

## Nanking Lesson Plan

**Central Historical Question:**  
*What happened during the Japanese invasion of Nanking?*

### Materials:

- PowerPoint
- Documents A-C
- Sourcing Organizer
- Corroboration Organizer

### Plan of Instruction:

1. Explain that today students are going to be exploring what happened during the Japanese invasion of Nanking. They will be doing this by comparing different textbook accounts of the invasion and attempting to figure out the source information for the textbooks. They will then compare the textbook accounts to a third source. In order to begin this investigation some background information is necessary.
2. Use PowerPoint to establish or review background information for the invasion of Nanking.
  - a. Context: Japan, 1930
    - i. Japan suffered from economic problems.
    - ii. Japan was geographically small.
    - iii. Goals of Japan's military leaders:
      1. expand Japan's empire to gain more raw materials
      2. restore Japan's power in Asia and the world
  - b. Invasion of China
    - i. Japan invaded China's northern region of Manchuria in 1931.
    - ii. This area was rich with iron and coal.
  - c. Invasion of Nanking
    - i. Nanking was China's capital.
    - ii. Japan invaded Nanking in December 1937.
  - d. Present historical question of the lesson: *What happened during the invasion of Nanking?*
3. Reiterate that students are now going to read two textbook accounts of the invasion of Nanking. Pass out documents A and B along with the Sourcing Organizer.
  - a. In pairs, students read the documents.
  - b. Students try to determine the sources for each textbook and use evidence from each textbook to back their claims.
  - c. Students share out responses:

