



#8806

# SINGAPORE & MALAYSIA

Grade Levels: 7-13+  
50 minutes  
LANDMARK MEDIA 1998

## DESCRIPTION

Singapore and Malaysia are economic leaders in Southeast Asia with multiethnic populations that live cooperatively together. Their standards of living and diverse economies draw businesses and tourists. Gives the history of countries, their political structures, festivals, religions, problems, and economic bases. Presents each as a strong, stabilizing presence in this part of the world.

## INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To depict life in modern Singapore and Malaysia.
2. To overview the history of Singapore and Malaysia.
3. To introduce the current and future challenges in Malaysia and Singapore.

## VOCABULARY

- |                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. abode                  | 9. mainland       |
| 2. colony                 | 10. opium         |
| 3. constitutional monarch | 11. parliament    |
| 4. contradiction          | 12. regimentation |
| 5. cuisine                | 13. sultan        |
| 6. East                   | 14. tourism       |
| 7. headhunter             | 15. West          |
| 8. indigenous             |                   |

## AFTER SHOWING

### Discussion Items and Questions

1. Discuss modern-day Singapore.
  - a. How is Singapore an area of contradictions?
  - b. How is Singapore an Asian melting pot?
  - c. How has Singapore pursued relentless Western style development?
  - d. What are Singapore's primary domestic products?
  - e. What is the significance of the Chinese New Year for Singapore workers?



- f. What is the significance of the name, *Singapore*?
- g. Why is the lion Singapore's national animal?
- h. How does Singapore compare to the four other Asian economic dragons?
- i. How has Singapore overcome its lack of natural resources?
- j. What role do fish and orchids play in Singapore's economy?
- k. What is the obvious modern legacy of British colonialism?



2. Discuss the history of Singapore.
  - a. What was the role of Singapore in relation to pirates and opium?
  - b. Why was Singapore considered a safe haven for drug traffickers until the late 18<sup>th</sup> century?
  - c. What was the role of Sir Stamford Raffles in colonial and modern Singapore?
  - d. How was the 1942 Japanese conquering of Singapore the greatest defeat in British history?
  - e. How did Singapore pay dearly during World War II for its military prominence? How were the Allies and locals devastated?
  - f. How did the opening of the Suez Canal effect Singapore?
  - g. What is the significance that Singapore was colonized largely by British East India Company convicts?
  - h. How was the 1948 move to self-government a step towards independence?
  - i. How did Singapore gain its 1965 independence?
  - j. What was Singapore's former relationship to Malaysia?
  - k. How has the return of Hong Kong to China influenced Singapore?
3. Discuss the welfare state of Singapore.
  - a. What makes Singapore a welfare state?
  - b. How prevalent is public housing?
  - c. How does free public education figure into the definition of a welfare state?
  - d. Why are there virtually no unemployment benefits in Singapore?
4. Discuss religion in Singapore.
  - a. What are the predominant faiths in Singapore?
  - b. What is the role of Malaysian immigrants religion in Singapore?
  - c. What is the significance of the Sultan Temple?
  - d. Why do many Malay immigrants take a three-hour lunch on Fridays?
  - e. How do Hindu Tamils in Singapore show their love of life?
5. Discuss food in Singapore.
  - a. Why is Singapore called the cuisine capital of Asia?
  - b. What has allowed Singaporean food to have such variety at low cost?
  - c. What is the basic staple food in Singapore?
  - d. What are typical Chinese, Indian, and Malaysian foods in Singapore?
  - e. Why is food called a religion in Singapore?

- f. Why does the video say that people in Singapore have no time for cultural activities?
6. Discuss environmental issues in Singapore.
  - a. What is the climate in Singapore?
  - b. Why are there high car taxes in Singapore?
  - c. What are the ecological concerns in Singapore?
  - d. Why is such a small portion of Singapore committed to agriculture?
  - e. How is Singapore's government working to make it cleaner and greener?
  - f. Why is public transportation so widely used?
  - g. Why is much of the natural flora and fauna of Singapore gone?
  - h. What is the purpose of preserves in Singapore?
7. Discuss the current government of Singapore.
  - a. What proof is there that the Singapore government believes in tight regimentation?
  - b. What is the significance of the saying, "Singapore is a **fine** country!"
  - c. How much free speech do residents of Singapore enjoy?
  - d. Why does the video say that big brother is alive, well and in control in Singapore?
  - e. What is ironic about the fact that Singapore used to be a safe haven for drug traffickers until the late 18<sup>th</sup> century?
  - f. What evidence is there that Singapore values economics over politics?
  - g. What is the importance of Singapore's status as a city-state?
  - h. What culture values influence Singapore's government to place the good of all society over the good of the individual?
  - i. In what ways is Singapore a model society?
8. Discuss the people of Singapore.
  - a. What is the ethnic mix of the Singaporean people?
  - b. What is unusual about the ethnic diversity in Singapore?
  - c. How does the American expatriate in the video describe modern life in Singapore?
  - d. Why is Singapore the most crowded nation?
  - e. Why do locals refer to themselves as Singaporean rather than by their ethnic background?
  - f. What is a true Singaporean?
  - g. What is the significance of the fact that most people in Singapore descended from immigrants?
  - h. What are common jobs for people in Singapore?
9. Discuss religion in Malaysia.
  - a. What is the prevalent religion in Malaysia?
  - b. What is liberal about the Malay's practice of Islam?
  - c. Why are kissing, cuddling and raising one's voice frowned upon by Malays?



## Applications and Activities

1. Research the impact of increasing economic interdependence in different regions of the world.
  - a. How have global communications and changing international labor demands shaped new patterns of world migration since World War II?
  - b. What caused the emergence of the Pacific Rim economy and economic growth in South Korea and Singapore in recent decades?
  - c. What have been the effects of new transport and communications technology on patterns of world trade and finance?
2. Investigate the history of Southeast Asia.
  - a. How have ocean currents affected cultural contact between India and Southeast Asia? What is the evidence for this contact?
  - b. Why did Singapore stop being the capital of Malaysia?
3. Sample typical foods that may be found in Singapore by visiting local restaurants or using recipe books to cook. Consider the following dishes:
  - a. Chinese dumplings and duck head soup
  - b. Indian shish kabobs and bread
  - c. Malay dishes with peanuts
4. Debate living in Singapore. Include the following considerations: no homelessness, no crime, a strong economy, rigid restrictions of personal freedom and stringent punishments.
5. Compare the governments of Singapore and Malaysia with American, Canadian and European governments.
  - a. What are each government's strengths and weaknesses?
  - b. How are laws made? How are lawbreakers dealt with? Who leads the country?
6. Investigate places in the world where ethnic Chinese are powerful and plentiful in the world.
  - a. How much of the world's population speak Chinese?
  - b. What role do ethnic Chinese play in and out of China in the global market?
  - c. Why may it be wise to learn the Chinese language?
7. Plan a trip to Malaysia and Singapore. Include places of historical, environmental, cultural and economic importance on the itinerary.
8. Recall the most striking visual images from the video. Recreate the images by using still life drama sculptures, visual art, poetry or written description.
  - a. What about the visual image caught the eye?
  - b. How is this visual image different or the same as a visual image in American culture?



## RELATED RESOURCES



### Captioned Media Program

- Destination: Southeast Asia #8696
- Hong Kong #8761
- I Love My City: Penang #3481
- Malaysia #2573
- Singapore #2580



### World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid-safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **ASIAN WWW VIRTUAL LIBRARY**

<http://coombs.anu.edu.au/WWWVL-AsianStudies.html>

Comprehensive and fully searchable with alphabetical and categorical browsing.

- **SINGAPORE**

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/sgtoc.html>

This Library of Congress site features a country overview with economic, geographic, and historical data.

- **WORLD HISTORY: HYPERHISTORY**

<http://www.hyperhistory.com>

HyperHistory presents 3000 years of world history with a combination of colorful graphics, lifelines, timelines, and maps.

- **HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE**

<http://www.hongkong.org/>

The official site of the Hong Kong government in the U.S. provides news and information about Hong Kong and useful links to Hong Kong Government's main Web Site.

- **ASK ASIA**

<http://www.askasia.org/>

Includes specific information geared for students and teachers in addition to an incredible overview of Asia.