

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 the G8 nations have in common.

Resources

- G8 Web Site [www.g8usa.gov]
- CIA World Factbook Web Site [www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html]
- Data Retrieval Chart [pdf file]

[NOTE: There will be slight variations in statistics among these websites owing primarily to different 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 of America. 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 locate and record data on a chart for each of the G8 countries using resources from the Internet. Students will then analyze the data to identify commonalities among the countries.

Process

Begin this lesson by organizing the class into groups of four students. Provide each group of students with seven copies of the Data Retrieval Chart to complete for each G8 country. The chart with data on the United States has been completed for the students as a model. The G8 web site and the CIA World Factbook web site provide a rich resource for student research. If students have questions about the meaning/definition of any of the terms on the chart, direct them to

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/docs/notesanddefs.html>.

When students complete their charts, 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
- 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

Sea Island Summit
Middle School Lessons for Teaching About the G8

- 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 asking students to generate a list of topics they believe might appear on the G8 agenda. Their list should reflect the information they gathered in the data retrieval activity.

Sea Island Summit
Middle School Lessons for Teaching About the G8

Data Retrieval Chart

Country

System of Government:		Population:		Currency:	
Life Expectancy:		Literacy Rate:		Unemployment:	
GDP Real Growth Rate:		GDP Per Capita Income:		Inflation:	
Natural Resources:		Export Partners:		Import Partners:	
Environmental Issues:		Exports:		Imports:	

Sea Island Summit
Middle School Lessons for Teaching About the G8

Data Retrieval Chart

The United States of America

Country

System of Government:	Constitution-based democratic republic	Population:	290,342,554	Currency:	US 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



Sea Island Summit

Middle School Lessons for Teaching About the G8

Activity 2

What is the history of the G8?

Objective

Students will identify the location and sequence of previous G8 conferences.

Resources

- G8 Web Site [www.g8usa.gov]
- G8 Member Country Profiles [pdf files]
- G8 Summit Host Cities Timeline [pdf file]

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 industrialized nations: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The European Union has observer status at G8 Summit. The European Union 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.

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 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 create a timeline showing the dates and locations of each meeting.

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 and a G8 Host Cities Timeline.

Sea Island Summit

Middle School Lessons for Teaching About the G8

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 any host cities on the map, circle the name of the city, and record the year in which that city hosted the summit. Students should also record this information on the timeline. 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 then identify three interesting facts about that individual.

Conclude this lesson by pointing 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.

G8 Summit Host Cities Timeline



Member Country Profiles
The United States

National map with multiple major cities labeled, including any cities where the G8 summit was held in the past. CIA World Factbook maps are the type that would work here.

National Flag in color here.

Color Photo of National Leader Here.

Outline Map of the World Showing individual nations so that students may locate the country and its neighbors.

Leader's Name

- Interesting Facts:
1. _____

 2. _____

 3. _____

Member Country Profiles
Canada

National map with multiple major cities labeled, including any cities where the G8 summit was held in the past. CIA World Factbook maps are the type that would work here.

National Flag in color here.

Color Photo of National Leader Here.

Outline Map of the World Showing individual nations so that students may locate the country and its neighbors.

Leader's Name

- Interesting Facts:
1. _____

 2. _____

 3. _____

Member Country Profiles
France

National map with multiple major cities labeled, including any cities where the G8 summit was held in the past. CIA World Factbook maps are the type that would work here.

National Flag in color
here.

Color Photo of
National Leader Here.

Outline Map of the World
Showing individual nations so that
students may locate the country and its
neighbors.

Leader's Name

- Interesting Facts:
1. _____

 2. _____

 3. _____

Member Country Profiles
Germany

National map with multiple major cities labeled, including any cities where the G8 summit was held in the past. CIA World Factbook maps are the type that would work here.

National Flag in color here.

Color Photo of National Leader Here.

Outline Map of the World Showing individual nations so that students may locate the country and its neighbors.

Leader's Name

- Interesting Facts:
1. _____

 2. _____

 3. _____

Member Country Profiles
Italy

National map with multiple major cities labeled, including any cities where the G8 summit was held in the past. CIA World Factbook maps are the type that would work here.

National Flag in color here.

Color Photo of National Leader Here.

Outline Map of the World Showing individual nations so that students may locate the country and its neighbors.

Leader's Name

- Interesting Facts:
1. _____

 2. _____

 3. _____

Member Country Profiles
Japan

National map with multiple major cities labeled, including any cities where the G8 summit was held in the past. CIA World Factbook maps are the type that would work here.

National Flag in color here.

Color Photo of National Leader Here.

Outline Map of the World Showing individual nations so that students may locate the country and its neighbors.

Leader's Name

- Interesting Facts:
1. _____

 2. _____

 3. _____

Member Country Profiles
Russia

National map with multiple major cities labeled, including any cities where the G8 summit was held in the past. CIA World Factbook maps are the type that would work here.

National Flag in color here.

Color Photo of National Leader Here.

Outline Map of the World Showing individual nations so that students may locate the country and its neighbors.

Leader's Name

- Interesting Facts:
1. _____

 2. _____

 3. _____

Member Country Profiles
United Kingdom

National map with multiple major cities labeled, including any cities where the G8 summit was held in the past. CIA World Factbook maps are the type that would work here.

National Flag in color here.

Color Photo of National Leader Here.

Outline Map of the World Showing individual nations so that students may locate the country and its neighbors.

Leader's Name

- Interesting Facts:
1. _____

 2. _____

 3. _____
