

December 15, 2006

**In this issue:** Elections in South America; Developments in the Iraq War;  
New Movie – Blood Diamond

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## Topic 1: Elections in South America

### Chavez Re-elected in Venezuela

#### Advanced Articles:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/11/27/world/main2209222.shtml?CMP=ILC-SearchStories>

**Intermediate Articles:** <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/3ac12fa2-7e86-11db-84bb-0000779e2340.html>,

**Beginning Articles:** <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/2/hi/americas/6193496.stm>

**General Articles:** BBC profile of Hugo Chavez <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/1925236.stm>

### Correa Elected in Ecuador

**Advanced Articles:** <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/d6ddb306-8309-11db-a38a-0000779e2340.html>

**Intermediate Articles:** <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1563589,00.html>

#### Beginning Articles:

[http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=winterOlympics&storyID=2006-12-12T223317Z\\_01\\_N12368180\\_RTRUKOC\\_0\\_US-COLOMBIA-VENEZUELA-FARC.xml](http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=winterOlympics&storyID=2006-12-12T223317Z_01_N12368180_RTRUKOC_0_US-COLOMBIA-VENEZUELA-FARC.xml)

**General Articles:** BBC Year of Elections in Latin America -

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/americas/06/year\\_of\\_elections/html/n1page1.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/americas/06/year_of_elections/html/n1page1.stm);

#### Discussion Questions:

1. Which 2 countries in South America just elected new leaders? Describe the 2 new leaders.
2. What policies are these leaders going to promote in their countries?
3. How do you think these political shifts might affect daily life in Latin America? How might it affect daily life in the United States?
4. How has the U.S. responded to the recent elections in Latin America? Do you think our leaders will work together with Latin America's new leaders? Why or why not?

#### Curriculum:

1. Election Day: A comparison of elections in the United States, Nicaragua, and the world

[http://www.teachersonbikes.org/lessons/Election\\_Day.html](http://www.teachersonbikes.org/lessons/Election_Day.html)

2. The way to Venezuela: Exploring the Culture, History, and Politics of Venezuela through a Modern Lens

[http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20020417wednesday.html?searchpv=learning\\_lessons](http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20020417wednesday.html?searchpv=learning_lessons)

#### California Standards:

**World History:** Foreign Policy since 1948

**Government:** Elections, Campaigns, Comparative Government

**Language Arts:** Reading and Writing

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## Topic 2: Developments in the Iraq War

### Iraq Study Group Report

**Advanced Article:** <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/e3021d98-8593-11db-b12c-0000779e2340.html>

**Intermediate Article:** <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/12/08/MNG75MS0PL1.DTL&hw=iraq+study+group+report+released&sn=018&sc=232>

**Beginning Article:** <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/6215636.stm>

**Background Information:**

BBC News: The Struggle for Iraq -

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in\\_depth/middle\\_east/2002/conflict\\_with\\_iraq/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/middle_east/2002/conflict_with_iraq/default.stm);

The Iraq Study Group Report:

[http://www.usip.org/isg/iraq\\_study\\_group\\_report/report/1206/iraq\\_study\\_group\\_report.pdf](http://www.usip.org/isg/iraq_study_group_report/report/1206/iraq_study_group_report.pdf)

**Has Iraq Descended into Civil War?**

**Advanced Article:** (with videos) <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15925399/>

**Intermediate Article:** <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/asection/la-oe-lando29nov29,1,3097779.story>

**Beginning Article:** <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/6194646.stm>

**Multimedia:** VIDEO - BBC's selection of film shorts about the War (requires RealPlayer): <http://www.bbc.co.uk/videonation/feature/iraq/>

AUDIO – NPR segment “What constitutes a civil war?”

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=6549129>

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What were the main recommendations from the Iraq Study Group Report? From what you know of the conflict, do you agree or disagree with their recommendations?
2. What has been Bush's reaction to this report?
3. Considering what you've read, how would you describe the situation in Iraq? Why?
4. Why might a news organization be hesitant to label the situation in Iraq as a civil war?
5. What political importance does the label “civil war” have for the Bush administration, both at home and abroad? For the countries neighboring Iraq?
6. If Iraq *is* experiencing a civil war, what groups are fighting each other? Why?

**Curriculum:**

1. Instability in Iraq: Analyzing the Debate on the Future of United States Involvement in Iraq

[http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20061206wednesday.html?searchpv=learning\\_lessons](http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20061206wednesday.html?searchpv=learning_lessons)

2. Exit to the Left: Exploring Community Reactions to the Iraq War

[http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20060918monday.html?searchpv=learning\\_lessons](http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20060918monday.html?searchpv=learning_lessons)

3. The Role of the Kurds, Sunnis, and Shiites in Iraq

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/iraq/ethnic.html>

**California Standards:**

**World History:** Contemporary Issues, Foreign Policy since 1948

**Language Arts:** Analyzing the Media, Reading and Writing

**Government:** Political Systems, New Democracies, Elections

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**Topic 3: New Movie - Blood Diamond**

**Advanced Article:** <http://www.amnestyusa.org/amnestynow/diamonds.html>

**Intermediate Article:** [http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/12/10/BUGIDMOG7390.DTL&hw=blood+diamond&sn=002&sc=939)

[bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/12/10/BUGIDMOG7390.DTL&hw=blood+diamond&sn=002&sc=939](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/12/10/BUGIDMOG7390.DTL&hw=blood+diamond&sn=002&sc=939)

**Beginning Article:** <http://www.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/africa/12/12/diamonds.koinange/index.html>

**Multimedia:** <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15842522/?GT1=8816>

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What controversy does the new film “Blood Diamond” refer to?
2. Where are many of these “blood diamonds” being mined?
3. What other conflicts and problems were a result of the mining for these diamonds?
4. What is the Kimberly Process? Has it been successful?

**Curriculum:**

1. Curriculum guide to film “Blood Diamond” – from Amnesty International

[http://www.amnestyusa.org/education/blood\\_diamond.html](http://www.amnestyusa.org/education/blood_diamond.html)

2. Juicy Geography: Teaching about the Diamond Trade

<http://www.juicygeography.co.uk/diamonds.htm>

**California Standards:**

**World History:** Contemporary Issues, Geography

**Language Arts:** Reading and Writing, Analyzing the Media and Films

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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.*