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From *Teaching International Relations*  
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Introduction

Model Content Standards

Lesson 1: Global Awareness

- A. Who Are the Inhabitants of Our Bumpy Rock Earth?
- B. Identifying Our Global Diversity

The purpose of these hands-on lessons is to help students understand the diversity of the world we live in as the teacher introduces global awareness and the need for international relations.

Lesson 2: International Relations Vocabulary

The purpose of this lesson is to introduce students to the common vocabulary used in the study of international relations.

Lesson 3: Analyzing a Global Issue

Students will begin examining real-world global issues using a six-step global issues analysis model.

Lesson 4: Defining Nation States

- A. Nation-States Scramble
- B. The United States: E Pluribus Unum or E Pluribus Pluribus?

The terms *state* and *nation* are regularly used in international relations and are often interchanged. However, they are really quite different. Although the term *nation-state* is used, nation and state have two very different meanings. These lessons introduce students to the complex meaning behind these terms and allow students to understand the difference between the two. Students will also understand the characteristics of multi-state nationalities and multi-national states, and be introduced to the complex debate in defining the United States as a multi-national state.

Lesson 5: Defining National Interest

The purpose of this lesson is to introduce students to the concept of national interest. Students will understand what factors play a significant role in defining a state's national interest. Using the information learned, students will produce a creative writing piece using the R.A.F.T. (Role, Audience, Format and Topic) model. The R.A.F.T. model was created to aid students in the creative writing process. Students are given a role as the writer, an audience to write for, a format for the writing piece and of course, a topic to write about.

Lesson 6: Foreign Policy and Foreign Policy Tools

- A. Tools of the Trade
- B. Foreign Policy Priorities
- C. Understanding Foreign Policy and Using Foreign Policy Tools
- D. Applying Foreign Policy and Using Foreign Policy Tools

These lessons introduce students to foreign policy concepts and allow analysis and application of foreign policy tools to a real-life global issue. The lessons also re-visit the concept of national interest.

Lesson 7: Defining the International System

The earth operates as a huge system of interrelated subsystems. In recent years, the complexity and pervasiveness of many of these international systems have made us more aware of their importance. In this activity, students develop a definition of the word *system*, learn about different types of international systems, and identify examples of each kind of international system in the news.

Lesson 8: Actors in the International System

The international arena is comprised of many governments, organizations, corporations and individuals that deal with global issues on a daily basis. This two-four day lesson introduces students to these different "actors" in international relations. The first section of the lesson asks students to define existing international organizations based on specific criteria. The second section of the lesson allows students to research the international actors that deal with real-world global issues. This lesson requires students to take information from research and present it in a creative manner.

## Lesson 9: The United Nations System

- A. Understanding the Role of the United Nations
- B. A Model UN Simulation: Water Crisis in the Middle East

These lessons include an introduction to the United Nations and a Model UN simulation. For additional lesson plans on the United Nations, visit [www.un.org](http://www.un.org).

## Lesson 10: Introduction to International Law

- A. There Oughta Be a Law!
- B. Understanding the International Court of Justice

Often times when confronted with an international issue, a student's first reaction towards resolution runs along the lines of "we'll just create a law!" These lessons introduce students to the concept of international law and to the international court of law. Students will understand that simply creating a law to deal with international conflict is not always a viable solution. Students learn a key concept in international law: it must be self-enforced by a particular country. These lessons help guide their thinking in that regard.

## Lesson 11: International Trade

- A. Going After Mr. Goodbar
- B. Trading Blocs & Free/Fair Trade

Global interdependence manifests itself as international trade, yet interdependence is not always of equal weight. By acting as members of the global business community in the "Mr. Goodbar" lesson, students will be able to not only grasp the concept of interdependence and international trade. Then students will examine trade issues, and the role of tariffs and trade agreements in the "Trading Blocs" lesson.

## Lesson 12: Imbalances in Wealth

- A. Pennies: The Scramble for Wealth
- B. Helping the "Have-Nots" USAID Missions

A primary goal in the study of international relations is to increase understanding of the acquisition patterns of goods and resources throughout the world. Maldistribution underlies many of the world's most pressing long-term problems, but interdependence is not an equitable concept. Can goods and resources be divided equitably? Can goods and resources be shared? In the scramble for pennies, students gain a deeper understanding into this fundamental global problem. In the second lesson, students explore whether the "haves" can offer assistance and share responsibility.

## Lesson 13: Economic Aid

- A. Who Should Get the Aid?
- B. Aid and Refugees

Students will be introduced to the idea of aid and some of the factors which determine who receives aid and who does not. Next students will read short descriptions of six countries that need aid. Working in groups, students will decide who should receive aid based on given criteria. Students will then be introduced to the dilemma of refugees and the importance of aid needed to remedy the refugee crisis.

## Lesson 14: Human Rights

- A. Rights in Conflict: A Part of our Lives
- B. Refugees' Rights

Conflicts regarding human rights don't just take place "out there", in other countries, involving other people. They also occur "back here" in our communities, sometimes involving ourselves. The first activity helps students examine conflicts involving rights and explore their possible resolutions. (**Note:** The activity is easily adaptable to a focus on human rights conflicts around the world.) The second activity involves deals with the fact that conflicts regarding human rights are global and are issues addressed in international law. It is a follow up to Lesson 13B.

## Bibliography

## Glossary