

December 1, 2006

In this issue: Pope Benedict XVI Visits Turkey; Nepal Reaches Peace Deal; President Bush Visits Vietnam

Topic 1: Pope Benedict XVI Visits Turkey

Advanced Article: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/n/a/2006/11/29/international/i110423S06.DTL>

Intermediate Article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/2/hi/europe/6187346.stm>

Beginning Article: <http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/EXERES/C97963A9-23C9-46EE-A204-E5BE973311F8.htm>

Audio: NPR, "Muslim relationship with the Vatican evolving":

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=6553632>

Related Beginning Article: Pope Benedict XVI and Islam - <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/2/hi/europe/5349808.stm>

Discussion Questions:

1. Where is Turkey?
2. Why were protests expected at the Pope's arrival in Turkey?
3. What religious group is represented by Pope Benedict XVI? What portion of the world's population is included in this group?
4. What group or groups was the Pope attempting to mend relations with in his visit?
5. Why might it be important to the Pope to improve relationships with other sects or religions?

Curriculum:

1. Concepts across the Curriculum: World Religions lesson plans

<http://www.pbs.org/teachersource/thismonth/mar02/index.shtm>

2. Mea Culpa: Investigating Papal Apologies in Recent History

http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20060920wednesday.html?searchpv=learning_lessons

California Standards:

World History (Ancient): Rise of Christianity/Islam

World History: Contemporary Nation Building, Decline of Ottoman Empire

Language Arts: Reading and Writing

Topic 2: Nepal reaches peace deal

Advanced Article: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/eef2a67a-6f97-11db-ab7b-0000779e2340.html>

Intermediate Article: http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/2/hi/south_asia/6171586.stm

Beginning Article: http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/2/hi/south_asia/6169746.stm

Audio: NPR, "Nepal celebrates insurgency's end after peace deal"

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=6523779>

Discussion Questions:

1. Where is Nepal? What are its neighboring countries?
2. What are the terms of the new peace deal?
3. Describe the nature of the conflict in Nepal up to this point.
4. Define "Maoist."

5. Name another country or region in which a cease-fire has been declared. Was it successful? Compare with the situation in Nepal to make a prediction about Nepal's political future.

Curriculum:

1. Stop the Fighting and Start Uniting: Investigating Peace Talks around the World
http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20060503wednesday.html?searchpv=learning_lesson_s
2. Nepal in the Family: Exploring the History, Culture, Geography and Culture of the Himalayan Monarchy
http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20010606wednesday.html?searchpv=learning_lesson_s
3. Geography of Nepal: <http://www.k2news.com/lesson4.htm>

California Standards:

World History: Contemporary Nation Building

Language Arts: Reading and Writing

Geography: Geography and World Cultures

Topic 3: President Bush visits Vietnam

Advanced Article: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2006/11/18/MNGVBMFMF61.DTL>

Intermediate Article:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/from_our_own_correspondent/6159246.stm

Beginning Article: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/orange/la-me-viet16nov16.1.1013108.story?ctrack=1&cset=true>

Related Article: Online discussion with Ben Wilkinson: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/discussion/2006/11/16/DI2006111600677.html>

Video: <http://www.uctv.tv/search-details.asp?showID=9433>

Discussion Questions:

1. Where is Vietnam?
2. Describe Vietnam's form of government.
3. Name some of the reasons why President Bush's visit to Vietnam was politically important and symbolic.
4. What is APEC? What is its function? Name a similar organization.
5. Consider the United States' relationships with China, Vietnam, and Cuba. In what ways are these relationships similar or different? Why?

Curriculum:

1. Vietnam and the American Presidencies (looking at the effect of the Vietnam War on Johnson & Nixon – *advanced* lesson)
<http://dailylife.greenwood.com/teacher/lesson.asp?id=DLO%5FAH%5FTE%5FL46>
2. A Brief History of Vietnam and its Evolving Communist System (for high school history classes)
<http://asianstudies.msu.edu/fulbrighthays/vietnam/studyunit/Dennis.pdf>
3. To purchase from SPICE: "Understanding Vietnam in the 21st Century"
http://spice.stanford.edu/publications/understanding_vietnam_in_the_21st_century_political_economic_and_security_issues_in_the_asiapacific_region/

California Standards:

U.S. History: Vietnam War, Foreign Policy since 1948

World History: Cold War Era, Contemporary Nation Building, Modern World
Economy

Government: Comparative Government

Language Arts: Reading and Writing

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.