SCPS GUIDED LEARNING FOR SOCIAL STUDIES
GRADE 7 WEEK #10

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:
- What are the basic beliefs of Shintoism?
- What are the basic beliefs of Buddhism?
- How are shintoism and Buddhism similar and different?
- How has the Coronavirus impacted your life?

PROCEDURES:
- Assignment #1 - read the article for Comparing Shinto and Buddhism and answer the questions and complete the Venn diagram.
- Assignment #2 - Read the journal entry prompt.
- Construct a journal entry that answers the questions in the prompt.

WORK TO BE RETURNED:
- Questions and Venn Diagram for Comparing Shinto and Buddhism.
- Primary source/Journal Entry for Week #10

RESOURCES:
- Article on Comparing Shinto and Buddhism.
- Writing prompt for Diary/Journal Entry #10; Article

TIME ALLOCATED:
- 2 (30) minute Assignments

ASSIGNMENT #1

Directions: Read the following text and complete the Venn Diagram. Then answer the questions on your own paper.

COMPARING SHINTO AND BUDDHISM

It can be confusing to tell the differences between the religious affiliations of a temple or shrine if you are not familiar with religious practices in Japan. Shinto is the predominant religion practiced by almost 80% of the population. Numerous temples and shrines in Japan give visitors a glimpse of the unique culture and rich history of the country and its people. There are also so many religious festivals celebrated in Japan with traditional pomp and it's simply a must to catch at least one whenever going for a visit.

Shinto (神道 Shintō, “way of the gods”) is the ethnic religion of Japan focusing on ritual practices carried out diligently to establish a connection between the ancient past and modern times. Shinto practices can be traced all the way back to the Kojiki and Nihon Shoki. These ancient Japanese writings are historical records of a collection of Japanese mythology and native beliefs. Modern Shinto focuses on public shrines devoted to the worship of the thousands of Shinto gods (kami), each one having a specific purpose.

Buddhism was introduced to Japan by five Chinese monks from Gandhara who traveled to Japan during the Kofun period (250 to 538). Through the years, Buddhism has had a major influence on Japan’s history and culture. Buddhism soon became the Japanese state religion according to national policies; Buddha was made into a Japanese deity and coexisted with other Shinto gods.

Shinto shrine:
- Shinto shrines make use of the suffix jingu after the shrine name.
- The entrance of a Shinto shrine is marked by a torii gate.
- Shinto shrines have statues of a pair of guardian lions or dogs (shisha or komainu) that often greet you at the entrance.
- Purification fountains are found near the entrance of a Shinto shrine where you can cleanse your mouth and hands before praying.

Buddhist temple:
- Buddhist temples use the suffix ji after the temple name.
An image or statue of Buddha is always found in a temple.
A large incense burner is usually located at the front of the temple where smoke from the incense is believed to possess healing powers.
A pagoda is usually found on the grounds of the temple.

Use the information from the text to compare and contrast the two religions: Shintoism and Buddhism in the Venn Diagram below. If the fact describes only Shintoism put it underneath “Shintoism”, if it applies only to Buddhism put it under “Buddhism”, and if it describes both put it in the middle under “both”.

Shintoism

Buddhism

Both

Optional: If you are doing this in Google Classroom please use this link to connect to the google slides assignment to complete the Venn Diagram. https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1UJrriPtvpJvTe5nmleKcEK3aqXsL7Z1E58PYOHbZVro/edit#slide=id.p

Answer the following questions on your own sheet of paper in complete sentences.

1) What percentage of the population in Japan follows Shintoism?
2) Explain the main focus of the Shinto religion.
3) Where can Shinto practices be traced back to?
4) What does modern Shinto focus on and what do they call their gods?
5) How and who introduced Buddhism to Japan?
6) Who or what is the god for Buddhism?
7) How is the Shinto temple entrance marked?
8) What do most Shinto temples have to greet people who come to them?
9) What can always be found within a Buddhist temple?
10) Why are incents normally burned at the entrance of a Buddhist temple?
ASSIGNMENT #2

Directions: Read the following article, then respond to the writing prompt on your own paper.

Creating a Primary Source Document

Remember over the next few weeks, you will be asked to write a diary/journal entry once a week about “Life during the Great Pandemic of 2020.” This week you will read an article about “flattening the curve.” You will find out how many people are trying to “flatten the curve”.

What it's Like to be Asian During the Coronavirus Pandemic
USA Today, 4/14/20

Sourcing Information: USA Today is an internationally distributed American newspaper. It was founded on September 15, 1982. It is printed at 37 sites across the United States and at five additional sites internationally. With a weekly print circulation of 726,906, a digital only subscriber base of 504,000, and an approximate daily readership of 2.6 million, USA Today is ranked first by circulation on the list of newspapers in the United States.

Carl Chan was shopping in San Francisco, California. He covered his mouth to cough a little. A couple standing about 20 to 30 feet away from him starred in alarm. Then the woman turned and ran away. Another time, he was walking down a street in Oakland, California. He was in a group of people when someone started coughing. It wasn't Chan, but people turned around, glared at him and covered their mouths.

The dirty looks happened in early March. It was before California Governor Gavin Newsom ordered the state's 40 million people to stay at home. It was before the coronavirus killed thousands of Americans and infected thousands more.

During the pandemic, Asian Americans across the U.S. have become the target of xenophobic and prejudiced attacks. Xenophobia is the fear and dislike of people from foreign countries. Experts said the scapegoating is fueled by harmful speech from politicians. Experts said this includes President Donald Trump. He later called for the protection of Asian Americans from xenophobic attacks after repeatedly calling COVID-19 the "Chinese virus." On March 23 he posted a message online. Trump called Asian Americans "amazing people." He said the epidemic is "NOT their fault in any way, shape or form."

Asian Americans Yelled At, Even Physically Assaulted

Russell Jeung works for San Francisco State University in California. He leads the Asian American Studies Department. He’s been studying harmful incidents against Asian Americans during the pandemic. Jeung said that in recent months, people from all Asian backgrounds have been mistreated. It is not just Chinese Americans. People have been yelled at, coughed and spat on and even physically attacked, he said.

Face masks are often worn in Asian countries for cultural and environmental reasons. The practice has crossed over to Asian communities in the United States. Now masks are a racial symbol of the virus. Jeung gave an example. If Asian Americans wear masks, they are seen as disease carriers. If they do not wear masks, they are seen as disease carriers who are acting careless, he said.
There are many stories of harassment reported in the media and by groups that fight against discrimination. Many police departments have not seen a change, though. They said they have not seen a large rise in the number of hate-crime reports related to COVID-19. This suggests that people might have doubts or fears about reporting these incidents to the police.

**Concerned that Incidents are Not Being Reported**

Steve Mylett is the police chief in Bellevue, Washington. He is concerned that incidents are not being reported. He said that hate crimes normally start as verbal attacks. Then they escalate into physical violence. It is important for law enforcement to get involved early, before the situation becomes more dangerous, he said.

Jeung, the San Francisco State professor, said there are several reasons why people might not want to report to police. Many Asian Americans are cautious about dealing with the government, he said. Some left their home countries to escape authoritarian governments. One ruler or a small group of leaders has the real power in authoritarian political systems. Authoritarian governments might hold elections and they might have contact with their citizens. However, citizens do not have any voice in how they are ruled. Their leaders do not give their subjects free choice. Instead, they decide what the people can or cannot have. Some people who have been targeted came to the United States without permission and are fearful of calling attention to themselves. Speaking different languages can also be an issue.

Jeung recently teamed up with two groups in California that fight against discrimination. They launched a website. It allows people to report incidents without including their names. They received 673 responses in one week from across the country.

**Chinese Americans Not the Only Targets**

The incidents did not only involve Chinese Americans. They involved Japanese, Koreans, Taiwanese, Vietnamese and Filipinos. This highlights that Asian Americans from many backgrounds are facing unfair treatment, Jeung said. Some reported being coughed at and spat on. Some said they were yelled at in stores by workers and customers, who blamed them for bringing the virus to the country. Some said drivers from companies like Uber and Lyft refused to give them rides.

In Oakland's Chinatown, the unfair treatment has hurt business, said Chan. Family businesses began losing money. Many of them were started years ago by people who came to the United States for a better future for their families. "Personally, I feel very sad ... When I'm quietly sitting down, I just feel so sad," Chan said. "Many of us are really suffering."

**Prompt:** In this week’s journal entry, you will explore the topic of prejudice and mistreatment of a group of people based on a misunderstanding. Explore the topics listed below with regard to the coronavirus and the mistreatment of Asian Americans that was described in the news article. Create your journal entry on your own sheet of paper.

1. What do you know about the origins of the coronavirus? How did this lead to the discrimination of Asian Americans?
2. What do you think it would be like to be an Asian American during this pandemic? How would you handle the situation? Would you report any incidents that occur? Why or why not? If you are an Asian American, have you experienced any discrimination since the coronavirus pandemic hit? If so, describe your experiences.
3. Have you ever been the victim of mistreatment based on other people’s misunderstandings and prejudices? This could be based on just about anything: how good your grades are, your physical appearance such as your height or weight or hair color, athletic ability, etc. Explain the circumstances of the incident. How did it make you feel? What lesson did you learn when you were on the side of being discriminated against? What should you do if you see someone being discriminated against?