

Middle East Lesson Plan #11

Which is more important? Water or oil?

Rationale:

Students do not consider what life would be like if faced with the choice regarding which natural resource was of more importance, water or oil. This will give them a chance to defend their choice with in a group setting.

Objectives:

- Students will be able to assess whether water or oil is more important to those living in the Middle East.
- Students will be able to defend their choice to members of their group and will have to reach a compromise in order to write a group paper expressing the groups decision.

Launch:

If you were forced to choose whether having freshwater or oil is more important, which would you choose? While we are not directly affected by this choice, the people in the Middle East have been trying to answer it for years. I want you to put yourself into their shoes and make that choice as if your life depended upon the answer.

Procedure:

- I. Review of shortage of water and importance of oil (10min)
 - a) Discussion- prompting students to think of reasons for having freshwater and oil
- II. Break students into groups of 4-5 in each (5 min)
 - a) varied by appropriate skill levels
- III. Discuss in groups which is more important
- IV. Write, in groups, a 4 paragraph essay (1 essay per group) (20 minutes or rest of period if necessary)
 - a) 1 paragraph describing which is more important to your group
 - b) 1 paragraph for each supporting point- elaborate on 2 main supporting points
 - c) 1 final paragraph why you might choose the opposite
 - d) paragraphs should be 4 sentences or longer
- V. Share Essays in class and collect- (If possible)
- VI. Review for Middle East Vocabulary quiz- only if necessary
 - a) Transparency of vocabulary words
 1. Students choose 2 words to define without their sheets- call on them to define for the class
 2. Students choose another 2 words and define them
- VII. Concluding thought: If it isn't easy for our class to decide this question, would it be easy for different countries of the Middle East?

Materials:

Notebook paper, Fact sheet importance of oil and shortage of water

Assessment:

Students will be assessed by how well they are working in groups and staying on task. They will also be judged on the bases of how well developed their groups paragraphs are.

What is More Important? Water or Oil?

Because of the shortage of freshwater and the amount of money oil can bring into a country, both are considered highly valuable. Pretend you are the leader of a country in the Middle East. Which is more important to your country, water or oil? There is no right or wrong answer to this question. So, which do you think is more important? Why is it more important? In groups, write a paper defending your choice. Your group's paper will be no less than 4 Paragraphs long, with each paragraph being 4 sentences long. You will have your intro paragraph, which your group will write down your group's choice and briefly why your group chose either water or oil as being more important. The next 2 paragraphs will be writing in depth about the reasons your group chose fresh water or oil as being more important. The final paragraph will be about one reason why someone might want to choose the opposite.

Content

- 4 paragraphs long
- Each paragraph: At least 4 sentences long
- 1st paragraph: Writing your choice and why
- 2nd paragraph: One reason that supports your choice
- 3rd Paragraph: Another reason that supports your choice
- 4th Paragraph: One reason why someone would choose the opposite