



SERVICE LEARNING

TRIP 2008

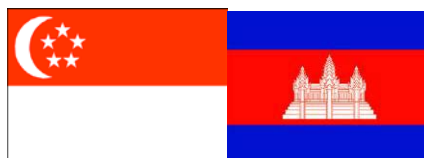
“Be the Change You Want to See in this World”

- Gandhi

WORKSHEETS & REFLECTIONS

Name: _____

CAMBODIA (18 – 24 Dec 2008)





CONTENTS

NO.	TOPIC	PAGE
I	Map and Flag of Cambodia	03
II	About Cambodia – A Timeline of History	04
III	Rise & Fall of Civilisation	08
IV	Human Settlement	10
V	Rice Cultivation	11
VI	Colonialism	12
VII	Fall of Khmer Rouge	13
VIII	The Price of the Wrong Step	15
IX	Economy	17
X	Reflections	19

I. MAP AND FLAG OF CAMBODIA



NATIONAL FLAG



The national flag of Cambodia is the seventh since 1948, when the country gained its independence. All flags (except one) have bore a representation of Angkor Wat, a sacred temple in Cambodia. There are three colors in the current Cambodian flag; blue, red, and white. The blue on the top and bottom symbolizes the Royalty. The red surrounding the temple symbolizes the Nation, and the white (temple) symbolizes the Religion. The national flag of the Kingdom of Cambodia reflects the trilogy of "Nation, Religion, and King"-the motto of Khmer monarchy. This is the only country that bears an actual building in its flag. *What do the colours and design of the Singapore flag represent?*



II. ABOUT CAMBODIA – A TIME LINE OF HISTORY

The Funan Kingdom (68 – 550CE), believed to have started around the first century BC, is the first known kingdom of Cambodia. The kingdom was strongly influenced by Indian culture by shaping the culture, art and political system.

An alphabetical system, religions and architectural styles were also Indian contributions to the Funan Kingdom. There is archeological evidence of a commercial society in the Mekong Delta that prospered from the 1st to 6th centuries. By 6th century, a vassal state, Chenla (550-802CE), conquered over Funan.

ANGKOR EMPIRE (802-1431CE)

Returning from the island of Java (following the fall of the Sailendra dynasty to the Sanjaya kingdom), a Khmer prince declared himself the ruler of a new kingdom (802-1431CE) during the 9th century uniting the divided Chenla kingdom. Known as Jayavarman II, he started a cult that honoured Shiva, a Hindu god, as a *devaraja* (god-king) which then linked the king to Shiva.

He also began the great achievements in architecture and sculpture while his successors built an immense irrigation system around Angkor. His successors (26 of them from the early 9th to the early 15th century), built a tremendous number of temples - of which there are over a thousand sites and stone inscriptions (on temple walls).

By the 12th century, Cambodia had spread into other areas, now known as Thailand, Laos, Myanmar and Malaysia (the peninsula). There is actually still evidence of Khmer inhabitation in Thailand and Laos to this day.



The 13th and 14th centuries were not as successful for Cambodia, some believe it was due to the increased power of (and wars with) Thai kingdoms that had at one time paid homage to Angkor. Others believe it was due to the induction of Theravada Buddhism, which was totally contrary to the Cambodian societal structure at that time. After this time historical records are rather sketchy at best regarding Cambodia and it is considered the "Dark Ages" of Cambodian history. The latest theory relates to the mismanagement of water causing poor production of rice coupled by the attacks from the Thais and Vietnamese.

Cambodia was ravaged by Vietnamese and Thai invasions and wars up until the 19th century, when new dynasties in these countries fought over control of Cambodia. The war that began in the 1830's almost destroyed Cambodia. King Norodom signed a treaty that enabled the French to be a protectorate, thus effectively stopping the Viet-Thai war within. For the next 90 years, France in essence ruled over Cambodia.

THE COLONIAL POWERS (1863-1953CE)

Although officially they were just advisors, it was known that the French had final say on all topics of interest. Although the French built roadways and made other improvements regarding trade and transportation, they sadly neglected the Cambodian educational system, which is still not effective to this day.

In 1953, Cambodia managed to gain their independence in spite of World War II and the First Indochina War. Their independence was obtained through the political savvy of King Sihanouk. Wanting to be released from the pressures of the monarchy, Sihanouk abdicated the throne and became a full time politician.



He started a political faction called the People's Socialist Community (Sangkum Reastr Niyum) which then won by a landslide in the 1955 national elections. In part the success was due to his popularity, but also from police brutality at the polling stations.

In 1960, when his father died he was named head of state (up until then he'd been the prime minister). Although he had remained neutral in a struggle between the US and USSR regarding tensions in Vietnam, he changed his position in 1965 and eliminated diplomatic relations with the US.

At the same time he allowed the Communist Vietnamese access to Cambodian soil to set up bases. With the Cambodian economy becoming unstable, Sihanouk decided to renew his relations with the US, who were secretly planning on bombing Cambodian areas suspected of housing Vietnamese Communists.

While Sihanouk was abroad in 1970, he was ousted from power and fled to China. General Lon Nol, the prime minister, had hoped for US aid, but the US was occupied with Vietnamese troubles and didn't help. In the meantime, since his army was ill-equipped, they couldn't stop an invasion by the South Vietnamese, searching for North Vietnamese.

To add to Lon Nol's problems, Sihanouk had been persuaded to set up a government while in exile, called the Khmer Rouge. The Khmer Rouge became a thorn in Lon Nol's side along with the Vietnamese until the Khmer regime collapsed. Another contributing factor to the collapse was the repeated US bombing of the Cambodian countryside. In 1975, the Khmer Rouge was able to take over Phnom Penh and shortly thereafter, the North Vietnamese were occupying South Vietnam.



THE GENOCIDE REGIME (1975-1979)

The Khmer Rouge felt antipathy toward Cambodians living in urban areas and forced them to the countryside where they were forced to work in various forms of agriculture. Leading the Khmer Rouge was a man by the name of Saloth Sar, better known as Pol Pot. The government, Democratic Kampuchea (DK), was run in part by rural Cambodians who were illiterate, but had fought along with the Khmer Rouge in the war.

The derision and ill-treatment felt towards the former city dwellers was slightly better than the treatment of anyone intellectual, religious, and those who were believed to be against the regime - their punishment was death. During Pol Pot's (Khmer Rouge's) regime over twenty percent of Cambodia's population was murdered.

The Khmer Rouge's plan to attack Vietnam and other areas backfired when the Vietnamese surprised Cambodia with an attack of over 100,000 troops. They were accompanied by Cambodian Communist rebels and managed to invade Phnom Penh, which had been vacated by the Khmer Rouge the day before.

The Khmer Rouge, Pol Pot among them, fled to the Thai-Cambodian border, where they were given asylum by the Thai government, which was unfriendly to Vietnam.

THE VIETNAMESE OCCUPATION (1979-1989)

The Vietnamese established a regime in Cambodia that included many members of the Khmer Rouge as well as Cambodians who had fled to Vietnam before 1975. Not to be swayed, the Khmer Rouge and its followers created a government that was hostile to Vietnam while in exile, also known as DK.

The UN upheld this government in exile, with the support given to it by the US, China and Thailand. With more ensuing conflicts between the two governments, many of Cambodia's finest along with the general population, totaling over half a million people, resettled in other countries.



By the end of 1989, the Cold War had ended which had the Vietnamese exiting Cambodia. Without financial support from the Soviets due to the economic collapse of the Soviet Union, the Vietnamese could not keep their troops in the country.

REBUILDING CAMBODIA (SOC 1989-1991, UNTAC 1991-1993, KOC 1993-present)

This withdrawal made things difficult for Cambodians, especially the prime minister, Hun Sen. The Khmer Rouge had not disappeared, but had made their presence known and was threatening military action. Since Cambodia was without much needed foreign aid, they discarded socialism and tried to get investors interested in the country.

Another major change was in the country's name, it was changed to the State of Cambodia (SOC), while the KPRP (who currently ruled Cambodia) changed their name to the Cambodian People's Party. An attempt to have a free-market economy just increased the gap between the rich and the poor with many government officials becoming millionaires.

In 1991, the UN, Cambodia, and other interested parties came to an agreement to end the Cambodian conflict. A United Nations Transitional Authority (UNTAC) and a Supreme National Council (SNC) were formed and were comprised of members from different factions within Cambodia. The agreement in Paris and the UN protectorate started competitive politics in Cambodia, something they hadn't seen for about 40 years.

In May 1993, UNTAC sponsored an election for the national assembly, which ended up ousting the military regime. The Cambodians wanted a royalist party, FUNCINPEC, but Hun Sen, who won the second largest number of seats, refused to give up his power. Fortunately a compromise was reached and a government was formed with two prime ministers, FUNCINPEC had the first prime minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen became the second prime minister.

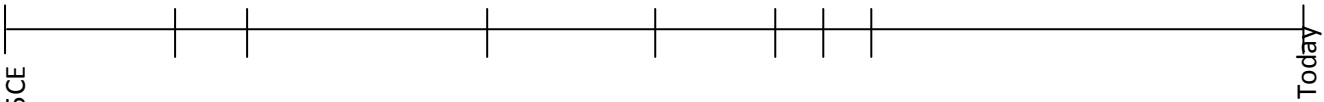
A name change for the country was in order, so in 1993 Cambodia became known as the Kingdom of Cambodia and Sihanouk became the king once again after ratifying a new constitution which re-established the monarchy. After these changes were made, the UN no longer accepted the DK as the ruling party, thus causing them (the DK) to lose their seat and power in the UN.

The tentative compromise between the FUNCINPEC and the CPP fell apart in 1997 when Prince Ranariddh was overseas. Hun Sen took advantage of the Prince's absence and organized a violent takeover to replace him. He replaced Prince Ranariddh with another member of the FUNCINPEC, but this time with one who was more easily manipulated and compliant. In spite of this takeover, the elections of 1998 were carried out, but not without foreign observations.

Although it was stated the voting was fair, the CPP hassled its opposition and following the elections many were put in jail while a few others were killed. Once again, the results were not accepted, but this time it was Prince Ranariddh who opposed it. Yet again another compromise was reached with Hun Sen as the only prime minister and with Prince Ranariddh as the president of the national assembly.

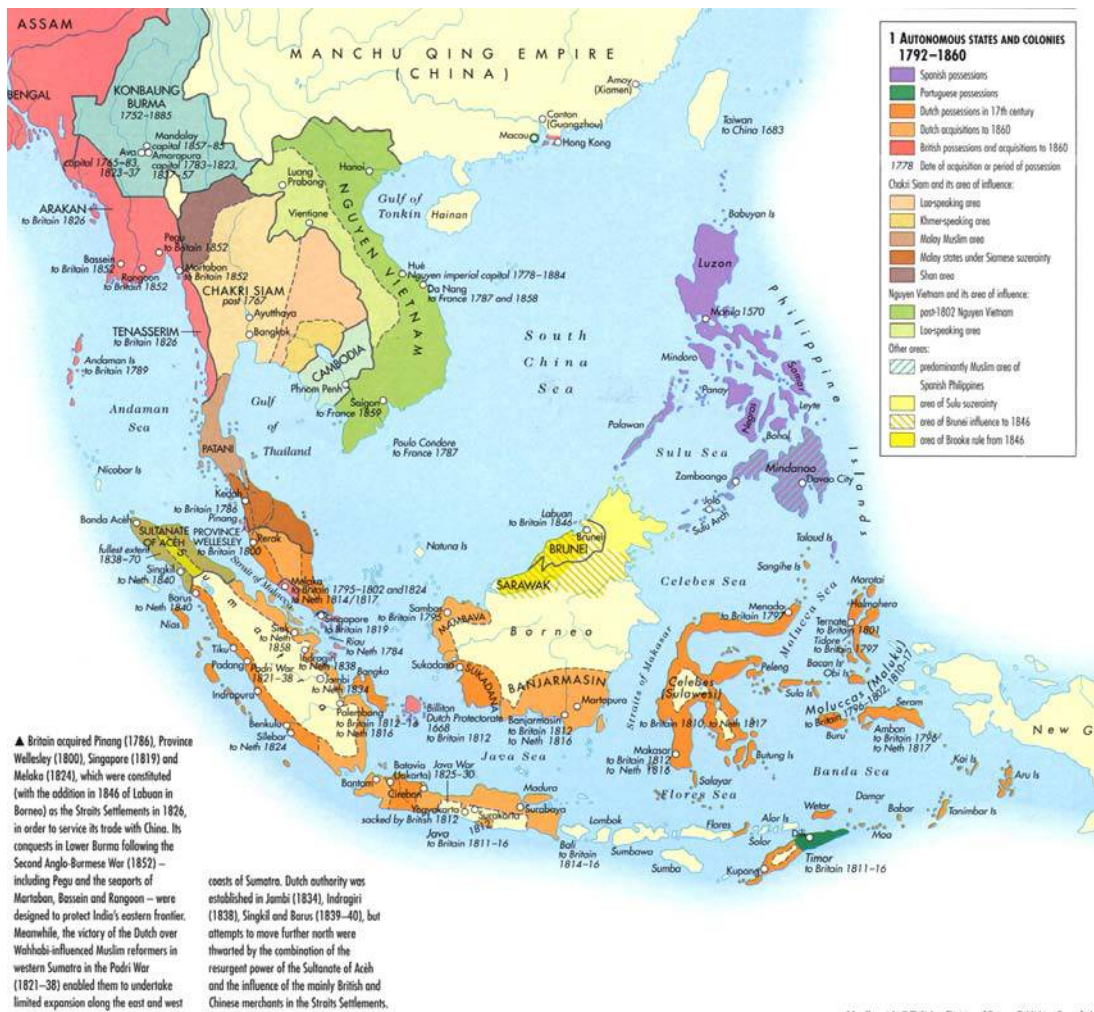
Things are stabilizing in Cambodia, but not without the help and support of foreign aid. With the outside world's interest waning, its help is steadily decreasing which is discouraging any hopes for economic advancement and democracy.

Complete a timeline of events of Cambodia from 1st century till today.



Compare the above with a timeline of events in Singapore as per listed below.

1. Palembang prince from Srivijaya Kingdom, Sang Nila Utama, founded the Kingdom of Singapura (1230-1400CE) after conquering Temasek
2. Singapore was then under controlled of the Malacca Kingdom (1400-1511CE)
3. Singapore became a part of the Johor-Riau-Lingga kingdom from 1513-1819CE
4. Thomas Stamford Raffles ceded the island of Singapore to the British East India Company in 1819
5. Singapore achieved independence on 09 August 1965



III. RISE AND FALL OF CIVILISATION

MAP OF ANGKOR



RISE OF ANGKOR

The Khmer Empire was founded by King Jayavarman II (reigned 790-834 CE). Later successors such as Indravarman I (reigned 877-889 CE) began extensive building projects through wealth gained through trade and agriculture. His son, Yasovarman I (reigned 889-915 CE) constructed a new capital, the Yasodharapura at a site not far from the old capital of Hariharalaya. This is the first capital of the Khmer Empire to be built at the Angkor site. Succeeding capitals built in the area were also called Yasodharapura, which conveys the meaning of 'Holy City' in Sanskrit or by extension, 'Capital City'.

The first Yasodharapura was built around Phnom Bakheng, also known in inscriptions as Phnom Kandal (Central Mountain). It was constructed just before the foundation of the city due to Yasovarman's belief that the mountain was among the holiest of places to worship the Hindu deities. As such, the city's central temple was built on Phnom Bakheng, a 60 m hill rising above the plain which Angkor sits.

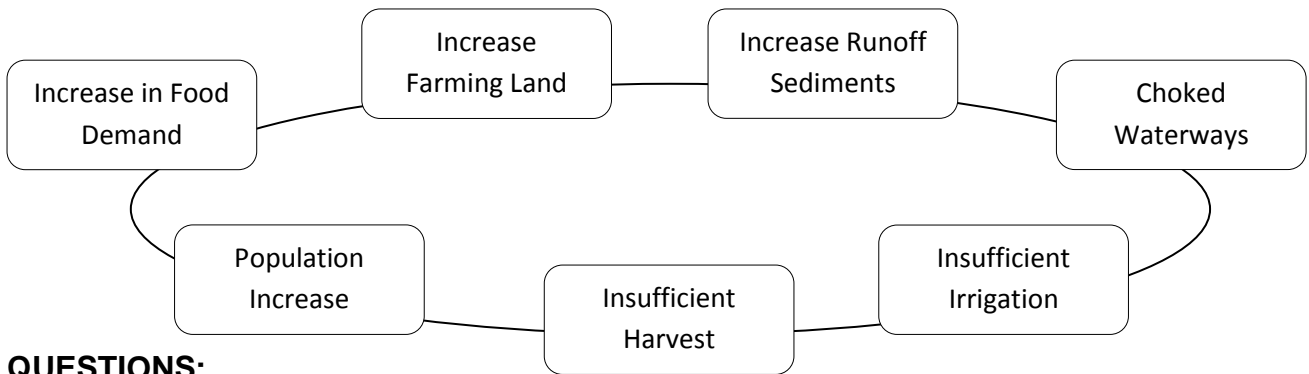
Under Yasovarman I the East Baray, a massive water reservoir of 7.5 by 1.8 km was created. Some scholars regarded the reservoirs as religiously charged symbols of the great mythological oceans surrounding Mount Meru, the abode of the gods. But more importantly, the reservoirs were significant in the irrigation of rice fields in Angkor.



Under King Suryavarman I (reigned 1010 – 1050CE), a second and even larger water reservoir measuring 8 by 2.2 km (West Baray) was constructed.

DECLINE OF ANGKOR

One main factor resulting in the decline of Angkor City was the degeneration of the water-management apparatus. Trees were cut down from the Kulen hills and cleared to make space for more rice fields in a bid to deal with increasing population. Rain runoff carrying sediment choked the canal network reduced the amount of water channeled into the region. This reduced the rice harvest from thrice to once per year. The failure to alleviate this degenerating cycle reduced the economic power and hence weakens the political power of Angkor.



QUESTIONS:

State the root cause of Angkor’s fall?

Referring to your response above, state the solution to Angkor’s woes?



IV. HUMAN SETTLEMENT

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT – SETTLEMENTS

Travelling from Siem Reap to Sasarsdam Commune, we journey along a straight road passing villages and hamlets surrounded by rice fields.

QUESTIONS:



State the type of settlement observed.

What mode of transport can you identify during our journey to Sasarsdam?

Based on the map, explain what kind of community and why they live along this stretch of road?

Walking about the city centre of Siem Reap, observe the layout of streets, lanes, houses and shops (especially around the Old Market).

QUESTIONS:



State the type of settlement observed.

What does the coexistence of two different settlements tells you about Cambodia? Give reasons whether it is sufficient to conclude on the level of development in Cambodia base on these two images.



V. RICE CULTIVATION

Subsistence farming in Cambodia involves around 70% of Cambodia's workforce. The Mekong River provides fertile, irrigated fields for rice production. However, uneven distribution of rainfall in Cambodia results in only one rice-harvest season a year. The months before the harvest in November are often hungry times for poor Cambodians. Once their rice sacks are exhausted, they borrow a cup of rice from neighbours or a shop, the traditional payback rate is two cups - interest of 100 per cent.



However even during wet season, flood-prone villages can rarely grow enough rice to pay the debts incurred during dry seasons as well as see their families through the year. With milled rice costing at least 2,500 riel (about 35p) a kilo, rice is now by far a household's biggest expense.

Although the current low level of rice production still allow Cambodia to feed itself with its own paddy rice, Cambodia still lacks is the ability to store or process rice. One main reason resulting in the high cost of rice in Cambodia is that Cambodian farmers sell the rice straight from their paddy fields to middlemen who then sell to Thailand and Vietnam. The storage, milling and polishing process increases the price of finished rice by three to four times, a level that is unaffordable by poor Cambodians.

QUESTIONS:

What are the factors required for subsistence wet rice farming?

Which of the above-mentioned factors is missing in Cambodia?

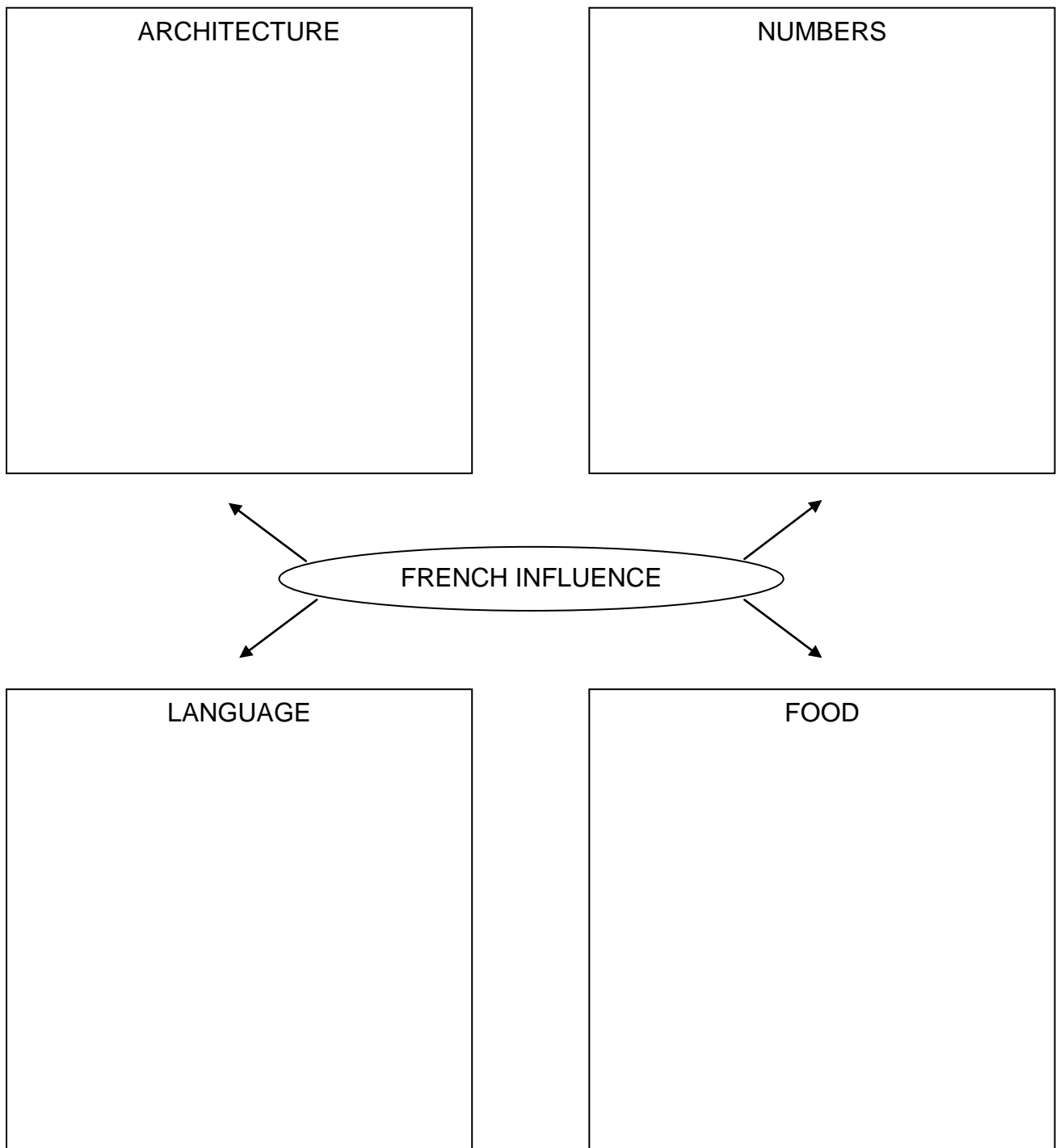
What can be done to alleviate poverty among Cambodian farmers?



VI. COLONIALISM

COLONIAL INFLUENCE IN CAMBODIA

Unlike its Asian neighbours, Cambodia was part of the French Indochinese dream together with Vietnam and Laos. In August 1863, the French concluded a treaty with Ang Duong's successor, Norodom (1859-1904). This agreement afforded the Cambodian monarch French protection (in the form of a French official called a *résident*--in French resident) in exchange for giving the French rights to explore and to exploit the kingdom's mineral and forest resources. However, most French interventions focused on Vietnam; colonialism for Cambodia passed more quietly than for its eastern neighbor. But the French made a lasting impression on Cambodian culture. During your stay, list down the items of the 4 main French influences that you encounter.





VII. THE FALL OF THE KHMER ROUGE

As the Khmer Rouge systematically destroyed nearly all aspects of Cambodian society, a new conflict simmered with its historical enemy, Vietnam. While both forces grudgingly supported each other as they fought U.S. backed Cambodia and South Vietnam during the Vietnam War, ethnic animosities prevented them from developing any lasting bonds with each other. Even as early as April 1975 - days after the fall of Phnom Penh - the Khmer Rouge exploited the situation in South Vietnam by seizing several small islands in the Gulf of Siam while the Vietnamese communists completed their choke hold on Saigon.

Though one might have expected the new communist governments of Vietnam and Cambodia to eventually settle into some kind of political agreement, their hatred and mistrust of each other ran too deep. The Khmer Rouge received support from China, Vietnam's rival to the north, while the Vietnamese were assisted by the Soviet Union, which competed with China for standing in the communist world. Pol Pot also showed signs of a severe inferiority complex when it came to Vietnamese communists, for it was the Vietnamese who had helped the Cambodian communists organize into a political force. To Pol Pot, the fact that Cambodian communists had once needed outside help to get their act together was so shameful that he purged thousands of Khmer Rouge cadres simply because certain KR leaders acknowledged that the Cambodian communist party was founded in 1951, at a time when the Vietnamese communists were involved in Cambodian insurgencies. Pol Pot insisted that the party didn't really begin its activities until 1960, when he was named to the party's Central Committee. The distinction may seem academic, but Pol Pot's extreme paranoia over Vietnamese influence led to the deaths of many Cambodians who were associated with the Vietnamese in the early 1950s. Some of Pol Pot's oldest friends were swept up and killed in the purges. It was as if the Khmer Rouge were stranded under the shadow of the Vietnamese communists, apparently willing to start a war just to boost their sense of independence.

In July 1977, Vietnam signed a cooperation treaty with neighboring Laos, which had also become communist in 1975. The Khmer Rouge viewed this as flagrant aggression against Cambodia: given the geography of the region (Laos wraps around Cambodia's north), Pol Pot interpreted the treaty as the next step in Vietnam's strategy to strangle Cambodia. If anything, he thought, it was Cambodia that should be attempting to strangle Vietnam. The south of Vietnam was populated by ethnic Cambodians, the Khmer Krom, who had been in the region for generations. If the Khmer Rouge played their cards right, perhaps the Khmer Krom would revolt against the Vietnamese and wrestle the land from their ethnic rivals. Not unlike Nazi Germany's almost successful dream of uniting the German peoples under one Reich, Pol Pot envisioned a greater Cambodia in which Khmers could reclaim the lands once controlled under the ancient kingdom of Angkor.

The Khmer Rouge regime reached a climax in September 1977 when Pol Pot took to the airwaves and spoke for nearly five hours on Cambodian radio. For the first time, Pol Pot acknowledged to the world that Cambodia was now run by a communist government. The day after the speech he flew to Beijing to meet with Hua Guofeng, who had just become leader of the People's Republic of China following the death of Mao Ze Dong. The Chinese pledged to support the Khmer Rouge's rivalry with the Vietnamese but recommended against all-out war, knowing full well that Vietnam was in a much better position to win the fight. The meeting probably delayed an impending Cambodian assault on Vietnam, but the Vietnamese interpreted it as another sign of China's military support of an increasingly dangerous Cambodia.

By the end of 1977, Vietnam concluded a pre-emptive strike against Cambodia was inevitable. In late December they sent troops as far as 20 miles across the border, capturing Cambodian villages and troops. Before the end of January 1978, though, Vietnam pulled back, returning their forces to Vietnamese territory. Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge publicly celebrated the pullout as a



humiliating Vietnamese retreat, but their anti-Vietnamese fervor blinded them to the long-term implications of the incursion. As the Vietnamese returned to their territory they brought along many of the captured Cambodian soldiers, as well as numerous Khmer Rouge defectors who feared they would be purged by Pol Pot. These Cambodians were carefully groomed in the hopes of eventually establishing a Vietnam-aligned Cambodian government some time in the future. Among these detained Cambodians was a young Khmer Rouge lieutenant named Hun Sen, who had fled the country after realizing he too was the target of the purge.

During the spring of 1978, Vietnam amassed thousands of troops along the Cambodian border. Khmer Rouge forces skirmished with Vietnamese troops in isolated, but recurrent incidents, raising tensions between the two nations even further. Spring also marked the signing of a friendship treaty between Vietnam and the Soviet Union, a direct response to Cambodia's close relationship with China. Cambodia and Vietnam were now the pawns of a Chinese-Soviet rivalry, not unlike when the U.S. and U.S.S.R. took advantage of the regional instability of the Vietnam War to further their own Cold War interests. And just as they had done so against the Americans and South Vietnamese, Vietnam patiently prepared for the right moment to gain an advantage while their enemy faltered.

On December 25, 1978 - Christmas Day - 100,000 Vietnamese troops poured across the Cambodian border, quickly gaining a foothold in Cambodia's northeast. The Vietnamese intended to create a secure buffer zone between Vietnam proper and Khmer Rouge forces. The military encroachment went so well, though, Vietnam quickly realized that they could even seize Phnom Penh and knock out the Khmer Rouge in a matter of weeks. By January 7, 1979, less than two weeks after their initial attack, Vietnamese forces successfully occupied Phnom Penh, forcing the Khmer Rouge to flee into the wilderness. Pol Pot himself escaped by helicopter as the city fell, ironically mirroring the U.S. ambassador's departure in April 1975.

As the dust settled, Vietnam established a new Cambodian government known as the People's Republic of Kampuchea (PRK). Leading the PRK would be a new prime minister, Hun Sen, the young Khmer Rouge cadre who fled to Vietnam a year earlier. Hundreds of thousands of Cambodian families began the long march to their home villages in the hopes of finding surviving relatives. In many cases, though, Cambodians returned to find nothing left of their former lives - no homes, no possessions, and most tragic, no relatives. The Khmer Rouge came hauntingly close to succeeding in their radical attempt to erase all memories of the old Cambodia.

Vietnamese occupying forces, who themselves were hardened by the brutalities of the Vietnam War, were shocked as they soon discovered the legacy of the Khmer Rouge. Throughout the countryside, Cambodia was pockmarked by sunken depressions of dirt, as if hell had sucked in small pockets of earth in the hopes of devouring the world above it. As we all soon discovered, the depressions were indeed the stuff of hell, for each marked the spot of another mass grave: the graves of the hundreds of thousands of Cambodians slaughtered by their own countrymen.

FOR DISCUSSION: After your visit to S-21 Toul Sleng Genocide Museum, what do you think was in the mind of the people behind the Khmer Rouge leadership in suppressing their own people?

VIII. THE PRICE OF THE WRONG STEP

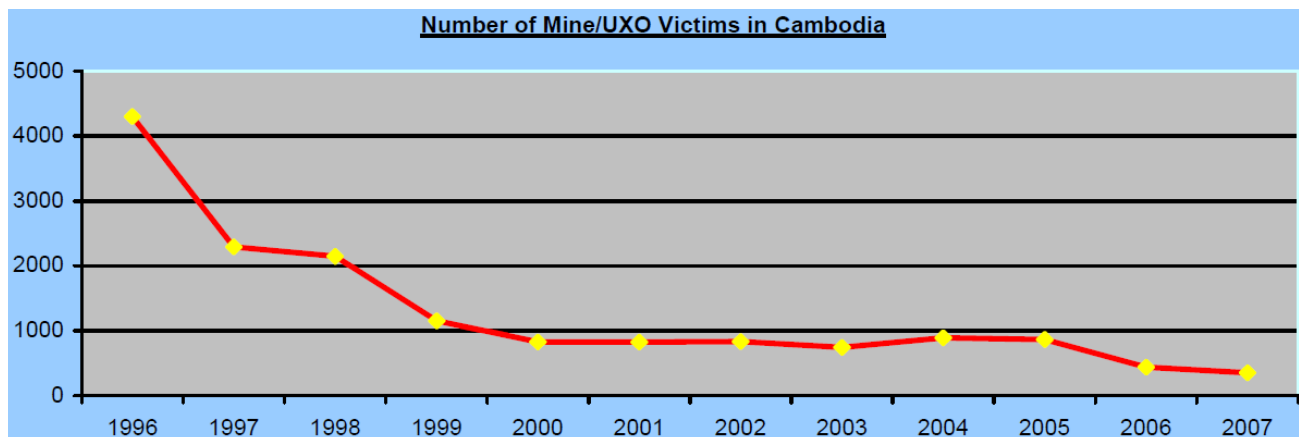
LANDMINES/UXO



Three decades of war in Cambodia have left scars in many forms throughout the country. One of the most lasting legacies of the conflicts still continues to claim new victims daily. Land mines, laid by the Khmer Rouge, Heng Samrin and Hun Sen regimes, Vietnamese, KPNLF, and the Sihanoukists litter the countryside. In most cases, the soldiers who planted the mines did not record where the mines were placed.

Now, Cambodia has the one of the highest rates of physical disability in the world. It is estimated that more than 40,000 Cambodians have suffered amputations as a result of mine injuries since 1979. That represents an average of nearly forty victims a week for a period of twenty years.

Despite enormous efforts by all the demining operators in Cambodia in the last 14 years to combat the landmine and UXO problem, these killing tools still continue to maim and kill around 800 to 900 people per year between 2000 and 2005. Based on the CMVIS report, the following casualty data have been recorded in the last 11 years.



Despite significant reductions in casualties in the past years from 2,157 casualties in 1998 to 352 in 2007, the number still remains extremely high if compared with other mine/UXO affected countries in this region and the world. The significant drop in 2006 (by around 50%) and the number of casualties in 2007 (to 352 cases) is a positive sign of the impact delivered by mine action efforts.

The leading cause of landmine injuries is poverty. Thirty-eight percent of injuries result from people tampering with ordinance, usually while salvaging scrap metal to sell. Fifty-six percent of injuries occur when people are performing their daily routines such as farming, fetching water, collecting wood and forest products etc.

Furthermore, the end of three decades of war allowed people to return home from internal displacement as well as refugee camps along the Thai-Cambodian border, and retire from service in the military. However this resulted in a shortage of land for these homecoming personnel, desperation push people to take risk in living and farming in areas that are being demined in order



to stake their claim on whatever available bits of land.

QUESTIONS:

1. After visiting the Handicapped International and seeing how the centre has been improving the development of the prosthesis, what is your thought about the life of the Cambodian people in the rural area?

2. Describe how a land mine can maim a person who accidentally steps on it.

3. What would be your statement for a mine-free world if you are a world leader?



IX. ECONOMY

ENGINES OF GROWTH

From 2001 to 2004, the economy grew at an average rate of 6.4%, driven largely by an expansion in the garment sector and tourism. The US and Cambodia signed a Bilateral Textile Agreement, which gave Cambodia a guaranteed quota of US textile imports and established a bonus for improving working conditions and enforcing Cambodian labor laws and international labor standards in the industry. With the January 2005 expiration of a WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing, Cambodia-based textile producers were forced to compete directly with lower-priced producing countries such as China and India. Better-than-expected garment sector performance led to more than 9% growth in 2007. Its vibrant garment industry employs more than 350,000 people and contributes more than 70% of Cambodia's exports.

The Cambodian government has committed itself to a policy supporting high labor standards in an attempt to maintain buyer interest. In 2005, exploitable oil and natural gas deposits were found beneath Cambodia's territorial waters, representing a new revenue stream for the government if commercial extraction begins. Mining also is attracting significant investor interest, particularly in the northeastern parts of the country, and the government has said opportunities exist for mining bauxite, gold, iron and gems. In 2006, a US-Cambodia bilateral Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) was signed and the first round of discussions took place in early 2007.

The tourism industry continues to grow rapidly, with foreign arrivals reaching 2 million in 2007. In 2007 the government signed a joint venture agreement with two companies to form a new national airline. The long-term development of the economy remains a daunting challenge. The Cambodian government is working with bilateral and multilateral donors, including the World Bank and IMF, to address the country's many pressing needs. The major economic challenge for Cambodia over the next decade will be fashioning an economic environment in which the private sector can create enough jobs to handle Cambodia's demographic imbalance. More than 50% of the population is less than 21 years old. The population lacks education and productive skills, particularly in the poverty-ridden countryside, which suffers from an almost total lack of basic infrastructure.

RECENT GROWTH TREND

Cambodia's GDP for year 2007 grew an estimated 9.6%, in line with the 2000/06 average of 9.5 percent. Foreign direct investment reached US\$600 million (7% of GDP), slightly more than was received in foreign aid. Garment exports rose almost 8%, tourist arrivals jumped nearly 35%, and construction activity doubled. With exports decelerating somewhat, the 2007 GDP growth was driven by consumption and investment. Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows reached US\$600 million (7 percent of GDP), slightly more than the country received in official aid. Domestic investment, driven largely by the private sector, accounted for 23.4 percent of GDP. Approximately 2,860 new businesses registered for operation in 2007, a 71 percent increase over 2006.

QUESTIONS:

Identify both existing and future growth sectors of Cambodia's economy.



Service Learning Journey to Cambodia

Pupils must read through the case study articles before actual learning journey



Extraction of minerals, oil, gas and other resources would bring in wealth to Cambodia. Do you think it would alleviate poverty in Cambodia? Explain.

Describe the possible negative impacts of high level of economic growth in Cambodia.

What infrastructure needs and governmental role do you think the impoverished Cambodians need in order for them to break away from the poverty cycle?



X. REFLECTIONS

Service-learning combined with opportunities for reflection offers many benefits to students. Reflection outcomes for students generally fall into three categories: academic learning, personal development, and civic engagement. Reflection in service-learning provides students with a way to look back at their experiences, evaluate them, and apply what is learned to future experiences.

Pre-Service Learning Programme

Answer the following questions **before** you serve the community that you will be working with.

What do you think is the identified problem/community need?

What do you plan to do that makes a real difference in improving the lives of the community?

What are some of your perceptions or beliefs about the community you will be serving?

What fear and challenges, if any, do you have about working in the community?

What do you hope to gain from this experience?



During Service Learning (Day ____)

How does your service learning experience relate to the learning objectives of this programme?

What did you do at the community since the last reflection discussion?

What did you observe?

What did you learn?

What has worked? What hasn't?

What do you think is (will be) the most valuable service you can offer to the community?

Is there something more you could do to contribute to the solution?



During Service Learning (Day ____)

How does your service learning experience relate to the learning objectives of this programme?

What did you do at the orphanage since the last reflection discussion?

What did you observe?

What did you learn?

What has worked? What hasn't?

What do you think is (will be) the most valuable service you can offer at the orphanage?

Is there something more you could do to contribute to the solution?



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What did you learn?

What has worked? What hasn't?

What do you think is (will be) the most valuable service you can offer at the orphanage?

Is there something more you could do to contribute to the solution?



This is finally the last day of your Service Learning Journey and you will be travelling home soon. Ponder on your experience and answer the following questions.

What have you learnt about yourself?

What have you learnt about the community you served?

What have you contributed to the community?

What values, opinions, beliefs have changed for you?

What was the most important lesson learned?

How have you been challenged?

What should others do about this issue?



What impact did you have on the community?

Final Task

Before we bid farewell to the community and Cambodia, describe the community of the people at the village and during your trip around Siem Reap City. Describe what you see (the people, gender, activities, problems – e.g. litter, graffiti, pollution, homelessness) and note the shops, traffic, buildings, churches, roads, etc. (Use extra papers if necessary)

What are the best things you discovered about your community?

Do you have a different picture of your community than you had before you began your search?

What new questions do you have?

What would you like to change about your community?
