Domestic and Foreign Policy Lesson Plan

Artifact Type Publication

Riverbend Project:

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A Journey through the United States Domestic and Foreign Policy from 1970 to Today

Performance Expectations:

V. Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

c. describe the various forms institutions take, and explain how they develop and change over time

VI. Power Authority, & Governance

i. evaluate the extent to which governments achieve their stated ideals and policies at home and abroad;

What is the student going to learn and why?

The student will learn about domestic and foreign policy in the United States throughout the 1970s until today. They will be addressing the challenges and opportunities that exist for the United States as we enter the 21st century as well. These two initiatives address two standards and give the students the opportunity to create an understanding of domestic and foreign policy. The student will be focusing their energy on researching the United States domestic policy as it relates to the ever-changing stance that our government takes on Environmentalism. Their research will begin in the 1970's while they look at the birth of Environmentalism, and it will move chronologically through the next three decades as they look at how different Presidents and different Congresses change our policies concerning the Environment. This is important because it will help to show the students how while we might value the environment during one decade, after a Presidential change, the nation may turn their domestic concerns to other topics. The students will complete this learning objective by creating an interactive timeline and completing a shortened essay in order to tie the information together. From this point, the students will look into the foreign policy and its evolution since the 1970s. Students will be using the information regarding the evolution of foreign policy to then diagnose challenges that the United States may experience, as the 21st century gets under way, and recognize opportunity that exists for the United States as well.

How does this project affect life outside of school?

The student researches the nation's past, recent, and future policy decisions. The student will begin to recognize patterns in policy and notice that much of their life today is influenced by the
decisions made regarding domestic or foreign US policy. As the students are listening to the news after completing this project, it may result in a better understanding of current events. By this point, many high school students have also formulated opinions regarding the environment, and the United States’ foreign involvement. Upon completion of this project, students are granted the opportunity to formulate more authoritative, educated opinions regarding the two topics.

What makes this project important to the community or the world around the student?

When individuals are more aware of the political world around them, they are more active citizens and participants in their community. If we as educators are working to develop global citizens and participants, we must provide an opportunity for the student to understand the United States position of policy both historically and currently as well as domestic and foreign.

Questions that the student will be able to answer by doing this project:

- How has domestic policy evolved throughout the last 40 years?
- How has foreign policy evolved throughout the last 40 years?
- In the future, what challenges does the United States policy face?
- In the future, what opportunities does the United States policy have for positive change?

Tasks and activities:

Part A: PowerPoint Presentation

- The history of domestic policy slide show:
  - The PowerPoint will guide the students through the past 40 years and the domestic policy regarding the environment. They will need to create 1-2 slides per decade and explain important policy changes that occurred during that time period. (see student handout attached for further details)
    - Time necessary to complete: 120 minutes

Part B: Essay

- Domestic policy essay
  - The essay will consist of an introduction paragraph, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion paragraph. The essay will be spiraling through the slideshow information. They will need to explain how the domestic policy regarding the environment has evolved throughout the last 40 years to begin the essay. They will then
continue to outline the challenges that the United States faces with its environmental policies in the near future. To complete the essay they will synthesize what they believe are opportunities for betterment that the United States has in their near future. (see student handout for further details)
  
  o  Time necessary to complete: 45 minutes

Part C: Essay

-  Foreign policy essay

  •  This final essay will be three sections. The first section will be explaining foreign policy in each decade. The second section will begin by explaining the evolution of foreign policy through the four decades and end discussing the current foreign policies that the United States is working with. The third section is similar to the essay on domestic policy and they will once again be using three challenges and three opportunities. To conclude the essay, they will choose one of the selected quotes and explain what they believe is better plan for future United States foreign policy. (see student handout for further details)
  
  o  Time necessary to complete: 120 minutes

List of resources for research:

Domestic Policy Sources:

1970's
http://www.earthday.net/node/77
http://www.epa.gov/history/
http://www.epa.gov/air/caa/
http://www.defenders.org/programs_and_policy/policy_and_legislation/endangered_species_act/
http://www.ti.org/ESAHistory.html

1980's

1990's and 2000's
http://www.mtholyoke.edu/~danov20d/site/history.htm
http://www.mapleleafweb.com/features/kyoto-protocol-climate-change-history-highlights#history

Foreign Policy Sources:

Foreign Policy After Vietnam- "Détente"-1970s
http://countrystudies.us/united-states/history-129.htm
Foreign Policy of Reagan-1980s

Foreign Policy of Trade Expansion -1990s
http://economics.about.com/od/foreigntrade/a/clinton_trade.htm

Foreign Policy of War On Terrorism - 2000s
http://www.peace.ca/bushdoctrine.htm

Obama's Foreign Policy (Primary Source)
http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/foreign-policy/

Primary source included:

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- http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/foreign-policy

Standards Covered by the Project:

World History:
- The student will identify challenges and opportunities as we enter the 21st century.
  - Tasks that meet this standard:
    - In part two, the student is completing an essay after he/she researches the last 40 years in domestic policy. They hypothesize on the future for US domestic policy. By using the evidence of evolution throughout the past 40 years, students diagnose the challenges and recognize the opportunities that exist for the United States as we enter the 21st century.
    - In part three, the student researches foreign affairs. They are once again completing an essay and are asked to diagnose the challenges and recognize the opportunity for the United States' future.

United States History:
- The student will understand the evolution of foreign and domestic policy in the last three decades of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century.
  - Tasks that meet this standard:
In part one, the student is completing an interactive timeline using a selection of events regarding domestic policy. They put the timeline in order and include meaningful information regarding the event. The student can see visually how the policy as transformed in the past once they have completed their research.

In parts two and three, they explain the evolution of domestic and then foreign policy using comparisons and explaining it further including any patterns that they recognized.

Part A: PowerPoint Presentation

For the first part of this assignment, you will be researching the United States’ domestic policy throughout the last 40 years as it directly relates to our government's stance on "Environmentalism". In each decade, the 70's, 80's, 90's, and ought's, we have identified key concepts for you to research. For example, in the 1970's we experienced the first Earth Day and along with that came the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency. Your job is to research these key concepts and create a PowerPoint presentation that relates important facts, factors, and contributors to the concepts. You will be graded on not only your presentation as a whole, but your notes will be looked at also. So, take specific and in-depth notes, and make sure that any time you find a piece of information or a quote that you would like to use that you stop and write down all of the citation information you will need to correctly cite it at the end of the presentation. We will be using the MLA format for this assignment. This PowerPoint presentation is only the first part of this assignment; the second part will be an essay about the domestic policy as a whole, looking at how it changes from year to year, and president to president. Therefore, it is important for you to take good notes, and to be sure and make note of how our policies change from decade to decade.

Your PowerPoint should devote no more than two slides per key concept, this part of the assignment is not about heavy content, it is about getting the basics of the legislation and overall domestic policy understood. Feel free to include pictures if you find them relevant to your key concept, everything must be kept school appropriate. Spelling and grammar will be factored into the final grading of this portion, so be sure to use great academic language! Structure the presentation so someone from outside of our class could come in and watch this and not be lost at all, try to stay in the chronological order that we set up. You should use the rubric below to help guide you while you are doing your research; it is there so you know what you have to do to receive full points on this portion of the assignment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Concepts Researched and accurately reported.</th>
<th>Sources</th>
<th>Spelling and Grammar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All concepts are present and all of the information is correct and relevant. There is no room for expansion everything has been covered.</td>
<td>Everything is correctly cited using MLA format and no information is without a necessary citation.</td>
<td>The presentation is free of spelling errors and demonstrates a great use of academic language throughout the presentation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All key concepts are present but some information may be incorrect or misleading. Room</td>
<td>Sources are correctly cited using MLA format but some content has not been cited.</td>
<td>The presentation has very few spelling errors, and there some use of good academic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
for expansion on concepts as well.

| Some key concepts missing or not researched. Or, concepts are present but inaccurate information has been presented. | Sources are not correctly cited using MLA format, and/or are missing completely from the presentation. | The presentation has multiple spelling errors, and does not use good academic language. |

Below you will find the "Key Concepts" that you are supposed to research and make a powerpoint presentation on. The concepts are broken up into decades because as we have progressed though time the change in environmental policies have changed with them.

**DOMESTIC POLICY**

**1970's - The birth of environmentalism/The Nixon Years**
- First earth day and creation of EPA
- Clean air act
- 1973 - Endangered species act

**1980's - The "Reagan" years**
- Change in government spending on environmental issues

**1990's - Changes in Policy**
- Kyoto Protocol

**2000's- Continuing Change**
- Kyoto Protocol
- Clear Skies Act

Below you will find a comprehensive list of websites that you are to use in relation with the specific "Key Concepts". While we have provided you the website, it is part of your job to correctly copy down the necessary information to cite it in your bibliography.

1970's
The next portion of this project is an essay. There will five paragraphs included that include an introduction, the three big topics, and a conclusion. This essay builds off the slideshow you just finished. Use examples from your slideshow and the information you gathered on the highlighted events to write a well-written essay explaining the evolution of domestic United States policy, the challenges American domestic policy faces in the future, and the opportunities that exist for betterment in domestic policy resulting from the future challenges.

The subjects for the three body paragraphs are:

1. Evolution
   - Now that you have completed your slideshow, you have had a good look into the evolution of domestic policy. This paragraph should discuss the changes or patterns that are noticeable through the events outlined for the slideshow.

2. Challenges
• After looking at the evolution of domestic policy, hypothesize what challenges the United States faces in regards to domestic policy in the future. Based on the evolution of domestic policy, where do you see policy going in the future? Will history repeat itself or have we learned from past mistakes?

• Feel free to use recent news media to assist you in making your hypothesis.

3. Opportunities

• What opportunities for change does American policy have? If you saw challenges that the United States faces regarding domestic policy, what opportunities do those allow for betterment of the United States in the future?

This assignment requires you to have an open mind and to think creatively. Be sure to include examples from the slideshow that you had previously created as authority for your argument or justification. Part of creating your own understanding is taking the opportunity to research and investigate on your own.

Part B: Checklist

I clearly stated how domestic policy has evolved in the last 40 years (1970s to today).

I addressed the challenges that exist for domestic policy in the future.

I explained the opportunities that domestic policy in the United States has to better then nation.

I wrote a clean and clear essay that explains the necessary parts of this section.

I included an introduction, body, and conclusion.

Part C: Essay

The final portion of this project is also an essay. There will be three distinct sections to this essay. All of the information that you need for this segment is in the websites below. While reading the information on these websites, consider the following questions…

BIG QUESTIONS

• What do these policies say about the general direction of foreign policy in this time period?
• How do these policies and directions differ from the previous decade
• How are they the similar to the previous decade

RESOURCES:
Foreign Policy After Vietnam- "Détente"-1970s

http://countrystudies.us/united-states/history-129.htm

http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/detente.htm

Foreign Policy of Reagan-1980s


Foreign Policy of Trade Expansion -1990s

http://economics.about.com/od/foreigntrade/a/clinton_trade.htm

Foreign Policy of War On Terrorism - 2000s

http://www.peace.ca/bushdoctrine.htm

Obama's Foreign Policy (Primary Source)

http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/foreign-policy

To complete the essay, include the following three sections as well as an introduction and solid conclusion.

1. Explanation

   - You will read through the websites provided above and explain American foreign policy for each decade. The paragraph should include at least two major events and an explanation of the direction of foreign policy (more involved in the world vs. less involved in the world).

2. Evolution

   - Based on the information above, you will discuss the changes from decade to decade and patterns that you see through time. Also, you will explain the current administration's foreign policy based on the website above. Finally, you will look at the following two quotes from great American presidents and decide which foreign policy you agree with more

3. Opportunities and Challenges
You will outline 3 challenges and 3 opportunities that you see affecting the nation in the future. Based on these opportunities and challenges you will decide what foreign policy would be best for our country in the upcoming years. You will choose your foreign policy based on the policy of Franklin Roosevelt and George Washington. After reading the below quotes you will decide if the best policy is Franklin Roosevelt's, George Washington's, or something in between. If it is something in-between explain what you would take from each. Why would you choose this method.

"We must open our eyes and see that modern civilization has become so complex and the lives of civilized men so interwoven with the lives of other men in other countries as to make it impossible to be in this world and out of it." - Franklin Roosevelt

"The great rule of conduct for us, in regard to foreign nations, is in extending our commercial relations to have as little political connection as possible... It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world." -- George Washington

Part C: Checklist

I have identified the foreign policy in each of the 4 decades (1970s to Today).

I analyzed the evolution of foreign policy through the last 40 years and described it.

I described 3 challenges and 3 opportunities that will face America in the future.

I evaluated two opposing views on foreign policy and decided which America should use in their foreign policy.

I wrote a clean and clear essay that explains the necessary parts of this section.