
Section 2—*Snapshots of Experts*

Aims

- To extend participants' knowledge of the specific countries and topics highlighted in the *Snapshots of Asia* series and develop their confidence in teaching about them
- To familiarise participants with the *Teacher Guide*, particularly the country-specific starting points
- To raise participants' awareness of 'Asia experts' available to assist in teaching studies of Asia

Introduction

During this section, speakers with specialist knowledge of the countries highlighted in the *Snapshots of Asia* series present an overview of the physical and cultural aspects of life in these countries, focusing on topics from the *Snapshots* texts.

Their presentation will take participants beyond the introductory information presented in the big books and stimulate a deeper interest in the physical and cultural aspects of life in these countries. This presentation should address the issue of stereotyping, place topic-related information in a contemporary context, highlight contributions made by people from the country concerned to the world and refer to Australia's ties with the country.

Planning for Delivery

Invite experts to sit on the panel and brief them appropriately:

- discuss the themes of their presentation using Resource 1 as a guide
- ensure they are familiar with the *Snapshots of Asia* series and the *Teacher Guide*
- offer them the opportunity to set up an appropriate display
- assist them with their presentation needs.

Photocopy overheads

Time should be allowed for participants to interact with the experts.

Expertise Required

Depending on the needs of the audience, workshop leaders will decide on the expertise and the number of specialists required. Panel experts need to have specialist knowledge of the physical and cultural aspects of a country highlighted in the *Snapshots of Asia* series.

Panel members should be familiar with the *Snapshots of Asia* series, including the *Teacher Guide*, prior to presenting.

Resources Required

The specialists may choose to use audio-visual and print resources as well as a variety of relevant artefacts as part of their presentations. They could be invited to set up a display which can be available for participants to view before and after the presentation.

Overhead projector and pens

Snapshots of Asia big books available for panel experts

Teacher Guide

Bibliography

Refer to Resource 1.6

Delivering the Section

1. Welcome and Introduction

Show **OHT 2.1: ‘Workshop Aims’** and briefly outline the aims of the section.

2. Discussion: Who is an Asia Expert?

Welcome and introduce each panel member, describing their background and area of expertise. Briefly discuss sources that teachers can draw on when looking for ‘Asia experts’. Sources could include academics, community members, members of subject associations, school students who have lived or travelled in Asia, etc.

A brief overview of the *Teacher Guide* will be followed by the presentations of the Asia experts. Discuss in advance with the presenters whether they would prefer participants to ask questions during their presentations or wait until the conclusion.

3. Getting Specific about *Snapshot Countries*

Show **OHT 2.2: ‘Format of the *Teacher Guide*’**, explaining that it provides additional information and suggestions for classroom activities relating to the texts. Highlight and describe the section relating to country-specific starting points.

Show ‘**OHT 2.3: Ideas from the Text and Beyond the Text**’ and remind participants that in **Section 1—*Introducing Snapshots*** they were introduced to these generic ideas which can be used when studying all six countries.

Show **OHT 2.4: ‘Country-Specific Ideas’**, and explain that this section includes teaching ideas specific to the six countries. It should be noted that experts are valuable resources who can assist teachers and students to build upon these ideas and enrich their studies of Asia.

4. Presentations by Panel

Experts address the group, focusing on some of the topics and themes from the *Snapshots of Asia* texts. Refer to **Resource 2.1: ‘Suggested Themes and Topics to be Covered by Asia Specialists’** for some ideas. Ensure that there is plenty of time for participants to interact with the specialist either during the presentation or at the conclusion.

5. Reflecting on State/Territory Curriculum Documents

It may be appropriate to include a discussion with participants of the potential of the *Snapshots of Asia* series in supporting students to meet the learning outcomes from relevant State or Territory curriculum documents and the national benchmarks.

Workshop Aims

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Format of the Teacher Guide

1. Snapshots of Asia Overview

2.1 Planning Ideas

2.2 Country-Specific Starting Points

- **Setting the Scene**
- **Ideas from the Text and Beyond the Text**
- **Country-Specific Activities**
- **Country-Specific Concept Map**

2.3 Using Topics as Specific Starting Points

Ideas from the Text and Beyond the Text

That's a fact board

Text innovation

What text is that?

Maps and graphs

Travel brochures

Word level activities

Guest speakers

Letters

Classification

Country-Specific Ideas

Setting the Scene

Specific Text Forms in *Snapshots* of:

Developing Literacy

Mathematical Concepts

Integrating other Learning Areas

Resource 2.1**Suggested Themes and Topics to be Covered by Asia Specialist**

The following themes and topics are highlighted in the *Snapshots of Asia* series. Presentations may cover aspects of these themes which are unique to the country being explored. Keep in mind that participants are responsible for the education of junior and middle primary school students and so items of interest to students of that age group would be particularly interesting.

- Give an overview of the country's history and geography
- Describe family life
- Discuss different types of transport
- Describe items of environmental and architectural interest
- Outline a typical day of a primary school student
- Describe a family's outing to the markets/shops
- Discuss the types of food eaten and how it is prepared
- Outline typical leisure and cultural pursuits of young children

General discussion points to address:

- identifying and challenging negative stereotypes that persist and remain obstacles to the understanding of modern Asia.
 - contemporary issues, identifying issues or events in your country that have current and local interest and relevance
 - contributions made by the peoples of your country to the world
 - Australia's relations with your country
 - recommendations resources for teachers to develop their own and students' knowledge of your country (include Internet, relevant organisations, general references, etc)
 - ask the Asia specialist to work collaboratively with a group of teachers to develop curriculum around the topic presented
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