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Activity 5: Current UN issues: Focus on Peacekeeping

Purpose: To examine one of the UN’s priority concerns, peacekeeping, and to consider what factors are necessary in order for peacekeeping to be successful.

Standards:

Social Studies: NCSS standards:

V: Individuals, Groups and Institutions

VI: Power, Authority and Governance

IX: Global Connections

English Language Arts: NCTE standards

1: Reading for understanding

7: Evaluating data

Materials:

Activity 5 Student Materials: Guided questions for case studies on peacekeeping

Description:

1. Have students read the “Briefing Paper” on Peacekeeping that can be found on the UN Cyberschoolbus website:

<http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/briefing/peacekeeping/>

Discuss the following questions:

How are peacekeeping operations funded?

Where do the peacekeepers come from?

What are some of the forms that peacekeeping missions take?

What are some of the challenges for UN peacekeeping in the future?

2. Distribute the “Guided questions for case studies on peacekeeping”. Explain to students that they will be reading about UN peacekeeping operations in Rwanda and East Timor. The mission in Rwanda is generally considered to have been unsuccessful in preventing the genocide that occurred in 1994. The mission in East Timor is generally considered to have been successful in preventing large-scale loss of life, and in providing stability to a newly independent country.

As they read the online material on both operations, they should look for answers to the questions on their sheet.

3. Discuss with the class their findings. Have them work in small groups to develop their own set of recommendations for UN peacekeeping operations.

Activity 5 Student Materials

Guided questions for case studies on peacekeeping

Use the websites below to research the UN peacekeeping missions that took place in Rwanda and East Timor. Be sure to explore all the main parts of each site.

When you have thoroughly read both case studies, answer the following questions for both.

1. Were attempts made in either country to prevent the conflict from escalating?
2. What was the level of political will among member states to intervene in the conflict by sending a peacekeeping mission?
3. How many countries contributed to the peacekeeping forces?
4. What was the total number of peacekeepers deployed? How does this compare with the total population of the country?
5. What was the total amount spent on each operation? Calculate the annual cost for each.
6. How much time went by between the start of hostilities and the start of peacekeeping?
7. Were there any errors that were made in setting up the peacekeeping operation that interfered with its success?
8. What guidelines would you suggest for making peacekeeping operations successful?

Rwanda

http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/co_mission/unamir.htm

East Timor

<http://www.un.org/peace/etimor/etimor.htm>

General information:

UN website on peace and security:

<http://www.un.org/peace/>

UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations homepage

<http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/index.asp>

(includes lists of current and past operations)

Maps of peacekeeping operations can be found at

<http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/english/htmain.htm>