Name: _____ Date: _____

Communist China Webquest
Part I - Who is Mao?



1. Read *Mao's Short Biography*

2. Read *Mao's Political Biography*

3. Answer the questions below.

Describe the China Communist Party. Who began this organization?

When and how did Mao Zedong come into power?

Who influenced Mao's political beliefs? Simply stated what were those beliefs?

Describe the kind of government Mao led.

List at least three things Mao accomplished during his rule as head of the Republic of China.

When and how did the Mao lose his power?

Part II - What is the Great Leap Forward



1. Watch the video on *The Great Leap Forward*

2. Answer the questions below.

In 1958, Mao started the Great Leap Program that was meant to make China more money quickly. What was Mao's goal for China according to this video? Who did he want to compete with?

Describe what a commune is? How did they start? Explain the people of China's reaction to this new program.

With the idea of communes of 25,000 people; describe what a typical day was like for adults and children.(Think: labor, food, health)

Explain how China's competition with the Western world and US was connected to the Great Leap Forward. Why was steel so important?

Although steel was very important to Mao and making money for China; the government also wanted to focus on farming. What does the expression “The corn will grow higher if desired” mean for China?

Competition in the communes began to make Mao and the government happy. Soon the government officials began to inflate (or make up) how much grain was grown in the communes and the state would then come to collect the grain to sell and feed the people in the cities. An example is a commune would report raising 10 tons but only grow 5 tons (this is inflation).

What happened to the peasants because of these fake numbers?

Was the Great Leap Forward an economical success (make money for China)? Was it good for the people of China? Explain.

Because of the Great Leap Forward program's bad farming ideas and weather conditions (drought and floods) from 1958 to 1960, China had one of the worst famines ever. In 1958, there was a lot of grain grown in China, but not enough peasants to pick it. Then in 1959, a chemical was used to get rid of birds that ate locusts (insects that eat crops).

What happened to that food supply?

The famine in China from 1958 to 1960 was created by at least three things. List them in the order you think is the most important.

1.

2.

3.

Part IIb - Famine



1. Read the NY Times article Mao's Great Leap to Famine
2. Answer the questions that follow.

Who are they blaming for the death of over 40 million? Considering that WWII killed 80 million, was the Great Leap Forward a success?

Worldwide we still do not know about the exact numbers of people who died during the famine in China from 1958-1960 that killed over 30 million Chinese. Why do you think Mao and his party have tried to keep the details secret?

Part III - The Cultural Revolution



After the Great Leap Forward program, many people in China wanted reform (change).Mao was afraid that the people wanted to change China from a communist country to a capitalist country like America.

In 1966, he created the Cultural Revolution that basically got rid of anyone against the Communist Party. His supporters created the Red Guard.

1. Please read *Origins of the Cultural Revolution*

2. Answer the following questions.

Who were the people of China supposed to pledge their alliance to? Why did Mao need this alliance, what was he afraid of?

What was the main reason for the Cultural Revolution according to this reading?

Part IIIb - Destroy the Four Olds

1. Please read *Destroy the Four Olds*
2. Answer the following questions.

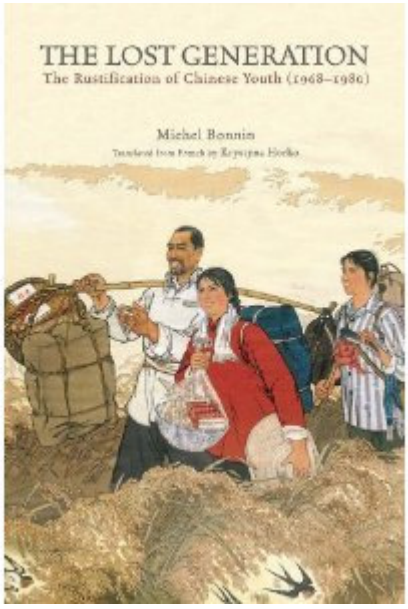


Who were the Red Guard and what was their main purpose?

What were the "Old Four"? How did Mao and the Red Guard plan on destroying this concept? Were they successful?

Part IV - Cultural Revolution & the Arts

1. Please read *Attack of the Arts*
2. Answer the following questions.



Who was Mao's wife? What was her connection to the arts?

Why did the Mao government attack the arts? What were they trying to prevent?

Explain how they were going to get rid of the arts and music from this reading.

Part V - Children in the Cultural Revolution

1. Please read *The Rustication of Urban Youths*
2. Answer the following question.

   Explain the reason Mao wanted the kids of the city to be sent to the country to work. What were they hoping to do**?**

Part VI - Let the Cartoon tell us…



Please look at political cartoon above and summarize in your own words the relationship between the China's beliefs under Mao's rule and the Western world (USA)

Additional Questions

Critique the success or failure of communism in China. Create a claim question.

Affirm (agree/pro/yes/true) your claim with one piece of evidence.

Refute (disagree/con/no/false your claim with one piece of evidence.