?
A-Members of the House of Representatives
- 5) Q- Who is the king of Thailand today?
A- King Bhumibol

DISCUSSION POINTS / ACTIVITIES:

- 1) Discuss how the Thai government is different from the U.S. government? How is it the same?
- 2) Discuss the different styles of government (Democracy, Oligarchy, Monarchy) represented throughout the world. Give examples of each style.

VOCABULARY:

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: A body of members consisting of the House of Representatives and the Senate who make the laws.

KING BHUMIBOL: The King of Thailand today.

CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY: The Parliament and Prime Minister.

The Thai Economy

Q & A :

- 1) Q-Name two products produced in Thailand?
A - Silk, Rice, Electronics
- 2) Q - Where are the old temples in Thailand?
A - Ayutthaya
- 3) Q- What activities would a traveler do in Thailand?
A- Visit old temples, enjoy the beaches or nature hikes through the Northern Mountain region.

DISCUSSION POINTS / ACTIVITIES:

- 1) Thailand manufactures many different products. Visit a manufacturing plant and experience how products move from the assembly line to your local merchandise store. How are products overseas exported?
- 2) Discuss how products exported from Thailand are used in the United States. Perhaps visit your local retail store and find items which have been imported from Thailand.

VOCABULARY:

AYUTTHAYA: The old kingdom city where the sites of ancient shrines are located.

SILK: A tough elastic fiber produced in Thailand. Thailand is the world's leading producer of this product.

The People and Culture of Thailand

Q & A:

- 1) Q -What is the Golden Triangle?
A - Groups which are formed by the countries of Thailand, Laos and Myanmar in the northern mountains.
 - 2) Q - What is the nick name of Thailand?
A - "Land of Smiles"
 - 3) Q - What are the origins of 75% of the people in Thailand?
A - Thai ancestry
 - 4) Q - What exotic animal is revered in Thailand?
A - The Elephant
-

DISCUSSION POINTS / ACTIVITIES:

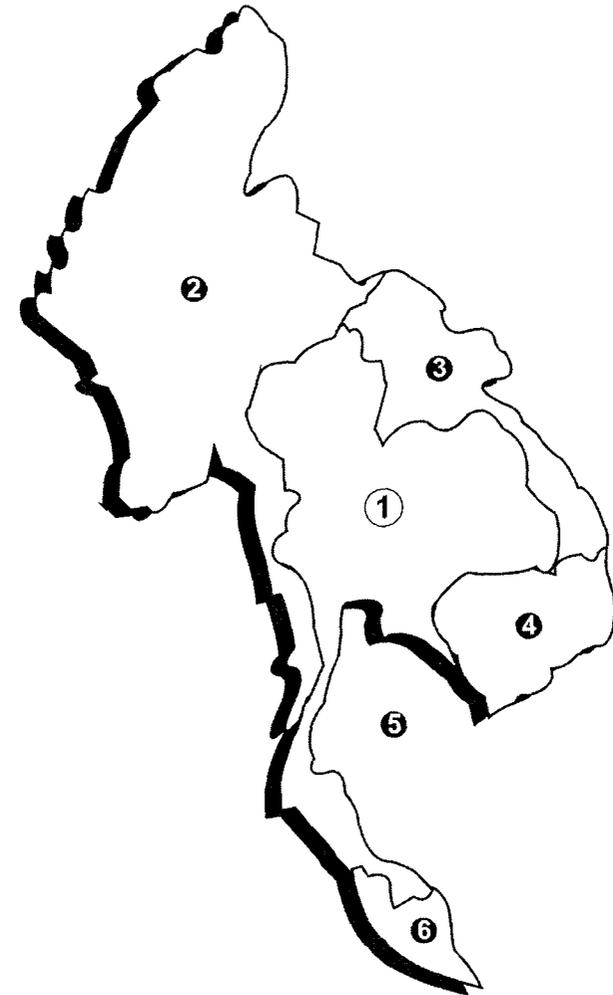
- 1) Discuss the popular rituals practiced in Thailand. Compare and contrast these rituals to those of other countries and traditions.
-

VOCABULARY:

HILL TRIBES: The 6 main tribes living in the northern mountains of Thailand, Laos and Myanmar. Their ancestry makes up 10% of the Thai people.

GOLDEN TRIANGLE: Another name given for groups living in the Northern Mountains of Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar.

Map #1 of Thailand



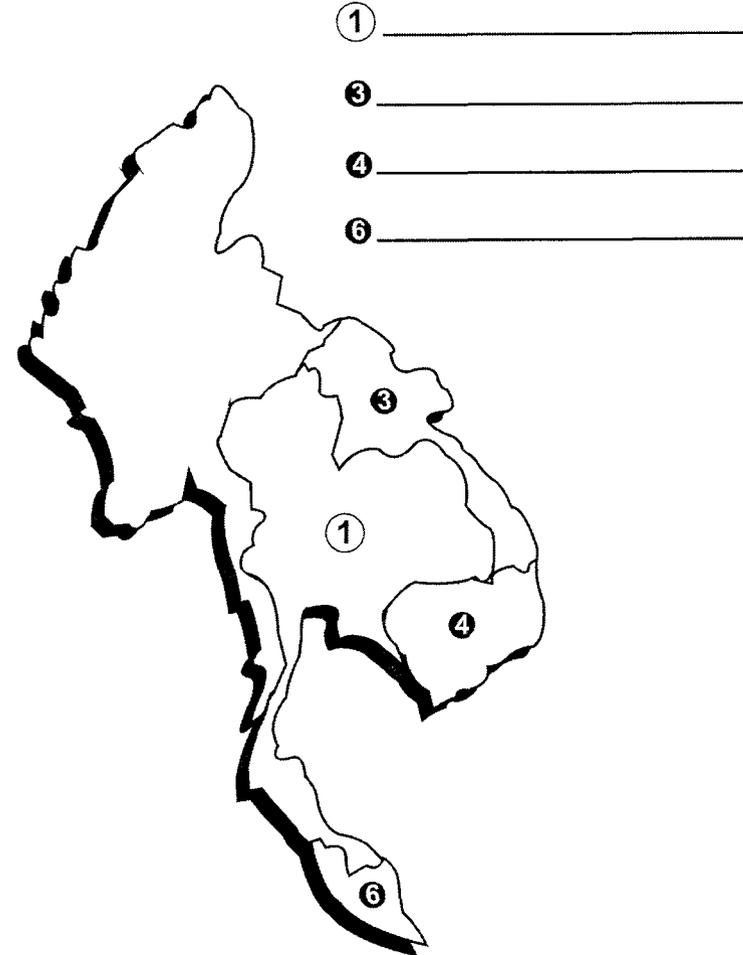
Map #1 of Thailand

Study the modern-day map on pg. 12 and its significant locations numbered 1-6. Then test your geography skills on pg. 14.

- ① **THAILAND:** A country, with a land mass of 198,000 square miles, located in Southeast Asia on the Indochinese Peninsula. Its widest point in the north is 500 miles across while its narrowest point is 12 miles wide and it has a population of 65 million people.
- ② **MYANMAR:** The country located along Thailand's northwest border.
- ③ **LAOS:** The country located along Thailand's eastern border.
- ④ **CAMBODIA:** The country located along Thailand's southeast border.
- ⑤ **GULF OF THAILAND:** The body of water located along Thailand's southern shore.
- ⑥ **MALAYSIA:** The country located along Thailand's southern border.

Map #1 of Thailand

Study the map and locations on pgs. 12 & 13. Then on the solid black line write the name of the location. On a separate piece of paper write a brief description of each location.



Map #2 of Thailand

Study the Map & Its Significant Locations



- ❶ **BANGKOK:** The Capital City of Thailand today. It has a population of 5.5 million people and is Thailand's largest city. It is also the home of the popular emerald Buddha shrine one of Thailand's most unique art treasures.
- ❷ **AYUTTHAYA:** The old kingdom city where the sites of ancient temples and shines are located.
- ❸ **GOLDEN TRIANGLE:** Area where groups of hill tribes are living in the Northern Mountains of Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar.

Map #2 of Thailand

Study the map and site descriptions on pg. 15. Then write the name of the location on the solid black line. On a separate piece of paper write a brief description about each location.



- ❶ _____
- ❷ _____
- ❸ _____

TIMELINE of **THAILAND**

- **40,000 years ago:** Traces of nomadic tribes migrating throughout Southeast Asia.
- **5000 BCE:** Nomadic tribes learn to farm and grow crops.
- **3,500 BCE:** Nomadic tribes learn to make pottery.
- **2,500 BCE:** Nomadic tribes learn to work with metals.
- **100 CE:** The Kingdom of Funan is established.
- **600 CE:** Thai speaking people arrive in the region.
- **800 CE - 1050 CE:** The Kingdom of Khmer is established.
- **1238:** The Thai establish the Kingdom of Sukhothai.
- **1380:** The Kingdom of Ayutthaya conquers the Kingdom of Sukhothai.
- **1500's:** The Portuguese become the first Europeans to arrive in the area.
- **1688:** The Thai King prohibits Europeans from using the ports of Thailand for trading.
- **1782:** King Rama I moves the nation's capital to Bangkok.
- **1851:** Rama IV reopens the ports for European trade.
- **1905:** Rama IV abolishes slavery.
- **1932:** A military coup establishes a new government
- **1939:** The name of the country changes from Siam to Thailand.
- **1941:** Japan attacks Thailand.

WORLDQUEST

SERIES

SPAIN

ITALY

AUSTRALIA / NEW ZEALAND

GREAT BRITAIN

MEXICO / CARIBBEAN

IRELAND / SCOTLAND

GREECE

SOUTH AFRICA

THAILAND

VIETNAM

Consider Visiting These Web Sites:

<http://www.amazing-thailand.com/Map.html>
http://sunsite.au.ac.th/thailand/thai_his/
http://www.csmngt.com/thailand_history.htm

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