

January 3, 2007

In this issue: Saddam Hussein executed; Conflict in Somalia; President Ford dies

Topic 1: Saddam Hussein executed

Advanced Article: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/1099005.stm

Intermediate Article: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/12/31/MNG2ONAPS91.DTL&hw=hussein+execution&sn=003&sc=689>

Beginning Article: http://news.independent.co.uk/world/middle_east/article2119077.ece

Related Site: BBC Special Report "Death of Saddam Hussein"
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/middle_east/2006/saddam_hussein/default.stm

Video Resource: UC Berkeley's "Conversations with History" series: "The Reckoning: Iraq and the Legacy of Saddam Hussein" <http://www.uctv.tv/search-details.asp?showID=7076>

Discussion Questions:

1. Who is Saddam Hussein? How long was he in power?
2. Saddam Hussein was on trial for what crimes?
3. What were the events leading up to Hussein's execution? Do you think he was executed legally? Fairly?
4. What impact do experts worry Hussein's death will have on the conflict/ civil war in Iraq? Why?
5. Compare Saddam Hussein's trial and execution with the treatment of a past dictator from another country – what was similar, different?

Curriculum:

1. New York Times: "Making a Case: Investigating the Charges against Saddam Hussein"
http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20051020thursday.html?searchpv=learning_lessons
2. PBS: "Conflict: Chemical and Biological Warfare" (focus on Saddam Hussein)
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/wideangle/classroom/lp1.html>
3. PBS: "Critical Analysis: To Report or Not to Report"
http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/iraq/jordan_4-17.html

California Standards:

World History: Contemporary Issues, Contemporary Nation Building

Government: Political Systems, Human Rights, Comparative Judicial Systems

Language Arts: Reading and Writing

Topic 2: Conflict in Somalia

Advanced Article: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/833d65cc-9996-11db-8b6d-0000779e2340.html>

Intermediate Article: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2007/01/02/international/i112009S53.DTL&hw=somalia&sn=004&sc=548>

Beginning Article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6222681.stm>

Related Site: BBC Special Report "Somalia in Crisis"
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/africa/2004/somalia/default.stm

Discussion Questions:

1. Where is Somalia? With what countries does it share a border?

2. What is the cause of the recent conflict? Who are the main players in the fight for Mogadishu?
3. Why are some Somalis skeptical about the government's ability to rebuild their country?
4. The Ethiopian Prime Minister has called for the help of international peacekeepers. Do you think the international community has an obligation to intervene? Why or why not?
5. Read the beginning article. Name the key international players supporting both sides in Somalia. Discuss the possible motivations for their interventions and support.
6. The U.S. has previously been involved in conflict in Somalia – what happened and when?

Curriculum:

1. Constitutional Rights Foundation: "U.S. Nation-Building Before Iraq" (compares Japan and Germany to other nation-building efforts by the U.S., including intervention in Somalia)
http://www.crf-usa.org/election_central/nation_building.htm
2. New York Times: "Keeping the Faith: Exploring the Intersection of Religion and Modernity"
http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20011219wednesday.html?searchpv=learning_lesson_s
3. New York Times: "Life, Camera, Action: Analyzing Somalia as Media Subject"
<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20020123wednesday.html?pagewanted=all>

California Standards:

World History: Contemporary Nation Building, Contemporary Africa

Language Arts: Analyzing the Media, Reading and Writing

Government: Political Systems, New Democracies

Topic 3: President Ford dies

Advanced Article: <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2007/01/02/national/a073550S01.DTL>

Intermediate Article: http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/remember/july-dec06/ford_12-27.html

Beginning Article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/6211407.stm>

Related Article: From Slate.com – a harsh critique of President Ford's time in office (Advanced):
<http://www.slate.com/id/2156400/?nav=ais>

New York Times, Sept. 8, 1974: "Ford Gives Pardon to Nixon, Who Regrets 'My Mistakes'"
<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/big/0908.html#article&txtSearchFor=FORD%7CFORDE%7CFORDING%7CFORDS%7CPRESIDENT%7CPRESIDENTS%7CPRESIDENCY%7CPRESIDES%7CPRESIDED%7CPRESIDING>

Discussion Questions:

1. What years did President Ford serve in office?
2. What were the circumstances surrounding Ford becoming President? How did it happen that he was never elected to the position?
3. What did President Ford do to "heal" the nation?
4. What are the arguments in favor of and against President Ford's full pardon of President Nixon?

Curriculum:

1. PBS: "The Perfect President" (grades 6-8)

<http://pbskids.org/democracy/educators/perfectpresident.html>

2. New York Times: "The life of a President: Reflecting on the Life and Legacy of Gerald R. Ford"

http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20061228thursday.html?searchpv=learning_lessons

California Standards:

U.S. History: Contemporary America, U.S. Foreign Policy

Government: Elections, the Media

Language Arts: Reading and Writing

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