

International Trade Activity Plan—Trade Wars: British Columbia vs. Washington State

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Description:

This unit is designed as part of a contiguous review of trade relations throughout the northern Pacific Rim nations. The student will see Canada as a valuable trade partner as well as learning about the great economic role Canada plays in exports and imports to the State of Washington and other nation states around the Pacific Rim. Students will also learn about the sensitive topics that come along with trade relations such as environmental issues, protectionism, trade without tariffs, working conditions, and maintaining a nation's way of economic life.

Grade Level:

Grades 11-12

Subject(s):

Current World Problems/History/Economics/Geography

Duration:

50-55 minute sessions in a 3 to 4 day overall unit

Goal:

The goal is for students to recognize the concerns of trading nations. The students will also learn to recognize the important role British Columbia and Washington State play in one another's economies.

Objectives:

The student will:

- Be able to describe the extremely important role trade plays in a trading partner's economies.
- Be able to describe the issues that free trade and fair trade play upon a trade partnership.
- Be able to explain the concerns of the environment a trade partnership may have.

Standards:

This lesson meets the Washington state EALR standards for reading primary and secondary source materials and interpreting the important issues for debate or formal verbal presentation in history, economics, or social studies.

Background Information:

Before this activity section, students should have completed a series of lessons on Free Trade versus Fair Trade; read and studied the Canadian government publications *NAFTA: The World's Most Productive Trading Alliance* and *United States-Canada: The World's Largest Trading Relationship*; and completed the unit on the history of northern Pacific Rim trade development.

Materials:

- Project syllabus
- Student groups will need to access the library and computer lab to research (Internet and newsmagazines/books) and create documents/posters/visuals to support positions for debate or position presentations.
- Articles (New articles can substitute for old to update)
 1. "Trade Wars"
 2. "U. S. – Canada Lumber Dispute Flares Up"
 3. International Trade Bulletin: *Canada – U. S. Trade Statistics*
 4. United States of America Department of Energy Office of Fossil Fuel: "Docket No. 93-57-NG" and *Canada: The Largest Energy Supplier to the United States*.
 5. Consulate General of Seattle: *Washington and Canada Trade Relations*
 6. *Setting the Record Straight* and a commercial shipping article (Waterborne)

Procedures:

1. Day one - divide class into six groups. The students in each group will receive the same article or set of articles for analysis – each group will receive a separate article or set of articles. They will then independently read and debate amongst themselves. The teacher will interact with each group to clarify the substance and positions that each group will support. Each group will plan for the next day for the purpose of research to support their positions and for debate/presentation preparations.
2. Day two and or three – all six groups will research at the library and computer lab to create supporting documentation/posters/visuals to bolster their position and to prepare for the debate or position presentations. The teacher will interact and check for understanding to promote the successful completion of the group efforts.
3. Day three and or four – open debate or position presentations supported with documentation/posters/visuals to support points of view. The teacher will moderate, and evaluate the student group's debates or position presentations.

Assessment:

40% = Quality of Knowledge (Content)
30% = Quality of Document/Posters/Visuals support
30% = Quality of Presentation (Organization & Presence)

Sources:

- **Consulate General of Canada** 412 Plaza 600, Sixth & Stewart Street, Seattle, WA 98101-1286
Tel: (206) 443-1777 Fax: (206) 443-9662 www.seattle.gc.ca
- **Sno-Isle Libraries** Washington State Government Documents www.sno-isle.org
- **Washington State** www.canadianembassy.org
- **The U.S. Socialist Newsweekly** *The Militant* www.themilitant.com
- **Pacific Customs Brokers (USA)** *International Trade Bulletin* www.pcbusa.com
- **Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade** www.softwoodlumber.gc.ca
- **Introducing Canada** (Washington D.C.: National Council for the Social Sciences, 1997) www.ncss.org
- **Canada: We're on your map** www.can-am.gc.ca