

Virtual Ambassador

Unit Summary

In this simulation, students assume the role of staffers to the U.S. ambassador of a developing country. The ambassador wants help in determining where budget money and volunteer labor can be used to alleviate some of the country's problems. Student staffers are appointed to fact-finding committees to research a particular problem—they study the historical context, research steps that have been taken to alleviate the problem, and develop a proposal for addressing the problem. Each committee presents its proposal to the ambassador, using supportive multimedia. The project concludes with students debating and writing about the issue of mandatory national service in the United States.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Analyze the economic, cultural, environmental, political, and social factors contributing to a contemporary issue in a developing country
- Locate, organize, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information about the history, geography, economics, politics, and culture of a developing country
- Make connections among the purposes and functions of the Peace Corps and other humanitarian agencies, and understand how they help developing countries
- Develop a well-organized and supported argument in favor of or opposed to mandatory national service for young adults
- Work collaboratively to develop a practical and cost-conscious solution to a problem in a developing country based on understanding the specific needs of the country's citizens

Targeted Content Standards

- Understand the civic responsibilities of U.S. citizens and how they are met
- Understand the purpose and function of international humanitarian agencies and special interest advocacy groups, and how the United States interacts with people in other nations through these organizations
- Understand how people make decisions by analyzing economic conditions and changes
- Analyze and evaluate the impact of economic, cultural, and environmental factors that result in changes to populations of cities, countries, and regions
- Understand the causes, characteristics, lasting influence, and impact of political, economic, and social developments in world history
- Define, research, and explain an event or issue and its significance to society
- Analyze an event, issue, problem, or phenomenon from varied or opposed perspectives