

February 16, 2007

In this issue: Valentine's Day; Palestinian Peace Talks; Pledge Against the Use of Child Soldiers

Topic 1: Valentine's Day Follow-up

Advanced Article:

<http://us.oneworld.net/external/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fmrzine.monthlyreview.org%2Fearly100207.html>

Intermediate Article: http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-toxicflowers13feb13_1_5346576.story?ctrack=1&cset=true

Beginning Article:

http://in.today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=topNews&storyID=2007-02-08T193056Z_01_NOOTR_RTRJONC_0_India-286880-1.xml&archived=False

Related Article: Organic Flowers <http://www.alternet.org/envirohealth/47847/>

Video: Flowers and the Environment: <http://search.bbc.co.uk/cgi-bin/search/results.pl?tab=ns&q=valentine%20flowers&recipe=all&scope=all&edition=i>

Discussion Questions:

1. Before the reading: where do you think flower shops buy their flowers?
2. Were you correct? Name three countries that supply the United States' flower market.
3. Describe the *commodity chain* for the Valentine's Day bouquets sold at your local flower shop.
4. How is it that growers in other countries are able to ship their flowers to the United States in one piece? What kind of chemicals and transport are involved?
5. Is it a problem that many flowers are grown outside the U.S.? What are the pros and cons?

Curriculum:

1. "The Economics of Valentine's Day" <http://www.umsl.edu/~econed/lesson2.htm>
2. "The Blossoming of Flower Power: Understanding Flower Reproduction: A Dissection Lab for the Science Classroom" http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/19990803tuesday.html?searchpv=learning_lessons
3. "Teaching Tolerance: Teaching Ideas on the History/Origins of Valentine's Day" http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20070212monday.html?searchpv=learning_lessons

California Standards:

Economics: International Trade, Labor Issues in a Global Economy

Language Arts: Reading and Writing

Science: Genetics, Biodiversity, Ecology

Topic 2: Palestinian Peace Talks

Advanced Article: <http://www.thestar.com/News/article/178965>

Intermediate Article: http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-palestinians9feb09_1_891474.story

Beginning Article: <http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/15FF37D7-F0C5-40A6-9A7E-A10EE2D74185.htm>

Analysis of the Peace Talks: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6230707.stm

Discussion Questions:

1. Where are the Palestinian territories?
2. Who is participating in the peace talks, and what are they discussing?
3. Which international interests are aligned with Hamas, and which with Fatah?
4. Describe the relationship between the Palestinians and Israel. How might these peace talks affect Palestinian-Israeli relations?
5. One of the unique elements of this round of talks is the involvement of the Saudi government? Why are they getting involved, and do you think this will help make the talks successful?

Curriculum:

1. "The Roadmap to Peace in the Middle East: Can it be Followed?"
<http://www.pbs.org/weta/washingtonweek/educators/roadmap.html>
2. "Terrorist, Freedom Fighter, or Something in Between?"
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/globalconnections/mideast/educators/militant/lesson2.html>
3. "Occupational Hazards: Learning about Occupied Territories around the World"
http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20010418wednesday.html?searchpv=learning_lessons

California Standards:

World History: Contemporary Nation Building, Modern World Economy

Language Arts: Analyzing the Media, Reading and Writing

Government: Political Systems

Topic 3: Pledge Against the Use of Child Soldiers

* **Advanced Article:** <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/africa/02/12/child.soldiers/index.html>

Intermediate Article: <http://news.bostonherald.com/international/view.bg?articleid=181382>

Beginning Article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/2/hi/europe/6335537.stm>

*This article also includes links to maps, video, and audio.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is a child soldier?
2. Name three countries in which child soldiers have been used.
3. What are some of the methods used to "recruit" child soldiers?
4. What is the appeal of child soldiers to rebel groups and militias?
5. How might the use (and severe mistreatment) of child soldiers influence a country's future?

Curriculum:

1. Amnesty International: Curriculum Guide to book *Innocents Lost* -
http://www.amnestyusa.org/education/innocents_lost.html
2. UN CyberSchoolbus – Teaching Unit on Child Soldiers
<http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/childsoldiers/whatsgoingon/> Video clip (scroll to bottom of page):
<http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/>
3. UNHCR: Teaching for Civic Education - Child Soldiers
<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/template?page=home&src=static/teaching-tools/tchcived/12-14up.htm>

California Standards:

World History: Contemporary Nation Building, Modern World Economy
Language Arts: Reading and Writing, Analyzing the Media

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