

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR COUNTRY

TOPIC: BUILDING MODEL UN RESEARCH SKILLS

OBJECTIVES

- Research assigned countries on the Internet.
- Find important information in order to begin writing position papers.

REQUIREMENTS

4. Time: 1-2 class periods (This activity can also be completed outside the classroom.)
5. Materials Needed:
 - Handout D: Getting to Know Your Country

PROCEDURE

6. Lesson Introduction/Activation of Prior Knowledge

Ask students to partner up and brainstorm about the country, committee and topic information they will need to find as they prepare for the conference. Ask the pairs to share their responses with the class. Provide them with any important information that is not presented by a student.

7. Activity

Provide students with Handout D: Getting to Know Your Country. Ask students to underline the words they don't know (for example, infrastructure, trade bloc, GDP), and discuss these words in class. These terms can be used as vocabulary words in the future. Ask students complete this handout individually.

Once they have completed their handouts, ask students representing the same country to compare their answers to ensure they have the same information.

8. Closing/Wrap-Up

Students can use Handout D as they begin to research their country.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Future in-class follow-up for teachers: Additional research information can be found on page 26.

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HANDOUT D: GETTING TO KNOW YOUR COUNTRY

Government

Official country name: _____

Governmental system: _____

Head of state: _____

Official languages: _____

Region: _____

Allies or blocs: _____

People

Population and growth rate: _____

Major religions or cultures: _____

Standard of living: _____

Development

Development status: _____

Climate: _____

Environment (problems, innovations, etc.): _____

Has this nation met the Millennium Development Goal targets? _____

Economy

Economic system: _____

GDP and growth rate: _____

Major cities: _____

Infrastructure status (good, poor, etc.): _____

Trade blocs/associations: _____

Balance of payments/trade: _____

Major exports/imports: _____

Major trade partners: _____

International Monetary Fund, World Bank positions
(debtor nation? donor nation?):

Natural resources: _____

Energy sources: _____

Military

Military organization: _____

Percent of GDP spent on defense: _____

Major weapons, nuclear capability, etc.: _____

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United Nations

Date admitted to UN: _____

UN dues payment status: _____

Has the UN ever intervened in a conflict involving this nation? If so, where and how?

How does the country contribute to UN peacekeeping?

Has the UN cited this nation for human rights violations? If so, why?

What do you think this nation's position on the topic of debate will be? Why?

Try to find at least one recent article that is about or makes reference to this nation (preferably from the past two weeks).

Conflicts/Issues

What are four problems that affect this nation?

Ethnic/cultural issues, if any: _____

Refugee problems: _____

Major conflicts both past and present: _____
