



Student Activity

Myanmar (Burma) **Beyond Our Borders Series**

Vocabulary:

separatist, advocates, refinement, paranoia, monopolized, patronizing, administrate, humiliating, power vacuum, resistance fighter, ironically, suppression, genesis, nationalized, eradicate, pidginized, protesters, indiscriminately, appease, articulate, non-violence, landslide victory, house arrest, sacred relics, reclining Buddha, Nirvana, homage, Shin Pyu, novice, alms, meditation, resigned, prolific, acacia tree, Thanaka, nats, intervening, pagodas, reminiscent

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

What country used to be called Burma? Do you know why its name was changed?

Where is this country located? How would you describe its geography?

Why do many Americans and Canadians feel a connection with Myanmar or, as it used to be called, Burma?

What kind of people are the Burmese? Are they a very aggressive people? How do you know?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

Which region of Myanmar did you find the most interesting? Which region would you most like to visit?

Why have human rights been suppressed for so long in Myanmar? Do you think the country will ever become a democracy? Why or why not?

Why do you think that Aung San Suu Kyi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize? Why is she still under house arrest?

Why are there so many temples and pagodas in Myanmar? What other evidence tells you that Buddhism is a very important to the Burmese people?

Further Activities:

Further investigate the life of Aung San Suu Kyi to determine how she became such an important figure in Burmese politics.

Find maps that provide greater detail of the geography of Myanmar. Compare these to maps that summarize agricultural activities in Myanmar.

Further investigate the culture of the Paduang people or other Burmese hill tribes.

Investigate the history of rice production in Myanmar and determine if rice production is still important to Myanmar's economy.

Research and report on the recent cyclone devastation in the Irrawaddy Delta region of Myanmar.