Discovering the Identity of Modern-Day Mongolia: The Legacy of the Silk Road

Objective: By the end of this lesson students will have collected information from a variety of sources and used this information to complete the guided questions. Through conversation with their peers, and as a class, students will write a short response reflecting on the experience.

Essential Question: How can students in California discover and understand how the legacy of the Silk Road has helped to shape the *identity* of modern-day Mongolia? By studying Mongolia's history and its connection to the Silk Road, students can see how historical events and cultural exchange have a lasting impact on a people's sense of self.

Directions: Visit the various inquiry centers and examine the resources that are available to you at each station. Consider what type of tool each resource is and identify specific facts and evidence from each source that will help you gain a better understanding of Mongolia.

Station 1: Mongolian Nomadism	
What is a nomadic culture? Why is nomadism important to the identity of Mongolia?	
What is a *ger* and why is the *ger* significant to this culture?	

To be Mongolian means you have a nomadic mindset. What is this mindset and why is it different from our own?	
What questions would you ask a nomadic family today, if you could?	

Station 2: Mongolian Geography & Conservation	
Literally, where is Mongolia located? What countries surround Mongolia, making it a landlocked country? What are the implications of being a landlocked country?	
What is "internal migration" and how is it changing modern-day Mongolia in both positive and negative ways?	

The final paragraph of the *National Geographic* article says "Ceremonies are conservation." Why is this true, according to the article?	
Are the "old ways" like those mentioned in the folk meteorology article still helpful today? Why has it lasted for centuries?	

Station 3: Mongolian Art & Religion	
"Somebody had to be the bridge." This was spoken by Ariun Sanjaajamts in her video. What does she mean when she says this? A bridge between what?	
Why are scholars in Mongolia working so hard to restore and retain Buddhist texts (the ultimate collaboration between art and religion)?	

How are art and Buddhism connected? What sets them apart?	

Station 4: Mongolian Games & Traditions	
Think about where the term ankle bone comes from and how is it an example of using what you have in clever ways? How does it reflect Mongolian traditions? How do these games stay popular in today's world?	
Any similarities between these games and ones you've played growing up?	
What games would you share with people from another culture if you got the chance and why?	

Group Reflection: Discuss these 3 questions at your table. Jot notes. Be ready to share as a class.	
How has the legacy of the Silk Road helped shape the *identity* of modern-day Mongolia?	
Additionally, what surprised you or was new to you today about Mongolia?	
How can today's lesson help you better understand the concept of *identity*?	

Discovering the Identity of Modern-Day Mongolia: The Legacy of the Silk Road: How would you describe the legacy of the Silk Road in Mongolia today? Write a 4-6 sentence paragraph below.

Final Reflection: In 5-7 thoughtful sentences, explain which of the four stations you visited resonated with you the most. Be sure to explain why!