



April 16, 2007

Dear Teacher:

As a recipient of **World Savvy's Current Affairs Update**, every two weeks you will receive a set of resources for 3 major recent news stories, including articles at varying reading levels, a list of relevant standards, and curriculum that can be used to teach about the issues covered by that news story. If you are interested in teaching a larger unit on a specific issue, please contact us for support.

In this issue: **Pelosi visits Syria; Supreme Court Rules that U.S. Must Curb Car Pollution; Relations Between China and Japan Improving**

Special Topic: **Shooting at Virginia Tech**

Check the next current events update for detailed information/articles on this shooting, but see below for some resources on addressing school violence in classrooms:

Educators for Social Responsibility – Talking with Children about War and Violence in the World

http://www.esrnational.org/otc/view_news.php

Committee for Children – Talking about School Violence -

<http://www.cfchildren.org/cfc/articlef/talktostudents>

Topic 1: Pelosi Visits Syria

Advanced Article: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/04/06/MNGAMP45CB1.DTL&hw=pelosi+syria&sn=008&sc=582>

Intermediate Article: http://www.boston.com/news/world/articles/2007/04/04/despite_bush_rebuke_pelosi_visits_syria/

Beginning Article: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6522743.stm

Multimedia - video: President Assad: US Lacks Vision in Middle East:
http://news.bbc.co.uk/player/nol/newsid_6030000/newsid_6035900/6035953.stm?bw=nb&mp=wm#

Discussion Questions:

1. What was the purpose of Pelosi's visit to Syria? With whom did she meet?
2. What was the Bush administration's response to Pelosi's visit?
3. What is the status of official diplomatic relations between Syria and the United States? What is the reason that diplomatic relations were suspended?
4. What is Syria's role in the Middle East? Who are its allies and
5. What major announcement did Pelosi make after her visit?
6. Do you think the U.S. should be in talks with Syria? Why or why not?

Curriculum:

1. PBS Newshour: Syria's Role in the Middle East
<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/world/syria.html>
2. CNN: Relate the Six-Day War to current Mid-East Conflict
<http://cnnstudentnews.cnn.com/2002/fyi/lesson.plans/04/15/six.day/>
3. NY Times: Muddle East: Exploring Conflict between Israel & Hezbollah and the Countries that Support Them
<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20060719wednesday.html>

California Standards:

World History: Contemporary Nation Building

U.S. History: Foreign Policy post-1948

Language Arts: Reading and Writing

Government: Comparative Government, the Three Branches

Topic 2: Supreme Court Rules that U.S. Must Curb Car Pollution

Advanced Article: [http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/04/03/MNGHCP0JK31.DTL&hw=supreme+court+EPA&sn=002&sc=660)

[bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/04/03/MNGHCP0JK31.DTL&hw=supreme+court+EPA&sn=002&sc=660](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/04/03/MNGHCP0JK31.DTL&hw=supreme+court+EPA&sn=002&sc=660)

Intermediate Article: <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/apr2007/2007-04-02-10.asp>

Beginning Article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/6519923.stm>

Related Article: Newsweek – The Green Giant (Schwarzenegger): <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17996834/site/newsweek/>

Discussion Questions:

1. In *Massachusetts v. EPA*, what did the Supreme Court rule? Why is this ruling significant?
2. Before this ruling, what was the position of the EPA?
3. What is expected to happen after this ruling? As of now, who is leading the way in terms of reducing car emissions?
4. Reading the SF Chronicle article, how will this ruling impact the state of California?
5. The Supreme Court issued their ruling based on their interpretation of the Clean Air Act of 1970. Do some research – what is the Clean Air Act?
6. How do car emissions contribute to pollution?

Curriculum:

1. NYT Lesson Plan: Land Marked: Perspective on Land Redistribution in Zimbabwe

http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20020814wednesday.html?searchpv=learning_lessons

2. Union of Concerned Scientists – Global Warming Materials for Educators

http://www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/science/global-warming-materials-for-educators.html

3. Facing the Future – Scroll down to lesson #17 – “Fueling the Future”

<http://www.facingthefuturedata.org/download.htm>

California Standards:

U.S. History: Contemporary Issues in America

Language Arts: Analyzing the Media, Reading and Writing

Government: Supreme Court, Media and Politics, Federalism

Topic 3: Relations Between China and Japan Improving

Advanced Article: <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1608174,00.html>

Intermediate Article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/6552235.stm>

Beginning Article: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/asiapcf/04/12/japan.wenjiabao.ap/index.html>

Related Article: Issues in China-Japan Relations:

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/asiapcf/04/11/japan.china.issues.reut/index.html>

Discussion Questions:

1. Who just visited Japan this past week? Why is his visit surprising?
2. What are some of the reasons for the tension between China and Japan in the past?
3. What do you think are the main reasons that China and Japan would try to put aside their differences and work together?
4. Who were the comfort women mentioned in the BBC article? What does this have to do with current tensions in China-Japan relations? What steps have the 2 countries decided to take on this issue?

Curriculum:

1. Asia for Educators – resources for teaching about economy/foreign policy in China and Japan post-1945

<http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/>

2. V-Day 2006: Teaching about Comfort Women (high school)
<http://www.vday.org/contents/vcampaigns/spotlight/comfortwomen>
3. Recent Developments in China's Economy:
<http://www.exeas.org/resources/recent-developments-chinas-economy.html>

California Standards:

World History: WWII, Modern World Economy, Historical Perspective/Interpretation

Language Arts: Reading and Writing

Economics: International Trade

The views expressed in the articles and resources listed above are not the views of World Savvy. They are listed here as resources for educators but do not necessarily reflect the opinions and priorities of World Savvy.

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