



March 1, 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:

Special Issue: Developments in Nuclear Weapons Talks - - North Korea, Iran, India/Pakistan

There have been several developments in the last two weeks relating to nuclear issues, so we decided to devote this whole issue to that topic. The format is a bit different - articles about each of the 3 different countries are given below, and discussion questions and resources for all 3 are shown at the bottom.

Topic 1: Agreement reached in North Korea nuclear talks

Advanced Article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/6361477.stm>

Intermediate Article: U.S. Reaction to Deal - <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/asiapcf/02/13/nkorea.talks/index.html>

Beginning Article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/6356481.stm>

Background Article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/2340405.stm>

Multimedia: Lead U.S. Negotiator discusses the agreement with North Korea on NPR - <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=7466056&ft=1&f=1004>

Topic 2: Iran Refuses to Suspend Uranium Enrichment

Advanced Article: <http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1592218,00.html>

Intermediate Article: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6379611.stm

Beginning Article: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2007/02/27/international/i012835S59.DTL&hw=iran+nuclear&sn=010&sc=440>

Background Article: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6122412.stm

Topic 3: Amidst another terror attack in the region, India and Pakistan sign new nuclear pact

Article from Daily Times, Pakistan:

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2007%5C02%5C22%5Cstory_22-2-2007_pg1_1

Intermediate Article: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/asiapcf/02/22/india.train.ap/index.html>

Beginning Article: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/6381261.stm

Background Article: Graphic timeline of India-Pakistan relations - http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/static/in_depth/south_asia/2002/india_pakistan/timeline/default.stm

Discussion Questions:

1. What are nuclear weapons and when was the first one used?

2. There are many uses for nuclear technology - - what are the two main uses that are mentioned in the articles above?
3. Should any country be allowed to use nuclear technology for energy purposes? Why or why not? Who decides, and who should monitor this?
4. Does the United States need nuclear weapons? Why or why not?
5. If the United States needs nuclear weapons, do other countries need them? What are the deciding factors in which countries should be able to have nuclear weapons?
6. Research a bit about U.S. foreign policy - - which of these countries is the U.S. most worried and least worried about having nuclear weapons? Why? What is the U.S. approach to each of these countries, and do you agree with the U.S.'s stance?

Curriculum for all 3 topics:

1. PBS: Controlling Nuclear Weapons: Debating the Non-Proliferation Treaty
http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/world/npt_4-01.html
2. Iranian Uranium? Staging a Mock Summit on Iran's Nuclear Program
http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20060308wednesday.html?searchpv=learning_lessons
3. Balance of (Nuclear) Power: Drafting Treaties to Govern the Nuclear Nations
http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20021030wednesday.html?searchpv=learning_lessons
4. United States Institute of Peace: Teaching Guide for Controlling the Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
<http://www.usip.org/ed/npec/tguide.html>
5. Choices – several units on nuclear weapons, North Korea, focusing on foreign policy approaches
www.choices.edu
6. Teaching about the Science of Nuclear Technology:
<http://www.lbl.gov/abc/> and <http://science.howstuffworks.com/nuclear-power.htm>

Films & Literature relating to Nuclear Power:

1. Film: The Day After Trinity – 1981 documentary on nuclear technology, contains footage of Oppenheimer, one of the creators of the Manhattan Project speaking out against the bomb
2. Film: Fat Man and Little Boy – 1989 Paul Newman film about Oppenheimer and the Manhattan Project
3. Book: Hiroshima, by John Hersey – powerful, haunting story about effects of the bomb on people of Hiroshima
4. Report: Brookings Institution (report, charts, info on U.S. nuclear weapons) -
<http://www.brook.edu/fp/projects/nucwcost/weapons.htm>

California Standards:

World History: WWII, The Cold War, Modern World Economy

U.S. History: Foreign Policy since 1948

Language Arts: Reading and Writing, Analyzing the Media

Science: Nuclear Processes

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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