

Lesson Three

What issues have been topics of discussion at previous G8 summits?

Activity 1

What key issues have been discussed at previous G8 summits and how might each nation see these issues differently?

Objective

Students will identify both recurring issues and issues which arise due to changing world events and examine the issues from the perspective of each G8 country.

Resources

- Final Communique and Chair Summary of Previous Summits
www.g8usa.gov/c10490.htm
- Selected Topics from the Evian Summit

Introduction

Since the G8 Summits first began in 1975, certain topics have been recurring themes on conference agendas. Topics are added and removed from the agenda as world events warrant. With a rotating chair, each Summit incorporates items of interest to the host nation.

Task

In this lesson, students will review the Final Communique and Chair's Summary of each of the previous G8 Summits in order to identify recurring issues and those that vary from Summit to Summit. In addition, students will look carefully at the most recent Communique from the June 2003 Evian Summit and make predictions as to the focus of the Sea Island Summit agenda.

Process

Begin this lesson by directing students to the Sea Island Summit website, www.g8usa.gov/c10490.htm which provides a link to each of the Final Communique (now Chair's Summary) written at the conclusion of each Summit. Assign each student a specific final report to review. The student should make a list of the key topics outlined in the report. After all students have finished, the teacher should begin with 1975 and moving chronologically through the list, ask each student to report the key topics. The teacher will compile and tally these topics on the board or overhead projector. When the reports are complete, lead a discussion around the following questions.

- What are the recurring issues?
- How has the pattern changed over time?

After reviewing the issues addressed at past summits, ask students to identify the one topic they feel is most important. Have students review in detail the ways in which this

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one topic was addressed in previous summits. Students should then draw a political cartoon making clear their position on the issue.

Next, divide the class into eight groups, and assign each group a G8 nation. Students should then visit www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/summit/2003/index.html. Using the worksheet “Selected Topics from the Evian Summit,” have students briefly describe the concerns discussed by the leaders and then priority rank these issues from the perspective of the G8 country they have been assigned. Students should review the background information on the country their group represents by clicking on the flag of the country found at www.g8usa.gov.

End this lesson by asking each group to report the issues that might be of interest to leaders of their assigned nation and how those issues might differ from those of interest to the United States.

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Selected Topics from the Evian Summit

Topic from Evian Final Communique	Summary	My Priority Ranking for Sea Island
Strengthening Economic Growth World Wide		
Action Against Famine, Especially in Africa		
Water		
Health		
Financing for Development		
Debt		
Science and Technology for Sustainable Development		
Marine Environment and Tanker Safety		
Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction		
Combating Terrorism		
Security and Control of Man-Portable Air Defense Systems		
Regional Issue: Iraq		
Regional Issue: Israel-Palestine		
Regional Issue: North Korea		
Regional Issue: Afghanistan		
Regional Issue: Iran		
Regional Issue: Algeria		
Regional Issue: Zimbabwe		
Other Issues:		

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Activity 2

Why do some people demonstrate at the G8 Summits?

Objective

Students will examine both the rights and responsibilities of demonstrators at G8 summits.

Resources

- Globalization 101 website [www.globalization101.org]
- G8 Evian Summit [www.g8.frevian]
- G8 Kananaskis Summit [www.forums.alternet.org]
- G8 Genoa Summit [www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2001/g8.summit]

Introduction

As with all events of this magnitude, it is likely that individuals and groups exercise their first Amendment rights. At G8 Summits, leaders discuss a wide range of social, political and economic issues. Because of the variety of issues addressed, and wide media presence, these events tend to draw demonstrators.

In the United States, the first Amendment of the Constitution guarantees citizens the rights of freedom of speech and the right to peaceably assemble. Along with these rights comes the responsibility to respect the rights and opinions of others. The Sea Island Summit is likely to attract the attention of various groups and individuals with specific agendas to which they would like to draw the leaders' attention.

Task

In this lesson, students will examine some issues of international interest which have been the subject of demonstrations at previous G8 summits.

Process

Begin this lesson by dividing the class into nine groups and assigning each group one of the following topics: trade, health, migration, technology, culture, the IMF and the World Bank, investment, the environment, and development. Send each group to a computer to access www.globalization101.org. Each group should click on the icon "Issue Briefs" and then find their assigned issue. After opening their specific issue icon, each group should read through the information provided at that site and related links and then draw up a list of what they feel are the most important aspects of their issue that they might like to bring to the attention of the G8 leaders.

After all groups have completed the research, reassemble the class and let each group report their findings.

- What were the issues discussed?
- What do the issues identified have in common? (e.g., First World vs. Third World)
- How was each side represented?

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Next, have students return to the Internet and check websites dealing with demonstrators at the 2003 G8 Summit in Evian, France (www.g8.fr/evian), the 2002 G8 Summit in Kananaskis, Canada and the 2001 G8 Summit in Genoa, Italy (www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2001/g8.summit). Did demonstrations occur at those Summits? What specific groups were involved and what issues did they promote?