

Week 12

Topic: Politics

Guiding Questions:

How does national governance impact culture? Culture impact governance?

How engaged is my community in local politics? National politics?

What are the common forms of governments around the world?

What are the advantages/disadvantages of my country's political structure?

Goals:

- I. To outline the international politics and global governance in the world today
- II. To explore how globalization affects local governance
- III. To critically consider local governance of one's own community/culture

Activities:

1. [This](#) activity gives students the opportunity to become the Presidency of the United States. Students will learn the skills and competencies necessary for the job, and will simulate many of the decisions POTUS has to make. A similar activity can be done with President's [Cabinet](#).
2. Host a class fundraiser! Students can donate to Pennies for Peace, Unicef, or any number of local, national, or international causes and foundations. Perhaps students could research causes unique to a foreign culture, and work together to raise money for another community. This activity effectively simulates a major responsibility of the government: raising and redistributing money. (Maybe they can even "tax" their parents!)
3. Have students learn how [mail](#) is delivered around the world. This could be an interesting and appropriate activity to precede PenPals.
4. Encourage students to vote for which activity they want! Or better, have students create their own activities, before having the class decide which activity they think will best help them reach the goals outlined above. Critical thinking and a democratic decision making process are integral to governments around the world; but not Vietnam.



Active Cross-Cultural Exchange:

Money From Around the World: Have students write about their money and draw what it looks like. They can compare it with their partner schools and send their findings to their partners around the world.

Geography: Students can create maps of their countries or towns and send them to their partner schools to teach each other what their respective countries are like! For more information contact info@globalplayground.org.