

# CONTEMPORARY ISSUES CURRICULUM



**10 UNITS**  
**26 WEEKS**

**INCLUDES GOOGLE SLIDES**



## For students who:

- are emerging or non-readers
- take alternate assessments
- are in special education
- short-attention span
- lack pre-requisite skills
- benefit from the use of pictures for support
- middle/high school





## Why you need this bundle:

- If you teach multiple grade levels, you have all you need in one place.
- Having the same layout for each unit reduces students' anxiety and allows them to focus on the content.
- Aligned with most extended learning standards.
- Saves you money
- Saves you time.



This bundle includes 10 different units that cover issues important in the US today. It includes:

1. Global Connections (3 weeks)
2. Immigration (3 weeks)
3. Foreign Policy (3 weeks)
4. Responding to Terrorism (3 weeks)
5. Afghanistan and the US (3 weeks)
6. Middle East and the US (3 weeks)
7. China and the US (2 weeks)
8. Cuba and the US (2 weeks)
9. Mexico and the US (3 weeks)
10. Ukraine (1 week)

All units have  
printable  
AND digital  
versions



## All the units contain similar activities :

- Detailed lesson plans
- A book PLUS a pre-recorded PowerPoint show and movie version
- Vocabulary cards
- Circle maps
- Sorting activities
- Timeline activities
- Identify countries
- Close worksheets (fill in the blank)
- Assessments (3 versions)

The activities are differentiated to allow more students to participate in the same activity.

- Saves you time
- Fosters inclusion

↓ **KEEP SCROLLING FOR ALL THE DETAILS** ↓



## Table of Contents

Pages	Activity
4-57	US and Cuba Relations: The Trade Embargo
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In separate files, you will find:

- Lesson plans
- Voice recorded PowerPoint
- Directions and link to digital activities

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Every unit has lots of different activities and ways for students to learn about these current event issues.



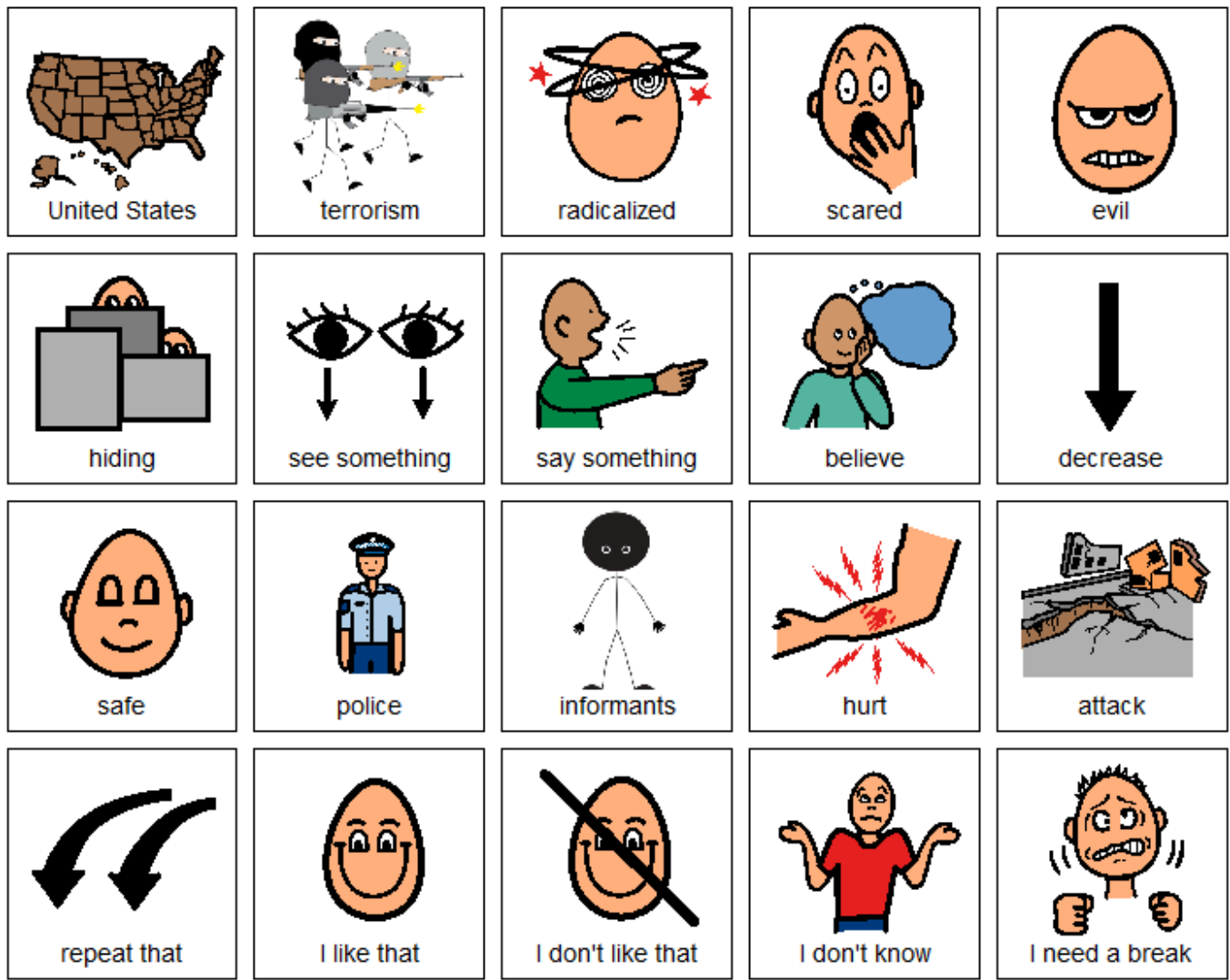
## Day 5

Activity	Notes	Materials
Read or listen to a recording of the book (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read through the story, asking lots of questions</li><li>• Continue to make connections between book and vocabulary board</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Book</li><li>• Vocabulary board</li></ul>
Vocabulary cards <b>Speed Matching</b> (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• place all the cards in the middle of the table</li><li>• hold up a card, and the students race to find it in the pile in the middle of the table</li><li>• NOTE: for students with physical challenges, allow them to simply find the symbol on their board or communication device</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vocabulary cards (extra sets)</li></ul>
Map activity review (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review the map activity completed yesterday</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Activity completed yesterday</li></ul>
Writing Prompt (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete the My Trade Agreement writing prompt</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Writing prompt</li><li>• Scissors</li><li>• Glue</li></ul>
Sharing (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each student shares their finished writing prompts</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Completed writing prompts</li><li>• Communication devices</li></ul>

# Lesson plan

Each unit has a detailed lesson plan with suggestions, a quick look, and a daily step-by-step guide.





Every unit in the bundle comes with a vocabulary board. These are vital for increasing engagement and participation. Suggestions on how to utilize them are included in each unit.

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Afghanistan only had a small military called the **Northern Alliance**. It was not able to keep the Taliban out of the country but tried to control how much power they did have.



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# Book

Every unit has a book with simple text and engaging photos. It comes in a PowerPoint and an mp4 file.

Osama bin Laden was a very powerful leader of al-Qaeda and was living somewhere in Afghanistan.



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# Vocabulary

September 11, 2001

Most deadly terrorist attack in United States.



terrorism

Using violence against civilians for political or religious reasons.



War on Terror

War on terrorist groups in Afghanistan started by President Bush after 9/11.



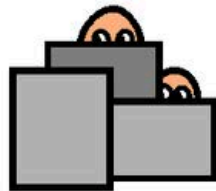
Al-Qaeda

Small group of terrorists who were responsible for the attack on 9/11.



Each unit has vocabulary cards used in various activities.

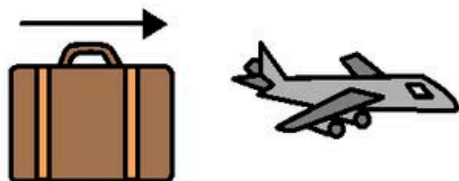
asylum



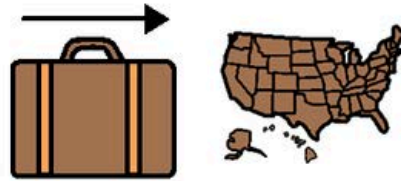
visa



Non-immigrant visa



Immigrant visa



diversity

A mixtures of races and cultures living together in one place.



immigrant

Someone born in a different country and now lives here permanently.



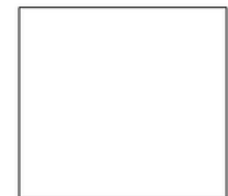
Ellis Island

Place in New York where immigrant used to be processed in the early 1900s.



border

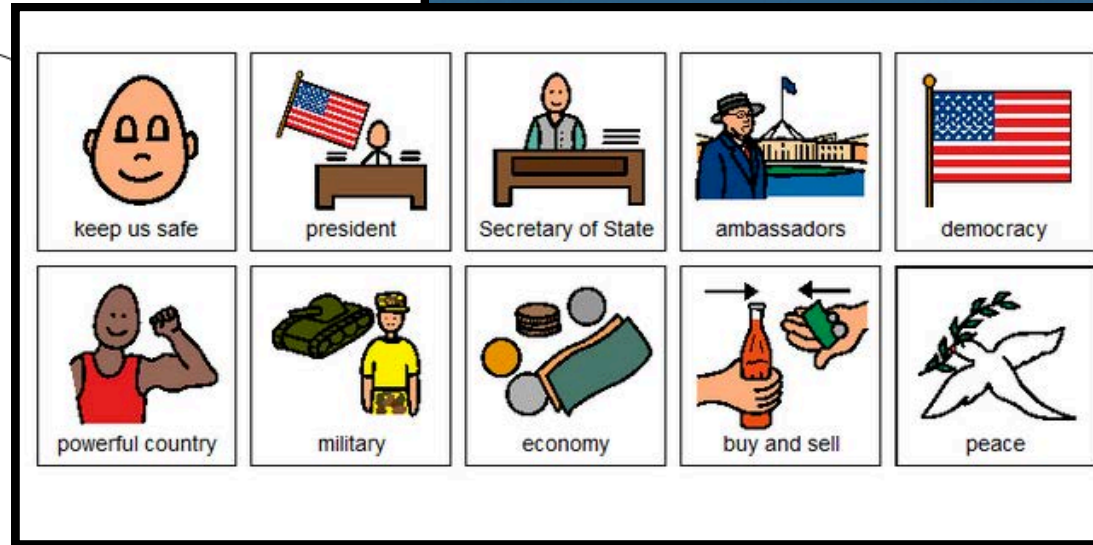
Area where immigrants can cross from one country into the US.



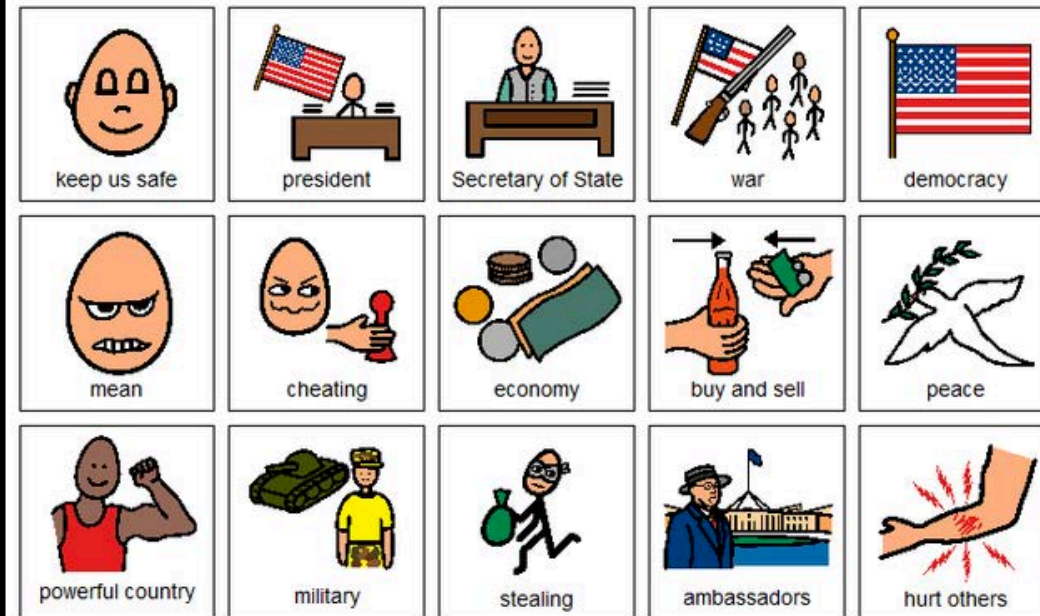


# circle maps


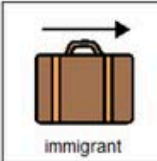















Each unit comes with 1 or more circle maps to visually review the main facts from the book. These come with an errorless option and an option with wrong answers mixed in.















Cut apart pictures and place in circle map **ONLY IF** they relate to the foreign policy of the US.












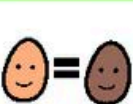








 US citizen					 immigrant				
 Britain	 Tasmania	 Florida	 Western Australia	 New Mexico					
 Alaska	 Minnesota	 Brazil	 Germany	 Illinois					
 Kansas	 Japan	 Hawaii	 Canada	 California					

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 good changes	 bad changes
 increased trade	 cheaper prices
 auto industry	 lower paying
 US opened factories	 greatly increased immigration
 poverty in Mexico	 caused tension
 general economic growth	 increase exports

 domestic				
 your city	 other countries	 peace	 balance of power	 democracy
 feed the hungry	 buy and sell goods	 strong economy	 president of the US	 United States
 human rights	 your town	 other world leaders	 help the poor	 immigration

Some units have sorting activities or Venn diagrams. There is a color-coded version for students who need more support or suggestions for differentiation are included.

**differentiated**

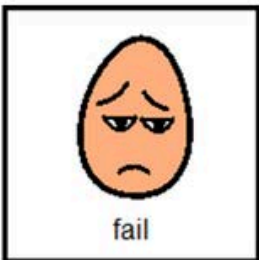
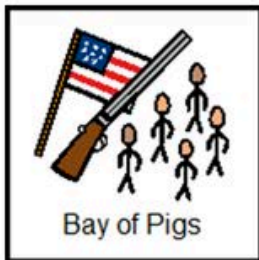


# Timelines



1961

The US attacks Cuba to remove Castro at The Bay of Pigs. They failed.



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### Timeline

1973 1980 1988 1990 2001 2003

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OPEC Oil Crisis

Iran-Iraq War

Persian Gulf War

Sept 11, 2001

Iraq War

Arab Spring

- There are large timeline cards to use for group activities.
- There is a cut-and-paste timeline for individual review.



# Maps

Trace the border between US and Mexico with a colored marker and label the 2 countries.

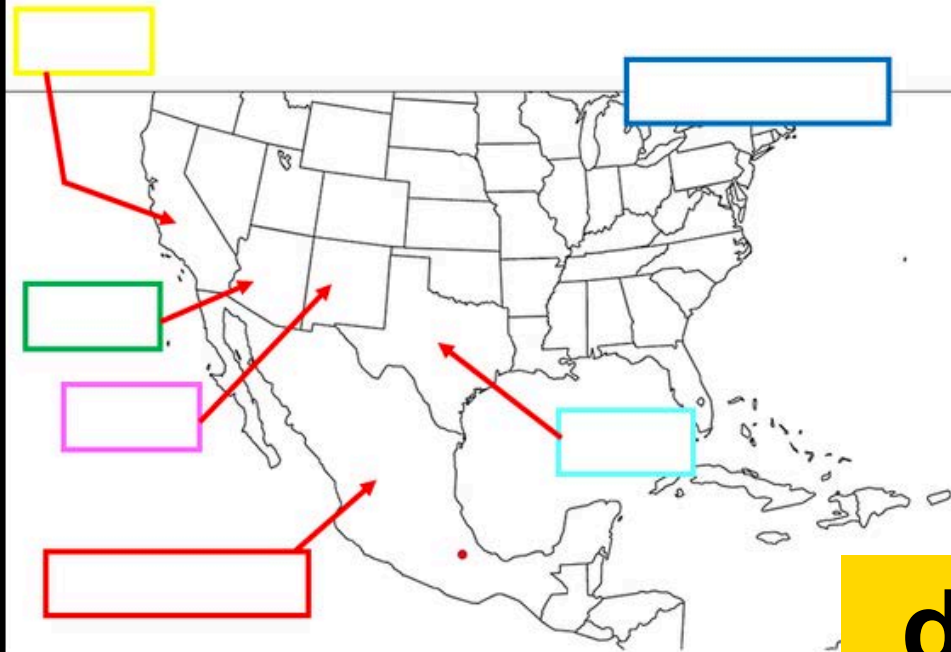


United States

Mexico

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Trace the border between US and Mexico with a colored marker and label the 2 countries and the bordering states.



United States

California

Arizona

Mexico

New Mexico

Texas

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Some units have maps where students will color in the different countries.

**differentiated**



# My Foreign Policy

I would work with  to make a foreign policy.

We would make sure the world was .

We would make sure everyone had .

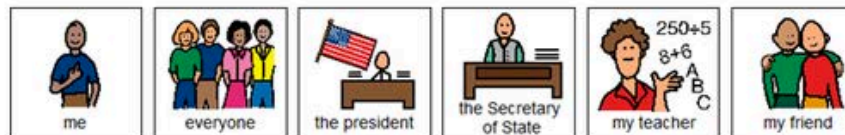
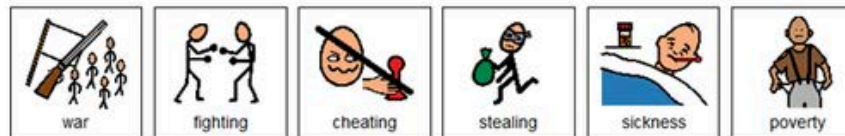
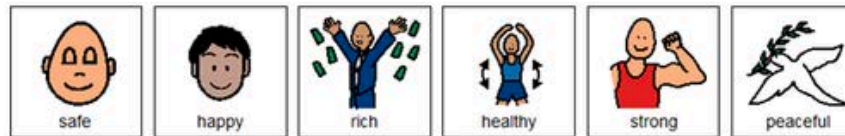
There would be no  allowed in the world.

All the decisions would be made by .

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# writing prompts














Some units have writing prompts. These are errorless activities.








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## Middle East

	 Arab	 embargo			
 Arab Spring	 Saudi Arabia	 oil			 embargo
 Saudi Arabia				 abaya	 Arab Spring
 Arab	 Arab Spring			 embargo	
 oil					

## Middle East

 Saudi Arabia	 oil		
		 oil	
			 abaya
			

Place the following images in the empty squares on the previous page, completing the sudoku puzzle.

 Muslim	 Muslim	 Saudi Arabia	 oil	 abaya
 Saudi Arabia	 Saudi Arabia	 abaya	 abaya	

## US and Cuba Relations

```

ENDFILS QYOTJLFWXHWAC
ADKPLRXRFAXSTEDQHMXA
YSUMLBUBDYDXVIPHGREA
HCKXOBNTDIPLOMATLSYA
KOUHPUYMHCASTROKYGQV
XNDBYLNWMLTSDICTATOR
YWBEAVCEJYEIULKQWENV
IRAVGNNOMIPHEMZFMPU
TNYCQQMEMBTASFVFKBWT
JLOJBWWIVMANUGHYAVM
DKFPZTFZSBURZAXWJSIF
NJPTDEOIASKNGSFOISBZ
WMI EYQUURPLZIONYUYTC
KLGGIOWRRUYEJSIRZROU
KSSJYXACCIRRCATHNBJB
VQVZTUMZZWSBLRRKQDRA
MPDLKLRJYJFOMXTIZXVGA
MRWFGVUERRKJODSKDWV
DENLDCGOFPCPOZGYIBCR
UJ OX IZZWHXQQFHRETSTN
    
```

Cuban Missile Crisis	Bay of Pigs	communist	ruthless
dictator	diplomat	tourism	embargo
embassy	Castro	Cuba	

**vocabulary puzzles**

Most units have vocabulary puzzles to work with the new vocabulary introduced in the unit.



# Quiz/review

## Global Connections

1. Things that you do, affect people all over the .
2. Sustainable goals help to keep the Earth .
3. Poverty means you do not have enough  to live in a healthy way.
4. Malnourished means you do not have enough  to be healthy.
5. When we make  choices then the Earth will be healthy.



## Local Impacts

1. I can  clothes and toys I no longer need.
2. Buying food from local  is a change I can make.
3. Staying in  is one of the most important things I can do.
4. Turning the water  when I brush my teeth will save water.
5. Riding my  to the park instead of riding in the car is something



Each unit includes fill-in-the-blank worksheets to review concepts covered in the book and unit. Answer keys included.



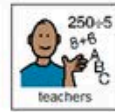
# Assessment

Version 1

1. One of the main foreign policy goals is to keep the US:



2. Foreign policy tells us how to interact with:



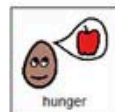
3. Who makes most of the foreign policy decisions?



4. Who is the main person to help the president with policy decisions?



5. One of the foreign policy goals is to prevent war and promote world:



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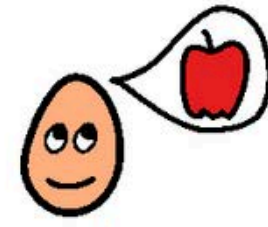
Version 2

Print onto cardstock or mount on index cards. Cut pictures apart and show student answer choices for each question.

Q 5



peace



hunger

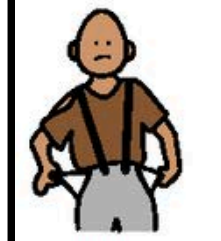


drought

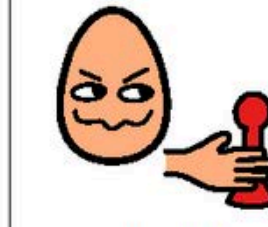
Version 3

- One of the main foreign policy goals is to keep the US:
  - Safe
  - At war
  - poor
- Foreign policy tells us how to interact with:
  - Aliens
  - Foreign countries
  - teachers
- Who makes most of the foreign policy decisions?
  - Doctors
  - Congress
  - president
- Who is the main person to help the president with foreign policy decisions?
  - Wife
  - Secretary of State
  - queen
- One of the foreign policy goals is to prevent war and promote world:
  - Peace
  - Hunger
  - Drought
- It is important that we help countries that are:
  - Mean
  - Poor
  - Cheating

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poor



cheating

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Finally, each unit has an assessment that is available in 3 versions. These are given 1:1 and read aloud to the student.



All of these units include digital versions of the activities. These simply require the student to click and drag the answers. There is no drawing or typing involved.

There is a movie version of the book.

There are 2 complete sets of slides. One set is differentiated with color.

Quickly combine slides from the 2 sets to create the perfect combination for each student.

**Make great independent learning centers.**



The United Nations is a very important organization that works hard to keep the world a peaceful and healthy place for everyone.



▶rista 🔊 Sp 6:39 / 14:33 or Special Kids

The movie version of the book from the unit.

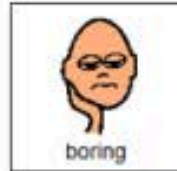
Watch the movie on US and Foreign Policy



# Great for review

The digital activities are click and drag.

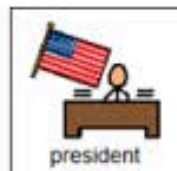
1. The goals created to keep the Earth healthy and strong are:



2. Changes we do in our schools and towns are:



3. Local changes can affect the:



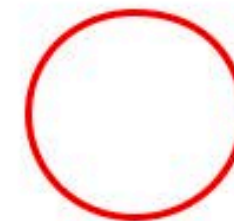
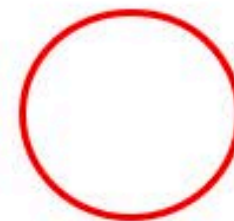
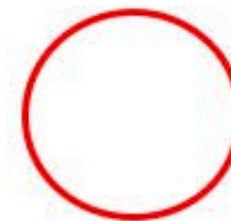
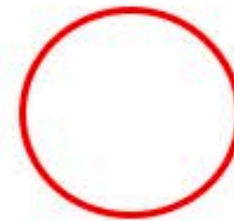
4. Zero Hunger Day is a global way to end:



5. By making each person healthier, will make the world more:



Circle the correct answer.








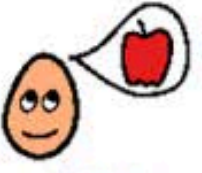





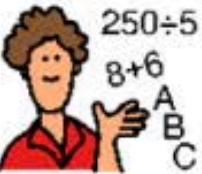


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# Perfect for any learning level

Each unit comes with a set of slides that are differentiated with color.

How could you make a change locally and globally when it comes to global connections?

		
 poverty		
 hunger		
 healthy		
 education		

donate

study

buy local

charities

exercise

work hard

join local gym

**ZERO HUNGER CHALLENGE**

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**Still have questions?**

**Reach out at [specialneedsforspecialkids@gmail.com](mailto:specialneedsforspecialkids@gmail.com)**

**I will answer your question personally and promptly.**

