



March 30, 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: Iran Captures British Sailors; Political Crisis in Zimbabwe; Controversy over Firing of U.S. Attorneys

Topic 1: Iran Captures British Sailors

Advanced Article: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-sailors29mar29,0,7998090.story?coll=la-home-headlines>

Intermediate Article: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/meast/03/30/iran.uk.sailors/index.html>

Beginning Article: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/6503657.stm

Related Sites: Oil Prices Go Up over British Hostage Situation - <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/6501875.stm>

Propaganda between Britain and Iran: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/6502947.stm

Discussion Questions:

1. Why were British navy personnel arrested by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard? Describe the sequence of events.
2. In your opinion, is this situation the result of a misunderstanding or a strategic political choice? Explain, using the actions of the British and Iranian governments as evidence.
3. Is it significant that in the videos released by Iran, one of the British hostages is seen saying that they trespassed into Iranian waters?
4. What have been the effects of this hostage situation so far?
5. How do you expect this situation to be resolved? Why?
6. What has the United States' involvement in this situation been to date? What do you think the United States should do?

Curriculum:

1. PBS: Getting to Know Iran
http://www.pbs.org/visavis/resources_mstr.html
2. PBS: Coup to Revolution: U.S. Foreign Policy in Iran
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/globalconnections/mideast/educators/uspolicy/lesson2.html>
3. PBS – Middle East: Land, Resources, and Economies
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/globalconnections/mideast/educators/resource/lesson1.html>

California Standards:

World History: Modern World Economy

Language Arts: Reading and Writing, Analyzing the Media

Economics: International Trade

Topic 2: Political Crisis in Zimbabwe

Advanced Article: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/africa/03/29/zimbabwe.summit/index.html>

Intermediate Article: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2007/03/30/international/i123033D12.DTL&hw=zimbabwe&sn=001&sc=1000>

Beginning Article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6508813.stm>

Analysis: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6508971.stm>

Discussion Questions:

1. Who is Morgan Tsvangirai? Who is Robert Mugabe?
2. Explain the connection between Tsvangirai and Mugabe.
3. Why is Morgan Tsvangirai's arrest significant? Explain in the context of recent events in Zimbabwe.
4. What are some of the problems that Zimbabwe is currently facing?
5. What has been the role and stance of other African leaders in this crisis? Do you agree with their stance?

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. Exploring the Impact of Colonialism on Zimbabwe:
<http://school.discovery.com/lessonplans/programs/namesandnations/>

California Standards:

World History: Modern World Economy, Contemporary Nation-Building, Imperialism

Language Arts: Analyzing the Media, Reading and Writing

Government: Political Systems

Topic 3: Controversy over Firing of U.S. Attorneys

Advanced Article: <http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-032507usattys.1,1359058.story?ctrack=1&cset=true>

Intermediate Article: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/POLITICS/03/28/fired.attorneys.ap/index.html>

Beginning Article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/6508581.stm>

Discussion Questions:

1. How are U.S. attorneys chosen? Are they elected or appointed?
2. Why is it significant that these attorneys were fired? What is significant about the *timing* of these firings?
3. What special powers did US Attorney General Roberto Gonzales have in regard to US attorneys? How did he get these powers?
4. With what conditions is the White House allowing aides to testify to Congress? Do you think this is a fair offer? Why or why not?
5. Please frame this situation (appointment and firing of attorneys, investigation by Congress, and the White House's offer to allow limited statements from aides) in terms of constitutional rights. How were the constitutional rights of the President and the US Attorney General used in the firings of 8 U.S. Attorneys? Did their actions infringe on the rights of the Congress or citizens of the U.S.? Please explain.

Curriculum:

1. Constitutional Rights Foundation – National Security and the Patriot Act
http://www.crf-usa.org/bria/bria19_4a.htm
2. PBS - Civil Liberties in Wartime
<http://www.pbs.org/flashpointusa/20030715/educators/lessonplan.html>
3. Interactive Constitution
<http://www.constitutioncenter.org/constitution/>

California Standards:

U.S. History: Contemporary America

Language Arts: Reading and Writing

Government: The 3 Branches, Constitution/Democratic Thought and Principles

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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