ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:
- How has the Coronavirus impacted your life?
- How can prejudices lead to the mistreatment of groups of people?
- How have Chinese inventions impacted the past and the present?

PROCEDURES:
- **Assignment#1** Read the text, “Compass and Gunpowder.”
  - Circle or highlight the correct answer to each multiple choice question based on your reading.
- **Assignment #2** Read the article, “What It’s Like to be Asian during the Coronavirus Pandemic”. Answer the guiding questions in the boxes as you read. Read the journal entry prompt and construct a journal entry that answers the questions in the prompt.

WORK TO BE RETURNED:
- Multiple Choice Questions about the Compass and Gunpowder
- Guiding questions as you read; Primary source/Journal Entry for Week #9

RESOURCES:
- Text - “Compass and Gunpowder”
- Writing prompt for Diary/Journal Entry; Article

TIME ALLOCATED:
- 2 (30) minute Assignments

ASSIGNMENT #1

**Directions:** Read the text below and then circle or highlight the correct answer to each multiple choice question based on your reading.

**Chinese Inventions -- Compass & Gunpowder**

By Vickie Chao

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1. Have you ever had an idea that didn’t quite turn out the way you intended when you put it to the test? That "surprise" element is something an inventor is very familiar with. A case in point is Leo Szilard (1898 - 1964) who patented the idea of a nuclear chain reaction in 1934. Though Leo Szilard came up with the idea and helped the U.S. government create the first atomic bomb, he was adamantly against using it on moral grounds. Despite his repeated pleas, the U.S. government dropped two atomic bombs in Japan in 1945 and effectively ended World War II.

2. Leo Szilard was certainly neither the first nor the last inventor whose product was being used in a way different from its initial design. Looking back in history, there are two Chinese inventions that can attest to that statement. The duo is the compass and gunpowder.

3. The earliest-known compass dates from China during the Warring States Period (475 B.C. - 221 B.C.) At the time, people used an instrument called "Sinan" for fortune telling and other spiritual applications. A Sinan consisted of two components. The first, top part was a metal spoon made of loadstone. The second, bottom part was a square bronze plate with markings pointing to twenty-four different directions. Because loadstone aligned with the Earth’s natural magnetic field, the spoon’s handle would always point to south when placed on the plate. The ancient Chinese quickly realized the potential application of this direction-finding devise. So they began to work on improving its stability. The compass of later days had a magnetized needle on a round plate. Its first recorded use as a navigation tool on ships was during the Northern Song dynasty (960 A.D. - 1127 A.D.)

4. The invention of the compass was not well known to the rest of the world until Zheng He came along. Zheng He was a royal envoy of the Ming dynasty (1368 A.D. - 1644 A.D.) He made seven ocean voyages between 1405 and 1433. His Treasure Fleet, consisting of more than 30 ships and 30,000 men, went to places as far as today’s Somalia in eastern Africa. Through his expeditions, Zheng He opened up trade routes for China. Through his expeditions, he built diplomatic relations with other countries. And of course, through his expeditions, he showed the usefulness of a compass in marine navigation. Caught up by the idea, Christopher Columbus used a compass for his journey in 1492. He sailed from Spain and traveled west. After being at sea for about 70 days, he finally reached land. He thought the land was India, his final destination. But it was not. The land Christopher Columbus discovered was America!
Gunpowder is a mixture of sulfur, saltpeter, and charcoal. While the three ingredients are safe enough by themselves, the compound is not. If set on fire, the concoction can produce a powerful explosion. Chinese alchemists stumbled upon this combination in the 8th century as they experimented with ways to prolong life. Shortly after the discovery, the Chinese military began to use gunpowder in warfare. They made several new weapons. For example, they created rockets by launching gunpowder from bamboo tubes. They shot arrows tied with packets of igniting gunpowder.

Gunpowder was introduced to the Arab world during the 13th century. Then, it made its way to Europe sometime during the 14th century. Ironically, though the Chinese invented gunpowder, they never fully utilized it to its potential. They restricted themselves to using it more for firework displays than for military combats. The Chinese's lack of interest in developing new applications for gunpowder was a costly mistake. When Europeans came to China in the 19th century demanding free trade, they attacked China with cannons and other weapons using, what else, gunpowder!

Shade in, circle, or highlight the correct answer based on the reading.

1. Who invented the compass?
   - A. The Chinese
   - B. The Spaniards
   - C. The Japanese
   - D. The Koreans

2. What was the original purpose of the compass?
   - A. To prolong life
   - B. To cure illness
   - C. To tell fortunes
   - D. All of the above

3. When did Leo Szilard patent his idea of a nuclear chain reaction?
   - A. 1934
   - B. 1954
   - C. 1943
   - D. 1945

4. What dynasty was Zheng He from?
   - A. The Warring Period
   - B. The Northern Song dynasty
   - C. The Yuan dynasty
   - D. The Ming dynasty

5. What was the original purpose of gunpowder?
   - A. To prolong life
   - B. To kill enemies
   - C. To tell fortunes
   - D. To find directions

6. Which of the following about gunpowder is INCORRECT?
   - A. Though the Chinese invented gunpowder, they didn't use it as extensively in military as the Europeans.
   - B. Gunpowder is a mixture of three ingredients -- saltpeter, charcoal, and sulfur.
   - C. The ancient Chinese called gunpowder "Sinan."
   - D. Gunpowder was introduced to the Arab world during the 13th century.

7. What Chinese dynasty had the first written record of using the compass on ships?
   - A. The Northern Wei dynasty
   - B. The Northern Qi dynasty
   - C. The Northern Song dynasty
   - D. The Northern Zhou dynasty

8. How many directions could a Sinan point out?
   - A. 48
   - B. 28
   - C. 24
   - D. 20
ASSIGNMENT #2
Directions: Read the following article, then respond to the writing prompt.

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 stared 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, Taiwanes, 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?