



March 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: World Water Day – March 22; Bush trip to Latin America; Serbia found innocent of genocide

Topic 1: World Water Day – March 22

Advanced Article with regional connection to CA: http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/columnone/la-me-nevada7mar07_1_5630716.story

Intermediate Article: <http://www.buanews.gov.za/view.php?ID=07031412451002&coll=buanew07>

Intermediate Article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/6412351.stm>

Beginning Article: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/3e3eeab2-3137-11db-b953-0000779e2340.html>

Related Sites: World Day for Water 2007 site: <http://www.worldwaterday.org/>

BBC's "The Water Debate" (includes multimedia) http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/world/2003/world_forum/water/default.stm;

Discussion Questions:

1. The theme for this year's Water Day is "Coping with Water Scarcity." What does water scarcity mean? Why is there water scarcity, and what are some ways to address the problem?
2. What new political situations might arise if water continues to decrease in supply?
3. What do you see as the future for water? Why do you think some people say water is "the next petroleum"?
4. In what ways do you need water aside from drinking water?
5. Where do you get your water? Do you think it is a sustainable source? What factors might impact the reliability of your water source?

Curriculum:

1. Teacher Planet – list of lesson plans:
<http://www.teacherplanet.com/resource/waterday.php>
2. Peace Corps – Worldwide lessons on water:
<http://www.peacecorp.gov/wvs/educators/enrichment/africa/lessons/bytitle.html>
3. PBS – Lesson on water scarcity and desertification in Africa
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/africa/tools/eco/goals.html>

California Standards:

World History: Modern World Economy

Language Arts: Reading and Writing

Science: Earth Science - resources

Topic 2: Bush trip to Latin America

Advanced Article: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-0703070041mar07,1,3166367.story?page=1&coll=chi-newsnationworld-hed>

Intermediate Article: http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/jan-june07/lamerica_3-14.html

Beginning Article – Bush view: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2007/03/13/international/i232923D47.DTL&hw=bush+trip+to+latin+america&sn=005&sc=825>

Beginning Article – Chavez view: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2007/03/14/international/i230812D67.DTL&hw=bush+trip+to+latin+america&sn=007&sc=789>

SF Chronicle Editorial: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/03/15/EDGC7N7B8L1.DTL&hw=bush+trip+to+latin+america&sn=008&sc=657>

Discussion Questions:

1. What countries did President Bush just travel to?
2. What was the purpose of his trip? What were some of the announcements/agreements he made on his trip?
3. Describe the guestworker program that Bush, while in Mexico, promised to try to get Congress to approve. What impact would this program have on the immigration debate in the U.S.?
4. Who is Hugo Chavez? What did he do while Bush was traveling through Latin America?
5. What are some differences in the political views between President Chavez and President Bush?
6. Advanced: Analyze U.S. policy toward Latin America. Do you agree or disagree?

Curriculum:

1. Organization of American States – Mock OAS conference
<http://retanet.unm.edu/article.pl?sid=03/05/18/1910311>
2. States and Mater: Learning about Geopolitical Alliances
http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20060913wednesday.html?searchpv=learning_lessons
3. Child Labor in Guatemala – Free Trade of the Americas Agreement
http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20070314wednesday.html?searchpv=learning_lessons

California Standards:

World History: Modern World Economy, Contemporary Nation-Building

Language Arts: Analyzing the Media, Reading and Writing

Government: Political Systems

Economics: Trade, U.S. Labor Economy

Topic 3: Serbia Found Innocent of Genocide

Advanced Article: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-serbia27feb27,1,6597546.story>

Intermediate Article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/6399321.stm>

Beginning Article: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/02/27/europe/EU-GEN-Bosnia-World-Court-Reaction.php>

Related Site: BBC country profile http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles/5050584.stm

Discussion Questions:

1. What is genocide?
2. Describe the massacre in Srebrenica that was at issue in this trial.
3. What were the full details of the court's ruling? How are people in Serbia reacting to this ruling?
4. What is the International Court of Justice? What is its purpose and how does it function?

Curriculum:

1. NewsHour Extra – coverage of Serbia's trial
http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/jan-june07/genocide_2-28.html
2. Case Study – Serbia: Accountability for Human Rights Violations
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/wideangle/classroom/lp3.html>
3. History of Genocides – from the Genocide Education Project

<http://www.teachgenocide.com/genocides/index.htm>

4. UN website with links to the *International Court of Justice* and the *International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia*

<http://www.un.org/law/>

California Standards:

World History: International developments post-WWII

Language Arts: Reading and Writing, Analyzing the Media

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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