Unit 5: Foreign Policy and National Security

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s): **Current Issues**
Time Period: **January**
Length: **8 blocks**
Status: **Published**

Transfer Skills

Students will understand their role in a society as it pertains to foreign policy and national security.

Enduring Understandings

- Different authority systems and government structures determine policy making.
- Global societies are diverse, creating varied perspectives, contributions, and challenges.
- The study of foreign policy requires an understanding of power.
- Analyze the role of the Homeland Security department.

Essential Questions

- How is power acquired, used, and justified?
- How does the global community differentiate between different types of regimes (communist, authoritarian, democratic)?
- In what ways are foreign policy decisions a reflection of a country's ideological spectrum and electoral system?
- Is conflict inevitable? Desirable? Avoidable?
- What global responsibilities does the United States have as the world's last remaining superpower?
- What role does Homeland Security play in protecting American citizens?

Learning Objectives

- Critique the motivating factors of terrorism and terrorist groups (Hezbollah, Hamas, Al Qaeda, ETA (Spain), Aum Shinrikyo (Japan), and the Irish Republican Army).
- Evaluate the effectiveness of terrorists in achieving their goals.
- Debate various reactions and responses to terrorism.
- Assess the effectiveness of the treaties aimed at halting the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.
- Evaluate the policy of "nation building." 6.6 Assess the perception of America abroad. 6.7 Analyze conflicts in various regions of the world (Middle East, Asia, Latin America, Africa).
- Evaluate the effectiveness of nongovernmental organizations in raising awareness and providing solutions to global problems.
- Analyze the moral and political factors that motivate the U.S. to provide economic support to other

countries.

Skills

- Propose an incentive program to the UN Security Council to prevent the development and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in Iran, North Korea, India and Pakistan
- Debate the building of the Strategic Missile Defense system
- Role-play the creation of a peace agreement between Palestine and Israel
- Develop a plan for rebuilding a war-torn country such as Iraq or Afghanistan
- Mock trial on the justification of the Iraq War
- Create a Venn diagram comparing the USA Patriot Act with Britain's response to the London Subway Bombings
- Presentations determining whether a group should be considered "terrorists" or "freedom fighters"
- Debate the various approaches to foreign policy including the Monroe Doctrine, President McKinley's call for war against Spain, 1898, Truman Doctrine, Bush Doctrine, Powell Doctrine, and Just War Doctrine
- Newscasts
- WebQuests

Resources

- Newspapers (*New York Times, Boston Globe, LA Times, Washington Post*)
- Magazines
- News magazines, e.g., Upfront (The New York Times), Great Decisions (Foreign Policy Association)
- Christian Science Monitor (Newspaper)
- Shifting Sands: Balancing U.S. Interests in the Middle East, The Choices Program, www.choices.edu
- China on the World Stage: Weighing the U.S. response, The Choices Program, www.choices.edu
- Responding to Terrorism: Challenges for Democracy, The Choices Program, www.choices.edu
- Dilemmas in Foreign Aid: Debating U.S. Priorities and Practices, The Choices Program, www.choices.edu
- The U.S. Role in a Changing World, The Choices Program, www.choices.edu
- CNN Student News

Standards

SOC.6.1.12	U.S. History: America in the World: All students will acquire the knowledge and skills to think analytically about how past and present interactions of people, cultures, and the environment shape the American heritage. Such knowledge and skills enable students to make informed decisions that reflect fundamental rights and core democratic values as productive citizens in local, national, and global communities.

SOC.6.1.12.B.6.a	Determine the role geography played in gaining access to raw materials and finding new global markets to promote trade.
SOC.6.1.12.B.15.a	Evaluate the effectiveness of the United States government's efforts to provide humanitarian assistance during international natural disasters and times of crises.
SOC.6.1.12.B.16.a	Explain why natural resources (i.e., fossil fuels, food, and water) continue to be a source of conflict, and analyze how the United States and other nations have addressed issues concerning the distribution and sustainability of natural resources.