

WHAT IN THE WORLD?

LEVEL 2 (GRADES 8 AND UP)

The Uyghurs of Xinjiang

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INTERNATIONAL

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TO THE TEACHER

WHAT IN THE WORLD?

Level 2, 2022/2023: Issue 2

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HAY'SXW'QA!

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I have had many parents comment to me about how great they think *What in the World?* is, and they look forward to each month's issue coming home... This is a great resource for a small country school to explore the global issues that affect us all.

K. Camelon, Grade 7/8 teacher

Admaston, ON



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INTERNATIONAL **THE UYGHURS OF XINJIANG** – UN REPORT FINDS CHINA IS PERSECUTING THIS MINORITY POPULATION

BEFORE READING

Please note: This article contains sensitive content. Please refer to the teacher resource page **Facilitating Discussions on Sensitive Topics** before approaching this topic with your class.

Sensitive Content	At a Glance	Learning Outcomes
<p>This article is about the release of a report from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) about China's persecution of Uyghurs. Please note that the article details and the supporting resources are difficult and touch on the topics of forcible detention in mass detention centres, religious persecution, injection of unknown substances, physical torture, sterilization, and sexual abuse. The article also discusses China's attempt to suppress the publication of this report and its rejection of the report's findings. There are details of the ongoing restrictions and mistreatment of Uyghur residents who are not detained and the recommendations of the OHCHR. It is normal for some students to feel a range of emotions when confronted with these topics. Encourage students to express any concerns they have about the material and discuss accommodations with them as needed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The OHCHR released a 48-page study on August 31 documenting China's mistreatment of its Uyghur population.Uyghurs are a largely-Muslim minority group who speak a language similar to Turkish and who live mainly in China's Xinjiang region in the country's northwest.The OHCHR report is based on a four-year investigation and interviews with Uyghurs who were held in detention camps, and on evidence from human rights organizations.Some reasons for detaining Uyghurs include: showing religious devotion, travelling to certain countries, or installing outlawed cell phone apps.Conditions in the camps are deplorable. Uyghurs are severely punished for praying or speaking their own language. Many are subjected to physical beatings, water torture, sterilization, sexual abuse, and poor nutrition. No visitors or lawyers are allowed to see them.Uyghurs who are not detained are subjected to mass surveillance.China says the report's findings are lies and that the residents of Xinjiang enjoy stability, prosperity, and religious freedom and that all ethnic groups are living happy lives.China states that the camps were intended to curb terrorism, accusing Uyghur extremists and separatists of plotting to set off bombs and create unrest. Observers say these threats are exaggerated.	<p><i>After reading this article, students will...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">understand who the Uyghurs are;explain the findings of the OHCHR report that affirms China's persecution of Uyghurs;understand that not all countries have the same approach to human rights and freedoms;understand the challenges associated with international politics and questioning practices in other countries;consider the importance of international organizations and human rights groups in investigating, documenting, and sharing abuses with the world.



INTERNATIONAL **THE UYGHURS OF XINJIANG** – UN REPORT FINDS CHINA IS PERSECUTING THIS MINORITY POPULATION

BEFORE READING

1. Project the 'About Us' page from the United Nations website: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us>
2. Have students read to themselves the shared goal of the member states of the United Nations:

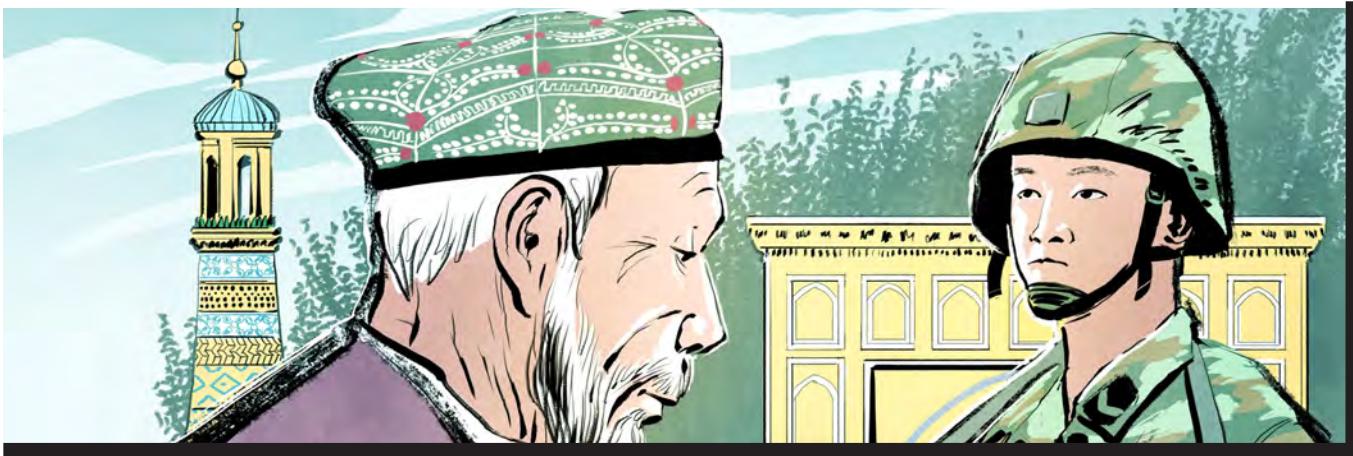
*One place where the world's nations can
gather together, discuss common problems
and find shared solutions.*

3. Invite students to discuss with a partner what they think this goal means.
4. Next, from the same page, play for students the video "The World We Want". This is a curated collection of videos and images in response to the UN Secretary General's call in 2020 to hear from the people of the world about their priorities for the future, on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.
As they watch, have students make note of key words and ideas. (e.g., together, global, unite, happy, love, safe, inclusive, justice, equal, liberation, heard, belong, etc.) Invite students to share some of their notes with the class.
5. Project the title of the article: "*The Uyghurs of Xinjiang – UN Report Finds China is Persecuting This Minority Population*". Have students break down the meaning of the title and share their ideas as a class. (e.g., persecuting means they are hurting or mistreating someone or something, Uyghurs might be a group of people that live in China, UN is the United Nations, the UN has prepared a report with some evidence, etc.)
6. Poll the class to see who thinks China is a member of the United Nations. Post the result on the board. Share with the class that China is, in fact, a member of the UN.
7. Finally, invite students to set a purpose for reading the article, referring to the resource page **Setting A Purpose Before Reading** as needed.



INTERNATIONAL THE UYGHURS OF XINJIANG

- UN REPORT FINDS CHINA IS PERSECUTING THIS MINORITY POPULATION



The Chinese government has committed a series of ongoing human rights abuses against Uyghurs. That was the finding of a strongly-worded 48-page study released on August 31 by the **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**. The document adds that the cruelties endured by this largely-Muslim minority group may amount to **crimes against humanity**.

The report comes after a four-year investigation. It is based in part on talks with Uyghurs who were held in massive detention centres in Xinjiang, the region where 12 million Uyghurs live. It stopped short of accusing the Chinese government of **genocide** for its actions against the Uyghurs. However, outside observers and many nations, including Canada, believe the definition fits.

Human rights organizations say that at least one million Uyghurs

THE UYGHURS OF XINJIANG

Most Uyghurs speak a language similar to Turkish. They highly value their culture and generally practice a moderate form of the Sunni branch of Islam. About 95 percent of the global Uyghur population lives in China's Xinjiang region in the country's northwest, an area that became part of China in 1949. In theory the region is **autonomous**. In practice, the Chinese government controls it.

There are also established Uyghur communities in countries neighbouring China, such as Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan. In the 1990s, after the collapse of the **Soviet Union**, many of these countries became independent Muslim states. Some Uyghurs who witnessed this change tried to start their own **separatist** movement in Xinjiang. However, the Chinese government clamped down on these efforts and activists went underground.

Xinjiang is located along the old **Silk Road** route. It had an economy traditionally based on agriculture and trade. But development is thriving in the oil- and resource-rich region, bringing an influx of **Han Chinese** from the nation's eastern provinces. That has fueled ethnic tensions. Today, Han Chinese account for about 40 percent of the 26 million people who live in Xinjiang. They are perceived to get the best jobs, a source of resentment among long-standing Uyghur residents.

in Xinjiang have suffered in these camps at one time or another. Any number of actions or behaviours can cause people to be detained. Showing

religious devotion, traveling to certain countries, or installing outlawed cellphone apps are just some of the reasons.

DEFINITIONS

AUTONOMOUS: existing or acting separately

CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY: a deliberate act, typically as part of a systematic campaign, that causes human suffering or death on a large scale

GENOCIDE: the killing of a large number of people from a particular nation or ethnic group

HAN CHINESE: the majority ethnic group in China

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (OHCHR): a department of the United Nations

that works to promote and protect human rights that are guaranteed under international law

SEPARATIST: a group that wants to form a new country

SOVIET UNION: a former country of Europe and Asia that existed from 1922 to 1991

SILK ROAD: an ancient trade route from China to the Mediterranean Sea



INTERNATIONAL

THE UYGHURS OF XINJIANG

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TORTURE AND TRAUMA

Some Uyghurs in the camps have been forcibly injected with unknown substances, said former detainees interviewed for the study. They described being beaten with electrical batons or being subjected to water torture. They said starving detainees are made to sing patriotic songs until hoarse and are severely punished for trying to pray or for speaking their own language. No visitors or lawyers are allowed, and some women in the camps have been **sterilized** against their will.

"A hundred times over I thought, when the footfalls of guards woke us in the night, that our time had come to be executed," wrote one woman who spent nearly two years in detention.

THE CHINESE RESPONSE

For their part, Chinese officials vehemently rejected the OHCHR's findings. They even tried to suppress its publication.

"We all know so well that the so-called Xinjiang issue is a completely fabricated lie out of political motivations," China's UN ambassador, Zhang Jun said. "Its purpose is definitely to undermine China's stability and to obstruct China's development."

In a 122-page report of its own, the Chinese government insisted that residents of Xinjiang enjoy "social stability, economic development, cultural prosperity, and religious freedom" and that "[p]eople of all ethnic groups are living a happy life in peace and contentment."

DEFINITIONS

ASSIMILATION: the process of becoming a part of a country rather than remaining a separate group

EXTREMIST: a person who holds and may act on extreme political or religious beliefs that are not normal, reasonable, or acceptable to most people

'JOB RETRAINING' CAMPS?

At one point, Chinese officials altogether denied the existence of the huge Uyghur detention sites. Next, they said that the centres were simply places for lessons on Chinese history, language, and culture where people got "nutritious, free diets" and "job retraining."

Another time, they claimed that the camps were all part of a move to curb terrorism. They argued that Uyghur religious **extremists** and separatists had been plotting to set off bombs and to sow other forms of sabotage and unrest. However, observers say such threats have been exaggerated to justify the **repression** and **assimilation** of the Uyghurs.

Now, Chinese authorities say that several of the camps were shut down in 2019. But analysts have evidence that Uyghurs are still being rounded up, and the UN report noted that a large number of new facilities with high levels of security have been built in the area over the past several years.

SEVERE RESTRICTIONS

Meanwhile, residents who aren't detained are subjected to other forms of tyranny, including mass surveillance. For instance, they have been forced to submit to facial recognition technology. Authorities have also put bar codes on doors so they can keep track of where people are at all times. Police, who witnesses say are everywhere, check people's phones to see who they are talking to and what they are saying.

THE REPORT'S IMPACT

The OHCHR made a series of recommendations to the Chinese government in the report. Among them? The people who are being held without just cause should be released. Officials should reveal the whereabouts of missing persons. Surveillance practices that violate basic rights and freedoms need to end.

The report also urges the UN and the world to keep a sharp focus on the treatment of the Uyghurs. The Canadian government has pledged to do just that.

"We will continue to work with our international partners... to address the situation in Xinjiang and to ensure the Chinese government is held to account for its actions," read a statement by Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly.

A STEPPING STONE

It's hard to predict what effect the OHCHR report will really have. The document alone can't bring legal action against China, and it is unlikely that it will prompt the Chinese government to change course, since officials insist that they have done nothing wrong. Still, observers say the report is a step in the right direction. They're hopeful that this official UN document could serve as a wake-up call to the world.

"Now that the leading UN office on human rights has spoken, there are no more excuses for failure to hold the Chinese government accountable," said Elfidar Iltebir, Uyghur American Association president. ★

REPRESSION: the act of using force to control a group of people and limit their freedom

STERILIZE: to make a person or an animal unable to have babies, especially by removing or blocking their sex organs



INTERNATIONAL

THE UYGHURS OF XINJIANG

- UN REPORT FINDS CHINA IS PERSECUTING THIS MINORITY POPULATION

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe who the Uyghurs are and where they live.

2. What is the population of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region? What is the ethnic breakdown of this region?

3. List at least four other important facts about this region.

4. What is the OHCHR?

6. According to various human rights organizations, where have Chinese authorities sent many Uyghurs? How many Uyghurs have been locked up in these facilities?

7. How did China react to the OHCHR report?

8. How has China described Uyghur detention sites?



INTERNATIONAL **THE UYGHURS OF XINJIANG** – UN REPORT FINDS CHINA IS PERSECUTING THIS MINORITY POPULATION

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER THOUGHT

1. Though many world leaders are applauding the publication of the OHCHR report, some observers are skeptical that any legal action will be taken against the Chinese government for its persecution of Uyghurs. As you see it, what historical impact will the publication of this report have? Give reasons to support your thinking.

2. Canada has been vocal in denouncing China for its human rights abuses against Uyghurs. There are approximately 2000 Uyghurs living in Canada who are still being persecuted from China, mainly through pressure put on their parents and families back at home. Watch this report from 2019 and hear Uyghur Canadians share how they are still being tracked by the Chinese government: <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1648929347691> [2:49]

How might Canada's public comments about China's human rights abuses impact Uyghur Canadians and their families? As you see it, should they continue to speak out? Why or why not?

3. Canada led the global push for the UN to investigate China's persecution of Uyghurs living in Xinjiang back in 2021. China, in response to Canada's comments, cited examples of Canada's human rights abuses against Indigenous populations following the discovery of hundreds of unmarked graves at former Residential Schools:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/china-canada-un-calls-investigation-crimes-indigenous-uyghurs-1.6075025>

What similarities and differences exist between the two situations? If you were Prime Minister Trudeau, how would you respond to China's comments? Explain.

4. You might recall that Canada was among a number of countries that imposed a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing to protest China's mistreatment of Uyghurs. Basically, athletes from these countries were allowed to compete, but no leaders or diplomats attended the Opening or Closing ceremonies. China denied these international accusations and responded by having a Uyghur athlete light the Olympic torch during the Opening ceremonies to show the world that it was not persecuting Uyghurs.

Do you think that such symbolic actions from the international community are effective? Why or why not? Explain.



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QUESTIONS FOR ONLINE EXPLORATION

Note: The links below are listed at www.lesplan.com/en/links for easy access.

1. Learn more about the details in the OHCHR's report on the persecution of Uyghurs in China's Xinjiang province.

a) The full 48-page report:

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/countries/2022-08-31/22-08-31-final-assesment.pdf>

b) Report summary:

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/08/1125932>

What questions do you have about the information presented?

2. How is the world reacting to the allegations in this report? Watch and read these news reports to find out more:

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2067998275815> [5:43]

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2068261955727> [7:50]

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/us-china-uyghur-report-1.6570340>

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2068181571858/> [7:58]

What new details did you learn?

3. Scroll through the 30 articles of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

Based on what you've learned from the article and OHCHR's report, do you believe that China violated any of the 30 Human Rights articles? Give examples to support your response.

4. Listen to this podcast to learn what this UN report means to a woman whose Uyghur brother 'disappeared' in 2016:

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/asithappens/as-it-happens-the-thursday-edition-1.6569818/what-the-un-uyghur-report-means-to-a-woman-whose-brother-was-disappeared-1.6569855> [8:24]

5. See the design of these detention camps, leaked photos of conditions inside them, and the surveillance systems used to monitor undetained Uyghurs: *[Warning: Some images may be disturbing to students.]*

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/meghara/inside-xinjiang-detention-camp>

<https://xinjiang.sppga.ubc.ca/files/2020/08/china-reeducation-camps-DIAGRAM-06082020-scaled.jpg>

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/day6/the-onion-s-powerful-satire-on-shootings-amber-heard-s-trial-by-tiktok-stranger-things-is-back-and-more-1.6468079/leaked-photos-of-uyghurs-interred-at-xinjiang-detention-centres-devastating-says-activist-1.6468085>

What did you notice? What did you wonder?

6. Should Canada be tougher on China for the Chinese government's treatment of Uyghurs? Hear from one activist:

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2040316483965> [7:50]

7. Learn more about Uyghur history and culture: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uyghurs>

List 3 facts that you learned.

 MAP ASSIGNMENT
CHINA

Complete this map assignment to better understand the article *The Uighurs of Xinjiang*.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Obtain the required resources and read all the instructions before starting.
2. Colour your map after all labelling is completed.
3. Print in pencil only first, then go over the printing in black ink.
4. Work carefully and neatly.

Resources Required: pencil, black pen, pencil crayons, ruler, eraser and an atlas.

Part A Locate and label the following countries in CAPITAL letters and shade each as indicated:

China (green)	Mongolia (purple)	Japan (pink)
Taiwan (yellow)	Vietnam (red)	Philippines (brown)
Myanmar (orange)	India (purple)	

Part B Locate and label the capital city of each country and underline each city name.

Part C Locate and label the following countries in CAPITAL letters and shade each as indicated:

Russia (orange)	Kazakhstan (red)	Kyrgyzstan (yellow)
Pakistan (brown)	Nepal (orange)	Bhutan (yellow)
Bangladesh (pink)	Thailand (pink)	Laos (purple)
Cambodia (yellow)	North Korea (red)	South Korea (orange)

Part D Locate and label the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in CAPITAL letters and shade it dark green.

Part E Locate and label the capital of Xinjiang and underline the city name.

Part F Locate and label the following cities:

Shanghai	Guangzhou
Tianjin	Wuhan
Chongqing	Chengdu

Part G Draw and label the following rivers and shade them light blue:

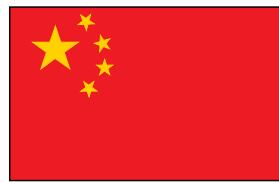
Yangtze River (Chang Jiang River)	Huang He River (Yellow River)
Pearl River	Mekong River
Amur River	Ganges River

Part H Locate and label the following bodies of salt water and shade all ocean water dark blue:

Pacific Ocean	Sea of Japan
Yellow Sea	East China Sea
South China Sea	Bay of Bengal

Part I Shade all remaining territories grey.

Part J Complete your map with a frame, title, and compass. ★



China





INTERNATIONAL

THE UYGHURS OF XINJIANG

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INFOGRAPHIC

This graphic breaks down the ‘Trustworthiness Assessment Form’ used by People’s Republic of China officials to determine if Muslim minorities living in Xinjiang should be investigated or detained. Each person is evaluated on a point system, where deductions occur if an individual studied religion frequently or have recently traveled to another country.

Trustworthiness Assessment Form

This form is used in some urban locations by Neighborhood Watch Units to determine which Turkic Muslim residents should be investigated and detained.

The form lists as column headers: Address, name, age, followed by categories of potential 10-point deductions.

10 causes of potential deductions:

- Being between the ages of 15 and 55
- Being ethnic Uighur
- Unemployment
- Possession of a passport
- Praying daily
- Having studied religion
- Visiting one of 26 banned countries
- Belated return to China
- Has association with foreign country
- Teaching children at home

Possible scoring results for each person

- **80-100:** Trustworthy
- **50-70:** Normal
- **0-40:** Untrustworthy: Results in investigation and potentially in internment

河北西路社区常住户民语系打分表																	
家庭住址	人数	姓名	年龄	年龄段 (15-25岁、 26-40岁、 41-55岁)	维吾尔族	无业人员	持有护照	每日礼拜	有宗教意识	去过外国	逾期入境人员	有境外联系人	家有辍学儿童	总分数	放心	一般	不放心
	1	麦合木提·阿不都	男		-10		-10	-10	-10	-10				50	✓		
	2	阿不都热合曼·阿不都	男		-10									90	✓		
	3	麦麦提·热合曼·阿不都	男		-10									90	✓		
	4	阿不都热合曼·麦麦提	男	-10	-10									80	✓		
	5	麦麦提·麦麦提·麦麦提	男	10	-10									80	✓		
	6	麦麦提·麦麦提·麦麦提	男		-10									90	✓		
	7	麦麦提·麦麦提	男		10									90	✓		
	8	麦麦提·麦麦提·麦麦提	男		-10									90	✓		
	9	麦麦提·麦麦提	男	-10	-10	-10								70	✓		
	10	麦麦提·麦麦提	男	-10	-10									80	✓		
	11	麦麦提·麦麦提·麦麦提	男	-10	-10									80	✓		
	12	麦麦提·麦麦提·麦麦提	男		-10									90	✓		
	13	麦麦提·麦麦提·麦麦提	男	-10	-10									80	✓		

Sources: Ürümqi Hebei West Street Neighborhood Watch Unit, Central Asian Survey, Wall Street Journal

Image: Matters News
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<https://xinjiang.sppga.ubc.ca/teaching/infographics/>

Institute of Asian Research, School of Public Policy and Global Affairs
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Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z1



INTERNATIONAL

THE UYGHURS OF XINJIANG

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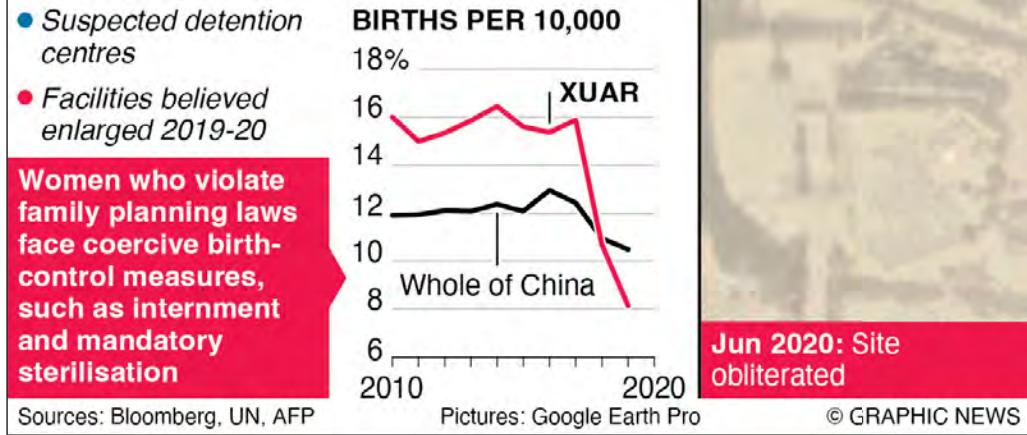
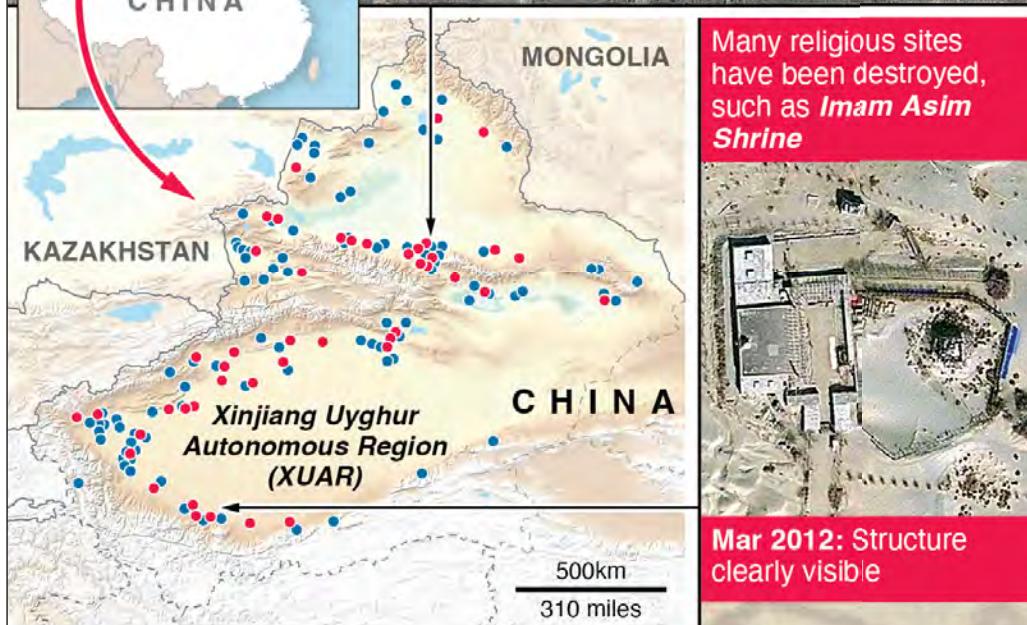
INFOGRAPHIC

UN report accuses China of rights abuses

The United Nations condemns China for serious human rights offences in Xinjiang province, including torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment against ethnic Uyghurs



Increasing detainees: *Urumqi No. 3 Detention Centre* buildings have grown in number from 40 (in 2018) to 92 (2020)



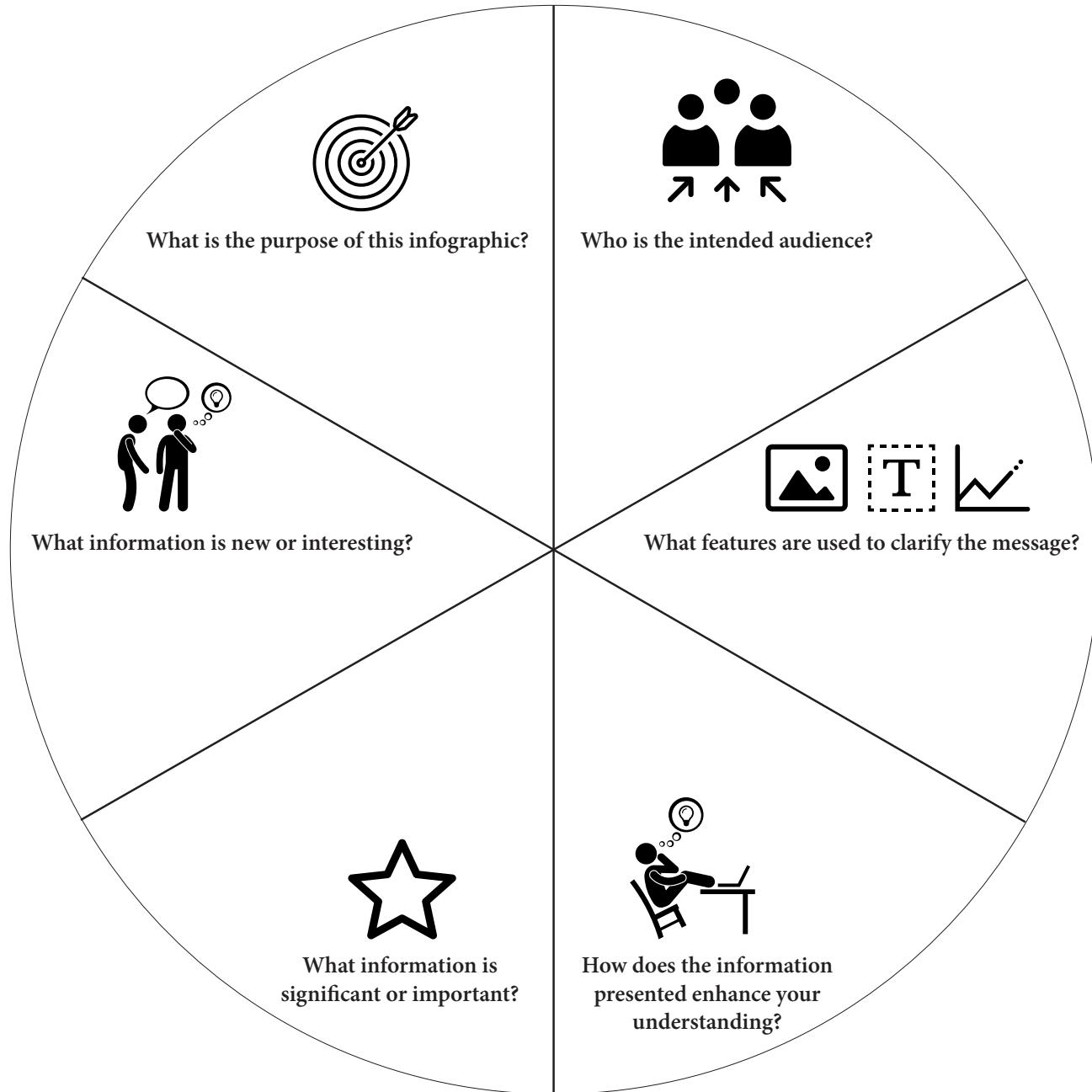


INTERNATIONAL

THE UYGHURS OF XINJIANG

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ANALYZING AN INFOGRAPHIC





INTERNATIONAL **THE UYGHURS OF XINJIANG** - UN REPORT FINDS CHINA IS PERSECUTING THIS MINORITY POPULATION

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

A. Write the letter that corresponds to the best answer on the line beside each question:

- _____ 1. How many Uyghurs live in Xinjiang?

 - a) 4 million
 - b) 8 million
 - c) 12 million
 - d) 22 million
 - e) 47 million

_____ 2. Xinjiang's traditional economy is based on:

 - a) oil and gas resources
 - b) high tech and movie production
 - c) mining and forestry
 - d) fishing and aquaculture
 - e) agriculture and trade

_____ 3. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for _____

 - a) Human Rights
 - b) Civil Liberties
 - c) Constitutional Rights
 - d) Religious Freedom
 - e) Freedom of Speech

B. Mark the statements T (True) or F (False). If a statement is True, write one important fact to support it on the line below. If a statement is False, write the words that make it true on the line below.

- 4. True or False? Most Uyghurs are Muslims.**

_____ 5. **True or False?** China released all Uyghurs from detention camps after the UN released its report.

6. True or False? Human rights groups say Chinese authorities have imprisoned some one million Uyghurs.

C. Fill in the blanks to complete each sentence.

7. Uyghurs speak a language similar to _____.

8. The population of Xinjiang is million.

9. Many _____ have settled in Xinjiang in recent years. (2)

D. Respond to the following question in paragraph form. (Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary.)

10. As you see it, what responsibility does the international community have to protest human rights abuses in other countries? Give reasons to support your response.



SETTING A PURPOSE BEFORE READING

There are a number of reasons we read, and setting a purpose for reading – knowing WHY we are reading – helps us to focus on important information and to better understand and remember what we read. It also helps us decide HOW we will read the text.

We don't read all texts for the same purposes or in the same way. For example, we read an instruction manual for a new Blu-ray player for a different reason than we read a book or a website. How we will read it – the strategies we use – will also differ. We are more likely to skim to find the information we need in a manual. Once we find what we need, we might read the instructions carefully to figure out what to do. Then, we stop reading, put the manual down, and carry out the steps. We may have to reread if we get confused or forget what to do.

This is a very different approach than the one we would use to read a book. When we read a book, we usually read cover-to-cover. We read carefully so we don't miss any details because we want to understand the whole story. Sometimes we make connections or create images in our minds as we read to help us better understand what we are reading. Depending on its length, we may put the book down before we finish reading it but we will start reading where we left off.

Good readers are flexible and responsive. This means that they match their reading strategies to their purpose for reading. What types of text do you read? Why do you read them? What strategies do you use to read each of these texts? The chart below is a summary of the main purposes for reading and what each entails.

Purpose for reading	What it looks like
For enjoyment	Usually student-selected. Allows students to choose a variety of genres and forms. Allows students to pursue what interests them while developing reading skills.
To experience something new	Students make connections between their personal experiences and those of people around the world.
To learn more about themselves and others	Students reflect on what they've read and express opinions and perspectives. Students develop a sense of their personal values and make sense of the world around them.
To gain information	Students use the features of informational texts to gather, analyse and apply what they've learned.
To understand issues	Students develop a sense of perspective. Students pose questions, acknowledge other points of view, critique the opinions presented and support opinions with evidence.
To appreciate writing	Students respond to text in ways other than written answers to apply what they've learned in new contexts.
To appreciate use of media to communicate	Students respond to a variety of media formats (e.g., infographics, political cartoons, videos, etc.) and react to how the format supports the meaning of the message.

* Chart adapted from: A Guide to Effective Literacy Instruction, Grades 4-6, p. 11.



RESOURCE PAGE FOR TEACHERS

ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

This rubric may be helpful in providing students with formative, strength-based feedback and/or assessing students' responses holistically.

	Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
Supports thinking	Answers or reflections are brief and include obvious facts/details/evidence.	Answers or reflections are general and supported with some relevant facts/details/evidence.	Answers or reflections are clearly supported with specific, relevant facts/details/evidence.	Answers or reflections are insightful and supported with specific, relevant facts/details/evidence.
Shows understanding	Responses show a basic understanding of the text, topic, issue or message.	Responses are thoughtful and show a general understanding of the text, topic, issue or message.	Responses are thoughtful and show a complete understanding of the text, topic, issue or message.	Responses are insightful and show a deep understanding the text, topic, issue or message. May synthesize ideas or explain the 'so what'.
Thinks critically	Makes straightforward connections or inferences. Focuses on retelling.	Makes logical connections to self (T:S) and/or background knowledge (T:S). Inferences are logical.	Makes meaningful connections to self. Considers ideas between texts (T:T). Inferences are plausible.	Makes powerful connections that go between texts and/or beyond the text (T:W). Inferences are plausible and insightful.

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grade 3 & up

Currents4Kids.com *News4Youth.com*

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- ✓ Weekly news stories
- ✓ Auto-graded quizzes
- ✓ Comment page for students to respond to the stories
- ✓ Links to relevant articles, resources, maps, photos and videos
- ✓ Extension activities



Online interactive resource

Product details: 40 issues. One subscription allows all teachers and students access from any Internet-connected device at any time. Available in English and in French.

Currents4Kids/Infos-Jeunes: Grades 3 and up.

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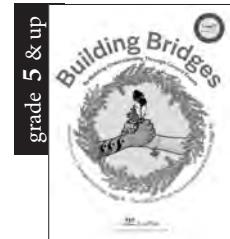


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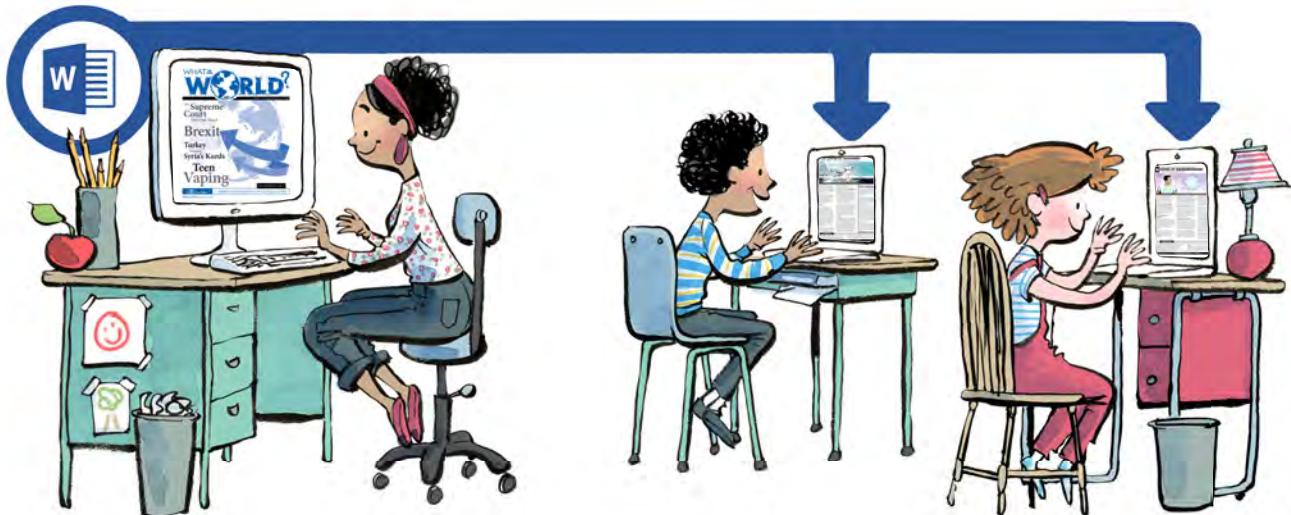
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- easily modify and format content including changing **fonts** and **text sizes**
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- save paper and copying costs and help protect the environment
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- **LibreOffice** is a free alternate to **Microsoft Office** and offers the same functionality. It's easy to install and use. See: www.libreoffice.org



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WHAT IN THE WORLD?

Sample Pages

INTERNATIONAL
FRANCE'S NOTRE-DAME DE PARIS
 The cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris has been engulfed in flames. This medieval cathedral is one of the most recognizable landmarks in the world. It's been around since the 12th century and is known for its Gothic architecture. The fire started at approximately 18:00 local time on April 15, 2019. The cause of the fire is still unknown. Firefighters are working to extinguish the flames and prevent further damage to the building. The cathedral is a symbol of French history and culture. It's a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a major tourist attraction. The fire has caused significant damage to the roof and spire of the cathedral. Emergency services are on the scene, and the public is asked to stay away from the area. The cathedral is a national treasure and a important part of France's cultural heritage. It's a reminder of the power of fire and the importance of taking care of our historical landmarks.

INTERNATIONAL
FRANCE'S NOTRE-DAME DE PARIS
 Notre-Dame fire: Assessing the damage
 The fire at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris has caused significant damage to the building. This graphic shows the extent of the damage, including the collapsed roof and the burning of the spire. The cathedral is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a major tourist attraction. The fire has caused significant damage to the roof and spire of the cathedral. Emergency services are on the scene, and the public is asked to stay away from the area. The cathedral is a national treasure and a important part of France's cultural heritage. It's a reminder of the power of fire and the importance of taking care of our historical landmarks.

ANSWER KEY
 MAP OF FRANCE

A. Where did the fire that destroyed the Notre Dame cathedral begin?
 1. In the roof.
 2. In the walls.
 3. In the floor.
 4. In the ceiling.
 5. In the stonework.
 6. In the spire.
 7. In the windows.
 8. In the doors.
 9. In the entrance.
 10. In the interior.
 11. In the exterior.
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INTERNATIONAL
THE UIGHURS OF CHINA
 TERRORISTS OR VICTIMS?

Human rights groups around the world report that China has imprisoned up to one million Uighur Muslims in camps in Xinjiang province. Satellite images and other evidence show a growing number of detention centers in Xinjiang, including at least a dozen high-security buildings. FAKE NEWS
 The Chinese government, however, denies this accusation. It's "completely untrue," a senior Chinese official told reporters last August. The centers have been set up to teach lessons on Chinese history, language, and culture. There are "numerous, free" day camps. The buildings are also used as job retraining centres, another official explained. However, China does admit to cracking down on "extremist" activity among Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang. It claims that Islamic militants and separatists are plotting attacks and stirring up tension between Uighurs and Han Chinese.

ABOUT XINJIANG'S UIGHURS
 China has a large Muslim population in the region – 14 million. Some 91.5 percent are Han Chinese, who practice a minority religion. Xinjiang is a territory in northwestern China. It became part of China in 1949. In theory the region is autonomous. In practice, the Chinese government controls it. The population of Xinjiang is 22 million. About 10 million are Uighur Muslims who speak a language called Uyghur. Xinjiang is a landlocked region based on agriculture and trade. But the region is rich in oil and other resources and the economy has been developing. That's prompted many Han Chinese from China's eastern areas to move to Xinjiang. Han Chinese now make up 40 percent of the population. Many Uighurs resent this because they are perceived to get the best jobs. Uighur communities also exist in neighbouring countries, such as Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan. These countries used to be part of the Soviet Union. They gained independence in the 1990s, after the Soviet Union collapsed. Some Uighurs in these countries have started a separatist movement. However, China's harsh response to these activities forced separation underground.

PERSPECTIVE: to understand or think about something in a particular way
 SEPARATIST: a group that wants to form a new country separate from the rest of its former country
 UNDERGROUND: secretly working against an existing regime

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