

INTERCONNECTIONS 21

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Activity 7: Images of the UN

Purpose: To encourage students to reflect on their learning during this unit, and to synthesize that learning using both written language and visual imagery.

Standards:

Social Studies: NCSS Standards:

IX: Global Connections

Visual Arts: CNAEA Content Standards:

3: Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas

6: Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines

Materials:

Assorted art materials

Description:

1. Have students look at the UN logo, and read about why the two design elements were chosen, at:

<http://www.un.org/geninfo/faq/factsheets/FS4.HTM>

and

<http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/maplib/flag.html>

2. Ask students to reflect on what they have learned about the UN from this unit. How well do they think the current logo reflects the mission of the UN and its role in the world today?

3. Have students work individually or in small groups to design their own UN logo, or a poster that represents the role of the UN to them. Alternatively, they may create a collage from a variety of visual media – photographs, maps, graphs, original drawings, etc. – that represents their understanding of the UN’s work in general, or on specific issues such as hunger, AIDS, refugees, etc.

4. When their designs are complete, students can present them to the class and explain the meaning of the symbols they have chosen.

5. Encourage students to discuss how images convey messages in ways that are different from the written or spoken word. What kind of impact can they have? How do images of the UN as portrayed in the media compare with your understanding of the UN at the end of this unit?

Follow-up activity:

1. Have students exhibit their posters or logo designs in the school as part of a UN Day observance (October 24).
2. If students wrote an essay for Activity 1 on the need for the UN, have them look at their original essay. Based on what they have learned during this unit, have their views on the need for the UN changed? If so, how.

