

Lesson One

What is the G8, who are the members, and what is the history of this group?

Activity 1

What is the G8? Who are the member nations and what is the purpose of this group?

Objective

Students will become familiar with the G8 countries and identify characteristics that G8 member nations have in common.

Resources

- Mystery Country Sheets
- CIA World Factbook website
- US Department of State website
- Sea Island Summit website

[NOTE: There will be slight variations among statistics on these websites owing primarily to differences in dates of compilation.]

Introduction

The G8 is an informal group made up of the leaders of eight countries: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These countries are some of the world's major industrial powers. The leaders of these countries meet on an annual basis to discuss critical issues facing the world as a whole.

Task

In this lesson, students will examine a data table for each of the G8 countries and then make an "educated guess" as to the country each table represents. Students will then analyze the data to identify common concerns of past summits.

Process

Begin this lesson by organizing the class into groups of three students. Provide each group of students with a set of the eight Mystery Country data tables and ask them to identify each country based on the information given. If students have questions about the meaning/definition of any of the terms on the table, direct them to <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/docs/notesanddefs.html>. If students need additional information in order to identify a particular country, direct them to <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html> or www.g8usa.gov or www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn.

Mystery Country 1 – United States; Mystery Country 2 – Japan; Mystery Country 3 – Canada; Mystery Country 4 – United Kingdom; Mystery Country 5 – Italy; Mystery Country 6 – Federal Republic of Germany; Country 7 – Russian Federation; Mystery Country 8 – France. After students correctly identify the G8 countries, ask them to develop a list of generalizations about the countries based on the information they have found. Possible generalizations drawn by students might include:

- All the countries have some form of representative government

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- The majority of the countries are located in Europe
- All the countries have high life expectancy and literacy rates
- Some countries share a common currency, the Euro
- Most of the countries have crude oil and petroleum products as an import
- The countries have interdependent economies as trade partners
- The countries' environmental concerns tend to center around industry-based pollution problems
- Unemployment rates are not consistent across the countries

Conclude this lesson by having students compile a data chart for other non-G8 trading partners of the United States (e.g., Mexico, China, and Spain).

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Mystery Country #1

Country

System of Government:	Constitution-based democratic republic	Population:	290,342,554	Currency:	dollar
Life Expectancy:	77.14 Male - 74.4 Female - 80.1	Literacy Rate:	97%	Unemployment:	5.8%
GDP Real Growth Rate:	2.4%	GDP Per Capita Income:	\$36,300	Inflation:	1.6%
Natural Resources:	Coal, copper, lead, molybdenum, phosphates, uranium, gold, iron	Export Partners:	Canada, 23.2% Mexico, 14.1% Japan, 7.4% UK, 4.8%	Import Partners:	Canada, 7.8% Mexico, 11.3% China, 11.1% Japan, 10.4% Germany, 5.3%
Environmental Issues:	Air pollution, acid rain, water pollution, limited fresh water supplies in the west	Exports:	Capital goods, automobiles, industrial supplies, raw materials, consumer and agricultural goods	Imports:	Crude oil, refined petroleum products, machinery, consumer goods, industrial raw materials

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Mystery Country # 2

Country

System of Government:	Constitutional Monarchy with parliamentary government	Population:	127,214,499	Currency:	yen
Life Expectancy:	80.93 Male - 77.6 Female - 84.4	Literacy Rate:	99%	Unemployment:	5.4%
GDP Real Growth Rate:	0.2 %	GDP Per Capita Income:	\$28,700	Inflation:	-0.9 %
Natural Resources:	Fish, negligible mineral resources	Export Partners:	US, 28.8% China, 9.6% S Korea, 6.9% Taiwan, 6.2% Hong Kong, 6.1%	Import Partners:	China, 18.3% US, 17.4% S Korea, 4.6% Indonesia, 4.2% Australia, 4.1%
Environmental Issues:	Air pollution, acid rain, depletion of fish and timber resources	Exports:	Motor vehicles; semiconductors, office machinery, chemicals	Imports:	Machinery, fuels, foodstuffs, chemicals, textiles, raw materials

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Mystery Country # 3

Country

System of Government:	Confederation with parliamentary democracy	Population:	32,207,113	Currency:	Dollar
Life Expectancy:	79.83 Male - 76.4 Female - 83.4	Literacy Rate:	97%	Unemployment:	7.6%
GDP Real Growth Rate:	3.3%	GDP Per Capita Income:	\$29,300	Inflation:	2.2%
Natural Resources:	Iron ore, nickel, zinc, copper, lead, gold	Export Partners:	US, 87% Japan, 2% UK, 1.1%	Import Partners:	US, 62.6% China, 4.6% Japan, 4.4%
Environmental Issues:	Air pollution, acid rain, coal mining, vehicle emissions	Exports:	Motor vehicles and parts, industrial machinery, aircraft, telecommunications equipment, chemicals, timber, crude petroleum, natural gas	Imports:	Machinery and parts, crude oil, chemicals, electricity

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Mystery Country # 4

Country

System of Government:	Constitutional Monarchy	Population:	60,094,648	Currency:	pound
Life Expectancy:	78.16 Male - 75.7 Female - 80.7	Literacy Rate:	99%	Unemployment:	5.2%
GDP Real Growth Rate:	1.8 %	GDP Per Capita Income:	\$25,500	Inflation:	2.1%
Natural Resources:	Iron ore, coal, petroleum, natural gas, tin, limestone, salt, chalk	Export Partners:	Belgium, 5.2% Italy, 4.2% US, 15.5% Germany, 11.2% France, 9.4% Ireland, 8% Netherlands, 7.1%	Import Partners:	Germany, 12.9% US, 11.9% France, 7.8% Netherlands, 6.3% Belgium, 5%
Environmental Issues:	Air pollution, acid rain, hazardous waste disposal	Exports:	Manufactured goods, fuels, chemicals, food, tobacco	Imports:	Manufactured goods, machinery, fuels, food stuffs

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Mystery Country # 5

Country

System of Government:	Republic	Population:	57,998,353	Currency:	euro
Life Expectancy:	79.4 Male - 76.5 Female - 82.5	Literacy Rate:	98.6%	Unemployment:	9.1%
GDP Real Growth Rate:	0.4%	GDP Per Capita Income:	\$25,100	Inflation:	2.4%
Natural Resources:	Fish, coal, mercury, potash, marble, sulfur, natural gas, crude oil reserves	Export Partners:	Germany, 13.7% France, 12.2% US, 9.8% UK, 6.9% Spain, 6.4%	Import Partners:	Germany, 17.8% France, 11.3% Netherlands, 5.9% UK, 5% US, 4.9% Spain, 4.6%
Environmental Issues:	Industrial air pollution, polluted rivers, acid rain, waste treatment disposal	Exports:	Engineering products, textiles and clothing, motor vehicles, chemical, food, beverages, tobacco	Imports:	Engineering products, chemicals, transportation equipment, energy products

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Mystery Country # 6

Country

System of Government:	Federal Republic	Population:	82,398,326	Currency:	euro
Life Expectancy:	78.42 Male - 75.5 Female - 81.6	Literacy Rate:	99%	Unemployment:	9.8%
GDP Real Growth Rate:	0.2%	GDP Per Capita Income:	\$26,200	Inflation:	1.3%
Natural Resources:	Iron ore, coal, potash, timber, lignite, uranium, copper	Export Partners:	France, 10.7% US, 10.3% UK, 8.4% Italy, 7.3% Netherlands, 6.1% Austria, 5.1%	Import Partners:	France, 9.5% Netherlands, 8.2% US, 7.7% UK, 6.5% Italy, 6.4% China, 4%
Environmental Issues:	Coal burning emissions, acid rain, Baltic Sea pollution from sewage, hazardous waste disposal	Exports:	Machinery, vehicles, chemicals, metals, manufactured goods, food stuffs, textiles	Imports:	Machinery, vehicles, chemicals, food stuffs, textiles, metals

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Mystery Country # 7

Country

System of Government:	Federation	Population:	144,526,278	Currency:	ruble
Life Expectancy:	67.66 Male - 62.5 Female - 73.1	Literacy Rate:	99%	Unemployment:	7.9%
GDP Real Growth Rate:	4.3%	GDP Per Capita Income:	\$9,700	Inflation:	15%
Natural Resources:	Oil, gas, coal, minerals, though difficult to access	Export Partners:	Germany, 7.5% Italy, 6.9% Netherlands, 6.7% China, 6.3% US, 6.1%	Import Partners:	Germany, 14.3% Belarus, 8.9% Ukraine, 7.1% US, 6.4% China, 5.2%
Environmental Issues:	Air pollution from heavy industry, deforestation, soil erosion, and nuclear contamination	Exports:	Petroleum, natural gas, wood products, civilian and military manufactures	Imports:	Machinery equipment, consumer goods, medicine, meat, sugar, semi-finished metal products

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Mystery Country # 8

Country

System of Government:	Republic	Population:	60,180,529	Currency:	euro
Life Expectancy:	79.28 Male - 75.6 Female - 83.1	Literacy Rate:	99%	Unemployment:	9.1%
GDP Real Growth Rate:	1.2%	GDP Per Capita Income:	\$26,000	Inflation:	1.8%
Natural Resources:	Coal, iron ore, bauxite, zinc, potash, timber, fish	Export Partners:	Belgium, 6.9% Germany, 15% UK, 9.8% Spain, 9% Italy, 9% US, 7.8%	Import Partners:	Spain, 6.7% Germany, 19.4% Belgium, 9.2% Italy, 8.8% UK, 7.3% Netherlands, 7% US, 6.8%
Environmental Issues:	Acid rain, industrial air pollution, water pollution	Exports:	Machinery, transportation equipment, aircraft, plastics, pharmaceuticals, iron and steel	Imports:	Machinery and equipment, vehicles, crude oil, aircraft, chemicals, plastics

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Activity 2

What is the history of the G8?

Objective

Students will identify the location and sequence of previous G8 conferences and make comparisons between the membership of G8 and various multi-national organizations of a more formal nature.

Resources

- G8 Web Site [www.g8usa.gov]
- G8 Member Nations Sheets [pdf files]
- Multi-National Organizations Worksheet [pdf file]
- NAFTA www.ustr.gov/regions/whemisphere/nafta.shtml
- United Nations www.un.org
- NATO www.nato.int
- EU www.europa.eu.int
- OPEC www.opec.org
- World Bank www.worldbank.org
- WTO www.wto.org
- IMF www.imf.org

Introduction

President Bush will host the 30th G8 Summit at Sea Island, Georgia, on June 8-10, 2004, since the United States assumed the Presidency of the G8 from France in early 2004. President Bush is looking forward to the opportunity to meet with the G8 Leaders in the informal and relaxed setting of Sea Island, Georgia.

The G8 Summit brings together the leaders of the world's major industrial nations: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The European Union has observer status at the G8 Summit. The EU is represented by the President of the European Commission, His Excellency Romano Prodi, and the leader of the country holding the Presidency of the European Council, currently the Prime Minister of Ireland, His Excellency Bertie Ahern, T.D. At previous Summits, leaders have discussed a wide range of international economic, political, and security issues.

The G8 began with a 1975 Summit in France including six countries (France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States). Canada joined the group at the San Juan Summit of 1976, and the European Community began participation at the London Summit of 1977. Starting with the 1994 Naples Summit, Russia attended the political sessions of the Summit and at the 1998 Birmingham Summit, Russia began participating in all Summit sessions member.

The Presidency of the G8, and responsibility of hosting the G8 Summit, rotates each year. Italy hosted the G8 Summit in Genoa in 2001, Canada hosted in Kananaskis in 2002, and

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France hosted in Evian in 2003. The United Kingdom will host the G8 Summit in 2005 and Russia will host in 2006.

Task

In this lesson, students will locate and label host cities of the G8 summits on country maps and compare and contrast characteristics of the G8 to more formalized multinational organizations.

Process

Begin this lesson by organizing the class into groups of four students. Provide each group of students with a set of G8 Member Nations Sheets. Each group will also need access to an online computer and the G8 official website [www.g8usa.gov].

On the welcome screen, students should click on each nation's flag to access information about that country's history as host to the G8 summit. Students should locate the host cities on the map, circle the name of the city, and record the year in which that city hosted the summit. On the world outline map, have students shade the location of the G8 country. Also on the G8 Member Nations Sheet is a photograph of each nation's current leader. Students should write the name of the leader under the picture and note how long this individual has held office. Point out that historically, the G8 summits have been held in major cities around the world. This pattern has been changing in recent years. Ask students to speculate why President Bush selected Georgia's Sea Island as the location for the 2004 G8 summit.

Continuing to work in groups of four students, each student should be assigned two of the following multinational organizations to analyze: NATO, UN, EU, OPEC, WTO, IMF, or the World Bank. Have each student visit the appropriate web site and complete the Multinational Organizations worksheet. Conclude this activity by asking students to compare and contrast each organization, in terms of its purposes and goals.