

November 1, 2006

**In this issue:** Elections in Bangladesh and Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Muhammad Yunus, Teacher Protests in Oaxaca, U.S. Midterm Elections

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### Topic 1: Bangladesh in the News

*Bangladesh has been in the news recently for several different stories – violence on the eve of elections, and the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Muhammad Yunus:*

**Advanced article:** <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0a2e235a-6a17-11db-952e-0000779e2340.html>

**Intermediate article:**

<http://asia.news.yahoo.com/061103/afp/061103042620asiapacificnews.html>

**Beginning article:** [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/6096506.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/6096506.stm)

**Muhammad Yunus:** <http://www.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/europe/10/13/nobel.peace.ap/index.html>

#### Discussion questions:

1. Where is Bangladesh?
2. What recent development sparked riots and protests over the last couple weeks?
3. What is unique about Bangladesh's election process? Why do you think it was set up in this way?
4. Who is Muhammad Yunus and what is the Grameen Bank?
5. What is microcredit? Do you think that this is a useful way to alleviate poverty?
6. Do you agree with the Nobel Prize Committee that alleviating poverty is important in creating peace?

#### Curriculum & Classroom Resources:

1. Women and Globalization – Case Study Bangladesh:  
<http://www.globalenvision.org/forteachers/17/836/>
2. "Virtual Bangladesh": <http://www.virtualbangladesh.com/>
3. Maps and Demographic info for South Asia:  
[http://www.asiasource.org/profiles/ap\\_mp\\_02\\_southasia.cfm](http://www.asiasource.org/profiles/ap_mp_02_southasia.cfm)
4. Interview with Nobel Peace Prize winner, Muhammad Yunus:  
[http://www.asiasource.org/news/special\\_reports/yunus.cfm](http://www.asiasource.org/news/special_reports/yunus.cfm)  
Website of Grameen Bank: <http://www.grameen-info.org/>

#### California Standards:

**Modern World History:** Modern World Economy

**Economics:** Terms and Concepts, Global Economy

**Language Arts:** Reading and Writing, Analysis of Non-fiction text

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### Topic 2: Teacher Protests in Oaxaca

**Advanced article:**

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601086&sid=av8hea32uPEg&refer=news>

**Intermediate article:** <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/world/4301700.html>

**Beginner article:** <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/6096960.stm>;

**Q&A Background article:** <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/2/hi/americas/6102018.stm>

**Link to Appo site (in Spanish):** <http://www.asambleapopulardeoaxaca.com/>

### Discussion questions:

1. Where is the state of Oaxaca?
2. Who is the governor of Oaxaca? Who is the current president of Mexico? Who will take over the presidency in December?
3. What are the teachers protesting, and what are their demands? Do you think these are reasonable demands?
4. Why are so many people angry at the current governor of Oaxaca? What did you learn from these articles about political parties in Mexico?
5. Do you agree with Appo's description of its actions as "peaceful and civil resistance"?
6. Why did the federal government decide to send in troops over the past weekend?

### Curriculum:

1. Site with several lesson plans on history, culture, geography and economy of Oaxaca (levels 6-8): [http://www.questconnect.org/oaxaca\\_lesson\\_plans.htm](http://www.questconnect.org/oaxaca_lesson_plans.htm)
2. Analyzing Protest through Art in Latino Cultures [http://mati.eas.asu.edu:8421/ChicanArte/html\\_pages/Protest.L1.html](http://mati.eas.asu.edu:8421/ChicanArte/html_pages/Protest.L1.html)
3. The Nature of Protest (studying historical protest movements): <http://www.kqed.org/w/baywindow/ruckus/nature.html>

### California Standards:

**Modern World History:** Modern World Issues, Geography

**Government:** Rights and Citizenship, Elections, Activism

**Language Arts:** Reading and Writing, Analysis of non-fiction text

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## Topic 3: U.S. Midterm Elections

**Advanced article:** War and the American Voter: <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200610u/beatty-war?ca=cVX3KYDZ0D8znllm921Mryl6GTzXLAT2ofKlCaGsOU8%3D>

**Intermediate article:** [http://news.yahoo.com/fc/US/Midterm\\_Elections\\_2006](http://news.yahoo.com/fc/US/Midterm_Elections_2006) (full website of national election coverage)

**Intermediate article:** 5 Days to Go: Clinton Lends Star Power to Dems: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/11/02/BAGHOM4FC51.DTL&hw=midterm+election&sn=026&sc=307>

**Resources:** Full SF Chronicle Election Coverage - <http://www.sfgate.com/campaign2006/>

**Resources:** California elections: Easy Voter Guide - <http://www.easyvoter.org/site/evguide/>

### Questions:

1. Name a few states with close races this election.
2. What is "at stake" in this election?
3. What would you say is the most contested issue of this year's election? Why?
4. What, if anything, might change in our foreign policy if the Democrats win a majority in the House and/or Senate?
5. If you could (or are able to) vote next Tuesday, what issues would be most important to your decision-making? Are those issues addressed in the article you read?

### Curriculum:

1. Battlelines '06: [http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/politics/battlelines\\_06.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/politics/battlelines_06.html)
2. Midterm Elections: The Impact of Local and National Issues:

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/politics/midterm\\_issues06.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/politics/midterm_issues06.html)

**3.** A Positive Spin (Negative Campaign Ads):

[http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20060928thursday.html?searchpv=learning\\_lessons](http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20060928thursday.html?searchpv=learning_lessons)

**4.** Playing it Safe (a look at the "Red vs. Blue" divide):

[http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20060925monday.html?searchpv=learning\\_lessons](http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20060925monday.html?searchpv=learning_lessons)

**California Standards:**

**History:** Contemporary America

**Government:** Democratic Principles, Elections, the Media, U.S. Political Issues

**Language Arts:** Reading and Writing, Media Analysis, Analysis of non-fiction text

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*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.*