**Name:**

**Block: Background Essay – Document A**

**Teacher:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| In 1949, after a civil war that had lasted more than 20 years, Mao Zedong and his communist revolutionaries (fighters) won control of China. Mao’s revolution (fight) was based on the **communist** idea of everyone being equal.At this time, China was a poor country, having suffered through years of war, disease (sickness), and natural disasters (lack of rain). Its population was the largest in the world and growing. How would China feed and take care of all of its people? Against the advice of some of his friends, leader Mao called for people to have even more babies. “Of all things in the world,” said Mao, “people are the most important.” More people, Mao thought, would mean more workers, and more workers would mean a stronger China. Birth control was discouraged.http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-gpz59uJjhGs/Tlr6UEIr8TI/AAAAAAAAFEI/L31WTBM1Ebk/s1600/china_one_child.jpgOne of Mao’s early goals was to catch up to the standard of living of countries like the United States. To this end, people across the country were forced to abandon farming and help create a China that made steel. This movement, called The Great Leap Forward, included a program to build backyard ovens for making steel.  |  | But with too many ovens replacing farms, China soon ran out of food. A devastating famine (lack of food) killed an estimated 30 million people. As a result of this disaster, Mao changed his mind about population and birth control and in the late 1960’s, introduced the phrase, “Late, Long and Few.” The idea was for couples to marry late, wait a long time before having children, and then, when they did have kids, have only a few. Between 1970 and 1979, the amount of children being born, went down. But even then, Communist Party officials feared that China’s population, now close to one billion, was growing too fast! Their solution was government program called the one-child policy (rule).China’s one-child policy (rule) limits Chinese couples to one child each. However, there are a few exceptions (people who don’t have to follow the rule). First, the one-child limitation only applies to **Han Chinese**, a racial group that makes up about 90 percent of the population. It does not apply to minority groups (people of different races), who are permitted two or even three children. Second, the policy (rule) has not always been followed. Communist leaders have begun to worry that there will soon be more old people than young people in China. As a result, some couples in cities are allowed to have more than one child. Also, the one-child policy has not been evenly enforced. In some places couples who have broken the one-child policy have had to pay large fines (give money), or been punished with forced **sterilization** (make it so the woman and man can’t make anymore babies). In other places, couples covered by the policy have two or even three children without being punishedIt will be your job to decide if China’s one child policy (rule) was a good or bad idea and if something similar should happen in the U.S.A. |

**Directions**: Use the background essay to find the answers to follow vocabulary phrases. You do not need to use text evidence or citations.

Communist:

Han Chinese:

Sterilization:

**Directions**: Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Make sure to use the word that is underlined in your response. Make sure to use both text evidence and proper citations in every answer except for number 4.

1. In what year did China become a Communist country?
2. What was Mao Zedong’s position on population growth? What evidence is there that Mao’s Great Leap Forward was a failure?
3. What is the one-child policy (rule)? What are two of the exceptions (people who don’t have to follow the rule) to the policy (rule)?
4. In your opinion, why would rural (country) people have more trouble accepting the one-child policy (rule) than city people?

**Document ‘A’**

**Source:** Population Division of the Department of Economics and Social Affairs, United Nations, *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision.*

**China’s Population**

Post – 2010 guess based on United Nation’s information. Numbers are rounded to the nearest million.

1. In what year and at what number is China’s population expected to peak (be the highest)?
2. Between 1960 and 1980, a growing number of Chinese leaders became worried about population growth (the amount of people in China). What is happening to China’s population between 1960 and 1980?
3. What is happening to China’s population overtime? Does this mean that China’s One Child Policy is working? Explain your thinking.

**Document ‘B’**

**Source:** Feng Wang and Cai Yong, “China’s One Child Policy at 30,” *Brookings*, September 24, 2010.

|  |
| --- |
| Even before the program started, there were questions whether the one child rule necessary given the potential costs. At the time of the rules start in 1980, China had already made progress in slowing the number of babies being born. The number of children being born per woman went from 5.8 in 1970 to 2.7 in 1979. The one child policy (rule), critics warned, would destroy families and cause the average of people in China to increase dramatically. Also, to make sure that everyone was following a rule so extreme and unpopular for families who relied on children for working and old age support, the number of people breaking the rule would be large. China’s one child policy (rule) just continued a trend or pattern that was already happening, but it is not the main reason accounting for China’s low birth rate today today. The claim by Chinese leaders that the one child policy (rule) has helped stop 400 million births simply cannot be proven or backed up by facts. Most of China’s slowing population growth started before the one child policy. In countries without a forceful and costly rule as China’s, birth rates (population growth) has gone down. |

|  |
| --- |
| **How many children an average woman is giving birth to:** |
|  | **1979** | **2008** |
| Brazil | 4.2 | 1.9 |
| China | 2.7 | 1.7 |
| South Korea | 2.9 | 1.2 |
| Thailand | 3.6 | 1.8 |

1. Why do some people say that the One Child Policy was unnecessary? Use the chart and the text.
2. Based on this document, as China’s one-child policy (rule) been a good idea? Provide evidence.

**Document ‘C’**

**Source:** Jonathan Watts, “China’s one-child policy means benefits for parents – if they follow the rules,” *The Guardian,* October 25, 2011

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Li Tianhao has just given birth to a baby boy blessed with his mother’s nose, his father’s mouth and an impressive ability to sleep through even the loudest disturbance.It is skill the newborn will be fortunate to maintain as he has been born in Henan, the most crowded province in the world’s most populous nation…Yet he will probably grow up alone. Although Henan last year became the first province in China to register its 100 millionth resident – giving it a population bigger than any country in Europe – it also claims some of the greatest successes in taming demographic growth through its family planning policies. This has not happened by accident. Henan is one of the most environmentally stressed areas of China with a quarter of the water and fifth of the land per capita compared to the already low national average. |  | Senior family planners say this justifies rigid restrictions. “The large number of people has put very big pressure on all resources, especially water,” said Liu Shaojie vice director of the Population Commission in Henan. “Over 30 years of effort, we have put in place a systematic procedure for controlling the population. That has eased the impact on the environment. We are doing glorious work.”This policy was initiated primarily for economic and education reasons, but it is increasingly cited as an environmental blessing. According to Liu, the population controls have kept sulfur dioxide emissions down by 17.6% and reduced water pollution by 30.8%. Without the one-child policy, he says, the average person in Henan would have a third less land and a quarter less forest.**Note: Sulfur dioxide is released by coal-burning power plants. It is a major cause of asthma and bronchial infection and is a big contributor to Chin’s poor air quality.** |

.

1. What evidence does Population Commission official Liu Shaojie provide to show that the one-child policy is “an environmental blessing”?
2. Do you think environmental concerns like air pollution, water pollution, and overcrowding justify a one-child policy? Explain.

**Document ‘D’**

**Source:** Susan Greenhalgh and Edwin A. Winckler, *Governing China’s Population,* 2005.

|  |
| --- |
| Perhaps the people that have benefited most from the one-child policy have been young women living in the city. With no brothers to compete for their parents’ attention and money … theses teens have been taught to value educational and career success and provided the resources with which to achieve it. Expert Vanessa Fong argues that this group of young city girls has been given the power to challenge some of the …the old stereotypes in Chinese culture…In cities such as Shanghai and Dalian, young women today enjoy a marriage market that favors brides and a job market with attractive opportunities earmarked for “feminine” applicants. Indeed, some of the hottest and best paying jobs (bilingual secretaries, public relations, fashion models) are open only to young women … For these young women, the one-child policy seems to be a real blessing. |

1. How have young women in the city benefitted from the one Child Policy? Provide text evidence and list the answers that apply.
2. What good things about does this document say about China’s one child rule?

**Document ‘E’**

**Source:** Laura Fitzpatrick, “A Brief History of China’s One – Child Policy,” *Time,* July 27, 2009.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| The one-child policy (rule) relies on a mix of (punishments and rewards). Depending on where they live, couples can be fined thousands of dollars for having an “extra” child without permission, and reports of forced sterilization (making it so women can’t have a child) are common… Those who volunteer to have only one child are awarded a “Certificate of Honor for Single-Child Parents.” Since 1979, the law has prevented some 250 million births, saving China from a population explosion the nation would have difficulty taking care of.But critics of the policy (rule) say that there are many bad things that come from the law, mostly gender discrimination. With boys being preferred instead of girls, cases of girl babies getting hurt have risen dramatically in areas where the one child rule has been in place.  |  | The resulting gender imbalance (more men than women) widened after 1986, when ultrasound tests and abortions (ending the pregnancy) became easier to come by. An April 2009 study published in the British Medical Journal found China still has 32 million more boys than girls under the age of 20.The total number of young people is a problem as well; factories have reported youth-workers shortages in recent years, a problem that will only get worse. In 2007 there were six adults of working age for every older person, but by 2040 that ratio is expected to drop to 2 to 1. People fear that with too few children to care for them, China’s elderly people will be hurt. |

1. How is the ratio of working adults to old people expected to change in China? What problem might this change cause?
2. What good things about does this document say about China’s one child rule? What bad things does it say are coming from this rule?

**Document ‘F’**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Source:** Jamie FlorCurz, “China copes with promise and perils of one-child,” *CNN,* October 29, 2011. <http://www.cnn.com/2011/10/28/world/asia/china-one-child/> |  | **Source:** Louisa Lim, “China’s ‘Little Emperors’ Lucky, Yet Lonely in Life,” *NPR*, November, 2010.<http://www.npr.org/2010/11/23/131539839/china-s-little-emperors-lucky-yet-lonely-in-life> |
| **Note:** An internet survey of 7,000 Chinese only children between the ages of 15 and 25 found that 58 percent admitted to being lonely. A majority also describe themselves as being selfish; However, many enjoyed being the “sun” around which the family revolved. (Source: NPR, November, 2010) |
| **Xiao Xuan** |  | **A.J. Song** |
| The high cost of the one-child policy is felt deeply by Beijing resident Xiao Xuan, and only-child daughter of a college professor and shopping mall manager. Xiao, 22, says she was blessed with all the attention and resources showered at her from childhood.Still, she says, she had a mostly lonely childhood. "I used to cut myself on my wrist after being yelled at by my mom and dad because I didn't know who I should talk to or turn to," she says. "I was like that for almost two years, but I am very tough so I made it through.""I hate to say it but the one-child policy should partly be blamed for some social issues of youth today," she adds. "It's been ridiculous government interference on family issues."She wished she had a brother or a sister to share all the attention. |  | A.J. Song, 23, is the only child in his family, which is from a small village in Guizhou province. Song says his parents gave him everything, and his cousins, most of whom have siblings, are very jealous of him. He says he probably would not be living in Beijing if he had had to share his parents' attention and resources."I really appreciate [being the] one child, especially from the countryside… "My parents, they give me everything. I'm the center of attention in the family. My mother has seven brothers and sisters; my father has six brothers and sisters. Most of my parents' brothers and sisters have two kids. They are all very jealous about me being the only child," he says."If I had a sibling, I probably wouldn't be who I am now. Probably I'd still be in my small village, getting married and having kids. If you have more kids in your family, probably they're lacking in education, lacking food, lacking any kind of support, no matter emotional or financial. Basically everybody is going to be average," he says.…Chinese research finds advantages to being an only child: They tend to score higher on intelligence tests and are better at making friends. |

1. How does Xiao Xuan feel about the one-child policy? What are her reasons?
2. How does A.J. Song feel about the one-child policy? What are his reasons?
3. Which only child, Xiao Xuan or A.J. Song, would you rather be? Explain your answer.