

Middle East Related Lesson Plan

Target Grade level:

8th grade, but may be used with students grades 3-12 with modifications or support.

Core Standards and Performance Objectives:

Strand 2: World History

Concept 9: Contemporary World

PO1. Discuss current events from various events from various resources

Strand 4: Geography

Concept 1: The World in Spatial Terms,

PO4. Identify land and water on maps.

PO5. Locate Continents and oceans on a map.

Concept 6: Geographic Applications,

PO1. Discuss geographic concepts related to current events.

Materials:

Outline map of the Middle East

World Atlas

Colored pencils

Current newspaper, magazines, or access to internet

Current Event Worksheet

Five Themes of Geography Worksheet

Lesson Introduction:

This lesson is designed to be more of a weekly homework assignment, with a research component, with a small amount of time set aside once or twice per week for presentations and discussions. It may be done in class as well, but the schedule is so tight as it is, it works best as a homework assignment with review or discussion time in class. It is a great way to integrate language arts into the curriculum since it supports, reading, summarization, and writing, among other literacy skills.

This should be done as a guided lesson, whole group via direct instruction at least once before assigning this independently, so students will be familiar with the format and expectations. This is particularly important when citing the source (not expected to be cited in APA or MLA format for this lesson, but the most relevant information should be included).

Activity:

1. Each student is assigned the task of finding a current event article in the newspaper, magazine, or on an internet website. I discourage getting stories from television because they are often so brief and quick, there isn't enough information presented but you can use your discretion.
2. Once students have found their article, they must write a brief summary of the news story (5 W's), give their opinion on the story, and tell how this may or may not impact their lives. If they feel it will not in anyway affect their lives, then they must write about whom they feel might be most impacted by this story and in which way. The complete source should be cited. *Use the worksheet to help guide students on how to write their summary – ELL and IEP students should use the worksheet directly to complete their assignment. All students can start out using the work sheet, but eventually they should be able to write their summaries in paragraph form; two or three paragraphs to support writing.
3. Students must then complete the Five Themes of Geography worksheet as indicated, to ensure students are familiar with the part of the world that is being discussed in the news story. Students will need to use outside resources to complete this part.
4. The final step is to label and color the Middle East map, clearly identifying continents, major cities, bodies of water, and major landforms. The area referred to in the news story should be identified in some manner. A title, legend, and compass rose should be added.

Assessment:

Assessment will be in two forms: first, the formal assessment will come from the written work (see rubric – points may be adjusted to suit individual grading system), and secondly, as an informal evaluation during a class presentation and discussion. I like the students to share their stories with one another and then have the class ask questions about the story or add comments. I usually offer extra credit or participation points to those volunteering to share their stories, but it can be done as a requirement if you chose to.

Review:

Since this is done as a weekly assignment, often times, we come across stories that are tied to past current event topics, or students make connections between events taking place in one part of the world and the current area. Additionally, I find try to link our history lessons to present day events whenever possible so students are able to view first hand how history can impact or influence issues in the present. Seize the teachable moment and take advantage of any opportunity to review, connect, and discuss!

Extensions/Modifications:

In my classroom, I like to assign current events weekly. This lesson is very versatile. I often assign the current events by different geographic location (continent, country, hemisphere, etc), or by different theme (political, education, social, economic, religious, war/terrorism, etc), every week or few weeks. This helps the student review basic geography, and focus their attention to topics.

Within a given theme or location, you can also have the class make graphs. For example, if you limit your geographic location to the United States for example, then you could make a class graph on theme of stories, or vice versa.

If you choose to include Political Cartoons, you can modify the summary portion, to be more of an interpretation of the message and should include clues to support that interpretation (this is typically where a detailed description of the cartoon takes place). I call the assignment "News Work" instead of just "Current Events," when we include political cartoons.

Finally, you can make the map portion more elaborate by having students make their own maps, and grade for DOGS' TAILS (Date, Orientation, Grid, Scale, Title, Author, Index, Legend, Situation).

Current Event Assignment

Source

Where did you get your news story (name of newspaper, magazine, website)? _____

What was the date it was written/posted on website? _____

Who wrote the article/internet story? _____

What was the title of the article? _____

On which page and section, or what was the complete web address, where you found the story? _____

Summary

Who was it about? _____

What happened? _____

Where did this happen? _____

When did this happen? _____

Why did it happen or what caused this to happen? _____

What are other facts or details you can give me about your story? _____

Opinion

What is your reaction to the story? How do you feel about it? _____

Do you think this will affect you or your life in any way? Why or why not? If it doesn't affect you, whom might it affect? _____

Five Themes of Geography

Use an atlas, internet, encyclopedia, or other source to find the following:

Location: What is the absolute location for your news story (latitude & longitude)? If you cannot find the location on the map, use a major city or landform nearby.

What is the relative location for your news story (describe where you would find it on a map if you don't want to use a grid)?

Place: What is it like there? Include information about the climate, wildlife, vegetation, landforms, bodies of water, languages, religions, man-made landmarks etc.

Region: What are the political, physical, and cultural regions? _____

Movement: Provide one example of movement of ideas, goods, or people for that area. _____

Human Environment Interaction (HEI): How do people depend on the environment in that area? How have they changed the environment? How have people adapted to the environment in that area? _____

Name _____

Total Score _____

Current Event Rubric: Graded Criteria	Exceptional Effort All criteria met: 30 pts.	Good Effort Most criteria met: 20 Points	Poor Effort Did not meet criteria: 10 points	Your points
Source: Complete source was listed on the paper; no pertinent information left out. *Attached copy of internet story or newspaper article is not a substitute for citing the source.				
Summary: All questions were answered in complete sentences; it included responses to the 5W/s. Correct theme/location.				
Opinion: All questions were answered in complete sentences that demonstrate thoughtful responses and attempts to connect to personal life.				
5 Themes of Geography: All five themes were addressed correctly, and responded to in complete sentences.				
Map: Map was clearly labeled for continents, major bodies of water, major cities, and major landforms, colored, contained a legend, compass rose, and was titled.				
Miscellaneous: Work was edited, neat, and completed in blue or black ink, or type written				

Name _____

Total Score _____

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Middle East Outline Map

Courtesy of EnchantedLearning.com - <http://www.allaboutbugs.com/subjects/continents/Mideast/outlinemap/map.GIF>

