

6C – Conflict

MCCC Unit 7 lesson 4 and Unit 5, Lesson 10

6th Grade Social Studies Network – 2015-6
Part C of Unit 6 – Political Geography

GLCEs: 6G221 Human characteristics of places and regions, 6G441 Conflicts among cultural groups, 6G442 Different perspectives on conflict; 6C362 Compare/contrast forms of government around the world

- 1. Review Activity:** Where were the colonies of major European powers? (10-20 minutes, depending on whether you explore possibilities of conflict) 6th 6B European Colonies clickable map
- 2. Activity:** “Your terrorist is my heroic rebel” – contrasting perspectives on several revolutions
Students explore independence movements, past and present, in several parts of the world – Mexico, South America, India, several different parts of Africa. Their goal is to see that an insurgency against existing government is not always a clear issue with easily identifiable “good guys and bad guys.” Students should also realize that fighting an insurgency is not the same as fighting a conventional war against an enemy country, where combatants usually wear uniforms and follow international rules like the Geneva Convention. Topics like this, however, straddle boundaries between a number of social sciences – our main goal in a geography class is to give students a fairly clear mental map of the parts of the world where insurgencies and civil wars are a fact of life. (???) Minutes)
Clickable maps and presentations for Africa, South America, South Asia
Readings/videos about revolutions
- 3. Extension Activity:** Water Budgets in Mesopotamia Which Country Is Upstream?
Students investigate countries that share access to rivers and lakes – cooperatively or in conflict. (10-40 minutes, depending on how many worksheets you do; 60+ if add a roleplay simulation)
6th 6C Water Budgets in Mesopotamia 6th 6Cx River Investigations and teacher notes
- 4. Extension Activity:** Refugees – consequences of rebellions (5-?? Depending on current events focus)
Students learn how to investigate the countries housing refugees from conflicts around the world.
<http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c4ca.html>
http://education.nationalgeographic.org/maps/mapping-displaced-people-around-the-world/?ar_a=1
- 5. Alternative placement of Activity:** Strategic Straits – see note at the bottom of the outline for Part B
You can choose to treat strategic straits as a goal of colonial expansion, and therefore a topic in history, or as an important part of conflict today, and therefore part of civics and current events.
6th 6Bx Strategic Straits activity pair 6th 6Bx Strategic Straits clickable map and TG

Pages from MCCC

MCCC SuppMaterials.SS060704 has a range of materials and activities to explore the conditions that result in a country being put in one of the three groups on a world map of individual freedom. This map can be a good foundation for individual inquiry about conditions in a particular country that happens to be in the news in the month when the class reaches this part of the outline. This provides a good transition to the final Unit, a Global Topic Investigation, as well as to civics and government classes in later grades.

MCCC SS060704.Powerpoint describes the freedoms that democracy offers; this provides a useful benchmark for investigating whether a particular revolution was motivated by a desire for democracy or simply a transfer of power from one repressive group of leaders to another that might be even more repressive.

MCCC SuppMaterials.SS060510 resources and conflict has a data form about water conflicts and some useful descriptions of civil wars in several countries.

Takehome: Between 1450 and the First World War, European countries claimed large parts of five other continents as colonies. Between 1776 and 1950, nearly all former colonies gained political independence (though some remained economically dependent on their former “masters”). The degree of economic and political success of former colonies is an important variable in today’s map of the world. The process of revolution against existing governments, however, did not stop when the last European country abandoned its last colony – a sad fact of modern life is the ongoing insurgencies in many countries whose borders were established by colonial powers and are still subject to dispute.