



Communist China

The Great Leap Forward

Comprehension Questions

Watch the video carefully. As you view it, complete the following comprehension questions and tasks.

1. The aim of the Great Leap Forward was to:
 - a) improve Chinese agricultural production.
 - b) transform China into an industrial power.
 - c) make Chinese communism more acceptable.
 - d) challenge the USSR for Communist leadership.

2. Why did some Chinese leaders oppose the speed of Mao's Great Leap Forward?

3. Why was Mao able to introduce the vision for the Great Leap Forward?

- a) He assassinated any opposition.
- b) He had financial support from the USSR.
- c) He persuaded the opposition to support him.
- d) He controlled the Communist Party.

4. Collectivization meant all private land was _____, and people's lives were under _____.

5. What did Mao believe would improve by working together?

6. In what year did a major famine hit China?

7. What was the attitude toward women during the Communist Revolution in China?





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8. Read the following statements:

- i) Commune leaders set very high targets for production.
- ii) Commune leaders often falsified production figures.
 - a) Both statements are true.
 - b) Both statements are false.
 - c) If i) is true, ii) must be false.
 - d) If ii) is true, i) must be false.

9. How were commune workers treated as the famine worsened?

10. What was regarded as China's greatest resource in this period?

11. What did Mao expect Chinese steel production to do between 1957 and 1958?

12. Which of the following were outcomes of the move to rapidly increase steel production? Choose two.

- a) Record levels of steel were produced.
- b) Food was left to rot while farmers made steel.
- c) All metal household objects were smelted.
- d) Mao was regarded as a failed leader and was fired.

13. What happened to most of the steel produced in the "backyard smelters"?

14. How many people are estimated to have died during the Great Chinese Famine at this time?

15. Which sector of the Chinese population was most impacted by the famine?





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16. How much of the economic disaster that China suffered did Liu Shaoqi say was caused by human decisions?

17. Which position did Mao retain despite the failure of the Great Leap Forward?

18. Who replaced Mao as the main leaders of China at the end of the Great Leap Forward?

Extension activity

19. Research collectivization in China during this period of the Great Leap Forward.

a. What was collectivization?

b. Briefly outline how it worked.

c. Evaluate its success as a policy at this time.

