Sample History Lesson on Deng Xiaoping and the Democracy Movement

**Aim:** To discuss the “Fifth Modernisation” – to see how Deng dealt with the demands for more political freedom; to analyse the methods he used; to determine the extent to which he was successful.

**Key events:** Democracy Wall in 1978/79; Fang Lizhi and the Student Movement in 1986; Tiananmen Square 1989

**Extension:** Hong Kong pro-democracy protests today

**Resources:**
- Obituary of Fang Lizhi (also used for evaluation exercise) from The Economist [http://www.economist.com/node/21552551](http://www.economist.com/node/21552551)
- Note on Hu Yaobang and a poster (also for evaluation). [http://chineseposters.net/themes/huyaobang.php](http://chineseposters.net/themes/huyaobang.php)
- Contemporary BBC account of the massacre [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJBnHMpHGRY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJBnHMpHGRY)
- Current comments on Tiananmen. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFWJcjPsV7E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFWJcjPsV7E)

**Task:** Students to work in groups to make presentations (in chronological order of events) on each source to the rest of the class. Students are asked to do the following:
- To briefly give the background to their topic (explain its significance)
- To describe the source
- To discuss the origin, purpose, value and limitation of the source for historians studying this topic

**Key Questions for class discussion:**
- Why did the Chinese Politburo decide to use force?
- How did this affect the continued economic progress of China?
- How did events in the USSR affect the decision to suppress Tiananmen?
- What has been the impact of Tiananmen on China until today?

**Outcome:**
- To see how Deng used the “Fifth Modernisation” to challenge Hua Guofeng, but then tried to stifle it by using force.
- To determine if there were links to economic progress or problems (look back to class on 4 Modernisations)
- Link to the changes in the USSR and E. Europe in 1989.