

## TITLE

WHAT'S SO INCREDIBLE ABOUT THAILAND?

## OBJECTIVE



Students will learn about Thailand through the senses and that God made Thailand and loves the people.

## SCRIPTURE



## BACKGROUND

Culture is a difficult area to define. It should not be assumed that one week can truly introduce a culture to students. A few activities and a videos are to just provide a taste. It should also not be assumed that everyone in a culture is the same or experiences the culture the same way. Within a country there may be several cultures and sub-cultures. There are city dwellers and country dwellers. Each belongs to a unique culture and community

## MATERIALS

MAP OF THAILAND

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THAILAND VIDEO

SUPPLIES FOR CHOSEN ACTIVITIES

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

How will I know if this was an effective lesson? Students will be able to articulate new things they've learned about Thailand.

## Outline

### INTRODUCTION

- Find Thailand on a map
- Stamp passports

## Details

- Greet students in a room other than the one set up for activities. Have a map on the wall or board and show them where Thailand is. Show them what route they will need to take to fly from your town to Bangkok, the capital, and how long it will take. Ask them what they know about Thailand. Talk about what the weather is like today in Thailand today.
- Ask students what they learned from the story of the lost coin last week. Relate this to the people of Thailand. The people of Thailand are God's creation and he loves them deeply. It is his will that all are saved.
- Tell students that today they will be visiting Thailand.

### STORY

- Enter the country
- Watch Sights and Sounds video

Welcome the students to Thailand. In the Thai language, for Hello, boys say *sawahdee khrap* (sounds like krup) and girls say *sawahdee kha*.

Take them into the room set up with activities and decorations to simulate a Thai experience.

Bring students to the first station in one large group.

Show the sights and sounds of Thailand video.

Make sure that students understand God's heart to save and rescue the lost, those not valued by society, and our desire to be like him in this respect.

Memory verse practice: Luke 15:10 or 19:10.

### ACTIVITIES

Allow students to rotate through activity stations that are set up. Older children can be paired with younger ones to facilitate movement. Stations can be self-explanatory with instructions or have an older student or teacher to greet the students and facilitate the activity.

#### Activity Ideas for Stations:

- Flag coloring
- Games (three to choose from)
- Kitchen activity
- Elephant craft
- Learn to draw an elephant

## Outline

### CLOSING

- Prayer requests on large poster paper
- Close with prayer and/or song
- Create interest for next week's journey

## Details

- Ask students to reflect on what they learned about Thailand.
- Invite a few students to share as time allows.
- Ask students for ideas for prayer. You could have a poster prepared with the block letters THAILAND (or last week's PRAY poster). Write the prayer ideas inside the letters. Keep this poster for next week. Invite students to pray for these things throughout the week.
- Explain homework (see additional notes).

## Additional Notes

### ACTIVITIES

See link below for several good game options:

[Games Thai Children Play](#)<sup>1</sup>

Other Games:

#### 1. Animals

Choose 3 popular Thai animals. Elephant would be one choice. Bears or birds or tigers would be other choices. Demonstrate to the children or allow them to come up with a simple action for each animal. Then hand out papers to each child with one of the animal names written on it. When the game begins the children can't talk but can only use their action to find the rest of their kind. At the end of each round you could give a fun animal fact. You can re-distribute the animals papers and play it again.

#### 2. Rice Game

Fill a bowl with dry rice and mix in a number of paperclips. Blindfold the children and time them to see how quickly they can find the paperclips. You could do this as a team and use a couple of bowls or whatever suits your group size. After the game is finished, use the opportunity to stress how there are very few Christians in Thailand (paperclips) and many Thai (rice) that have never heard about Jesus.

Other Activities:

#### 1. Kitchen Activity

Lemongrass is a popular ingredient in many Thai dishes. If you are a 'foodie' you might have fun introducing this herb to the children in your Sunday School. You could buy some lemongrass stalks and involve the children in pounding, cutting, separating it. It would be fun to talk about the smell, the oil that comes from it and even the feel of it. This link is very helpful.<sup>2</sup>

1 <http://www.leesummit.k12.mo.us/gifted/kgillespie/thaigamespge.html>

2 [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=58rSRxb\\_BMU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=58rSRxb_BMU)

One idea is to send each child home with a small ziploc of their lemongrass, along with this simple recipe for lemongrass tea.<sup>3</sup>

#### 2. Craft

The National Thai Elephant Day takes place every year on the 13th March. The aim of the day is to draw attention to the elephant which is the national animal of Thailand and plays an important part in culture and religion. Elephants are symbols of loyalty, strength & power. Here is a fun craft idea that incorporates an elephant with a welcome sign.<sup>4</sup>

#### 3. [Drawing an Elephant](#)<sup>5</sup>

### CLOSING

#### *Homework*

There may be Thais living in the student's neighborhoods. A local Thai restaurant or grocery store is one place to look. Invite students to meet them and ask them what they love about Thailand. They can tell them that they are learning about Thai culture and want to hear what they have to say. Students can share their answers next week.

3 <http://www.food.com/recipe/luscious-lemongrass-tea-105693>

4 <http://www.michaels.com/Thailand%3A-Elephant-Welcome-Sign/29409,default,pd.html>

5 [http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/learn\\_to\\_draw\\_an\\_elephant.htm](http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/learn_to_draw_an_elephant.htm)