**The Far East... China, Japan, Korea, and Cambodia will be the focus of our unit but this area known as the Far East also includes Thailand, Mongolia, Taiwan, Vietnam, Singapore, Brunei, Laos, Burma, Indonesia, and even the eastern most area of Russia.**
**Journal # 1: March 29th**Imagine you are travelling to a foreign country in the Far East. You are an exchange student who will spend five months with a host family overseas. Write one page in your composition book. Consider the following: What parts of your new daily routine will be tough to adjust to? What will be most challenging about your new home, your new routine? What will you miss most? What parts of your life will be difficult? Food, clothing, language, religion, travel, customs, communication, friendships, school work, books, television/music, sports??? Write about what would be most difficult about your new life in the Far East.

**Journal # 2: March 30th**Yesterday we talked about some basic differences in Eastern cultures versus Western cultures. We discussed the need to be aware of which "Western" behaviors and actions would be misinterpreted in Asian countries as being impolite and inappropriate. Your journal for today: In the past, at meal time in Asian homes, the men of the house were traditionally served first. The women of the home would sit by the men watching them as they eat, ready to get them anything else they might need. Only when the men of the home were finished eating, would the women and children eat.
Today, the following are common at meal times in Asian homes:
1. Don't eat before the oldest person begins eating
2. Don't pick up a rice or soup bowl in order to eat from it
3. Don't stick chopsticks vertically into a rice bowl to eat from it
4. Don't blow your nose at the table
5. Don't talk much during the meal; focus on enjoying the food and wait to talk later
6. Don't leave the table before the oldest person leaves the table

**Write one page in which you comment on the above social customs.** What is your reaction to these customs? Why are these expectations important to Asians? What do these expectations tell us about Asians and their culture? How does your mealtime contrast to an Asian mealtime? What similarities might there be?

**Journal # 3: April 2nd**On first arrival to China, the human wave will probably shock you. Everywhere you go; airport, public malls, tourist sites, restaurants, railway stations, bus stations; you will see nothing but waves and waves of people. China can be so crowded that you hardly have private space of your own once you are out of your hotel room or house, and people tend to push. And stare. And spit. And talk loudly. China does have an extremely large population. Unfortunately, due to many years of civil strife, a good proportion of people did not have a good education. Many old **Chinese habits** such as spitting
and talking loudly continue to be part of their way of life and while rude and unbecoming to a foreigner, is part and parcel of the Chinese people. However, it is good to know that the young population is getting more and more polite and considerate by the year.
**Write one page in which you comment on the above:** You may wish to consider the following as you write: How does this contrast with our country? What would your reaction be to living in or visiting such a country? Is this a surprise to you? Why? Why do you think such rude behavior has been so common for so long? Why is it only now slowly changing?

**Journal # 4 April 4th**

Vietnam is one of the oldest Southeast Asian countries. Vietnam’s
prolonged fight for freedom has instilled a strong sense of self respect in its
people. In fact the Vietnamese are extremely simple and down to earth people
who know how to respect other individuals and expect the same from them.
Vietnam is a country, rich in culture and traditions and is very particular
about their codes of social interaction. Needless to say that Vietnamese
etiquette is actually a reflection of the culture of Vietnam and the lifestyle
of the Vietnamese as a whole.
**Vietnamese Social Etiquettes:**- They avoid loud conversations and using too many gestures is considered very rude.
- Pointing fingers or calling anyone with fingers pointed upward is impolite.
- Rather you should use your entire hand with fingers placed downwards.
- The Vietnamese are not too fond of any kind of physical contact in public, especially with the opposite sex.
- They bow down to show respect especially to an elderly person
- They generally do not shake hands with an older person. The young generally shake both hands, if at all they do.
- Only the elderly touches a child’s head.
- They use both their hands when passing on any object.
- According to Vietnamese etiquette standing with arms on the hips is considered ill-mannered.
- Crossing one's arms on the chest is also a very rude gesture.
**Write a journal in which you respond and react to the above description of etiquette in Vietnam**. Which of these seems oddest? Which seem logical? Why are these social expectations so important to the Vietnamese? How do you think they would view typical American behavior?