

Global Teacher Seminar Lesson Plan

Name: Todd Sautters

Title: Food Security, Latin America and American Foreign Policy

Theme/Topic: United States Foreign Policy in Latin America

Introduction (2-3 sentence summary of lesson):

Subject(s)/Grade level(s): American Government, AP US Government & Politics

Suggested Duration of Lesson: 1 day

Connection to Standards/Common Core (1-2 standards):

- **Ohio Standards:**

- American Government:

- A variety of entities within the three branches of government, at all levels, address public policy issues that arise in domestic and international affairs.
- Individuals and organizations play a role within federal, state and local governments in helping to determine public (domestic and foreign) policy.

- AP US Government & Politics

- Presidents use powers and perform functions of the office to accomplish a policy agenda.

- Formal and informal powers of the president include:

- Vetoes and pocket vetoes - formal powers that enable the president to check Congress.
- Foreign policy - both formal (Commander in Chief and treaties) and informal (executive agreements) powers that influence relations with foreign nations.

Essential Questions (1-2 questions):

- To what extent should the United States provide financial aid to Latin American countries to battle the regional hunger crisis?

Learning Objectives (2-3 objectives):

- Students will compare the reaction of the Trump and Biden administrations to the hunger crisis in Latin America.
- Students will consider the costs and benefits of each administration's approach in order to draw conclusions regarding the extent to which the United States should provide financial aid to Latin American countries to battle the regional hunger crisis.

Materials Needed:

1. Projector to show video to students.
2. Students will need access to the readings listed below. Be sure to print them out or provide links to students at the beginning of the lesson.

Pre-Assessment of Prior Knowledge: *How will students show what they already know about the topic?*

Prior to this lesson, students should have a background of basic understanding of the tools of foreign policy within the executive branch.

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Teacher-Student Interaction (5-7 steps):

1. Opening Activity (5 minutes)

- Intro Video: “UN warns over Latin America's hunger crisis” Al Jazeera English (2:10)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1HHInN6M88>
 - Purpose of Video: To illustrate the causes and problems caused by the hunger crisis in Latin America.
 - Question to answer:
 - What are the causes of chronic malnutrition (food insecurity) in Latin America?
 - Answer: Drought, large families, few jobs, two major storms exasperated the problem, government pulled funding that was meant to go to malnutrition programs (although later it was added back in)
 - What are some problems to the population caused by chronic malnutrition in Guatemala?
 - Answer: Early death, stunted growth and development of children, poor living conditions

2. Transition (2 minutes)

- What can and what should the United States do in helping with the hunger crisis in Latin America?
According to the United States state department, the United States has 4 major foreign policy goals:
 - “Protect the United States and Americans;
 - Advance democracy, human rights, and other global interests;
 - Promote international understanding of American values and policies; and
 - Support U.S. diplomats, government officials, and all other personnel at home and abroad who make these goals a reality.”
 - Source: <https://2009-2017.state.gov/r/pa/ei/rls/dos/107330.htm>
- One foreign policy tool that the United States can use to achieve these foreign policy goals is the use of foreign aid to other countries.
- Today, we will answer the following question: To what extent should the United States provide financial aid to Latin American countries to battle the regional hunger crisis?

3. Source evaluation (15 minutes)

- Students can work in groups or individually on this task. Students should consider the following options:
 - Trump Administration:
 - <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-central-america-aid-cuts-analysis/central-americas-poorest-of-the-poor-hit-hard-by-u-s-aid-cuts-charities-idUSKBN1W12HA>
 - Summary: Trump administration limited and scaled back the amount of financial aid to Latin America to deal with the hunger crisis..
 - Biden Administration
 - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/06/09/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-commitments-to-advance-food-security-in-the-western-hemisphere/>
 - Summary: Biden administration committed to increasing financial aid to Latin America to deal with the hunger crisis.
- For each source, students should identify the author that produced this source and consider potential bias associated with that source. To what extent does the bias impact the credibility of the source?

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- Next, students should explain how the source helps address the essential questions listed at the beginning of the lesson
 - **Essential question:** To what extent should the United States provide financial aid to Latin American countries to battle the regional hunger crisis?
- Next, students should write down the costs and benefits of the decision of each administration regarding financial aid to Latin America. Students should consider the costs and benefits for the United States and Latin America countries for each.

4. Class Discussion (10 minutes)

- Next, bring all students together for a discussion regarding the differences between the Trump and Biden administrations regarding financial aid to Latin America to battle the regional hunger crisis?
 - Be sure to review the role of bias in their reading of sources, the costs and benefits of each administration's approach.
 - Extend the discussion: If time allows, pose the following question to students:
 - Are there any other approaches a President can take to assist in the hunger crisis beside financial aid? Why or why not?

Closing Activity: *What will the teacher do/say after the lesson? I.e. go over homework, etc.*

Drawing references to the sources they read and the class discussion in which they participated, students should address the essential question posed at the beginning of the lesson:

- **Essential question:** To what extent should the United States provide financial aid to Latin American countries to battle the regional hunger crisis?
- This can be done in writing, on a PearDeck, LMS assignment, etc...

Post-Assessment: *How will students demonstrate what they have learned about the topic from this unit?*

Students will demonstrate their answer to the essential question in writing.

Reflection: *How are students engaging with ideas from another culture? What does it mean for them?*

The video provided at the beginning of class will help students demonstrate an understanding of how other countries in the western hemisphere are experiencing food insecurity or a hunger crisis. This will help students connect with and empathize with other groups when considering the costs and benefits of United States foreign aid to Latin America regarding the hunger crisis.

Resources: See references list at the end of this lesson.

Extension Activities/Extending the Lesson/Cross-Curricular Connections (2-3 ideas): Possibilities for future lessons or how to use this for gifted/etc.

1. This lesson can also include a perspective from Latin American countries that have or have not received foreign aid from the United States. This can help complicate students' critical thinking and understanding of the hunger crisis in Latin America.
 2. This lesson can also include student research on how administrations prior to 2017 provided foreign aid to Latin American countries. There's a complicated history between the United States foreign policy and Latin America that can be explored and included.
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References

AlJazeeraEnglish. (2021, January 10). UN warns over Latin America's hunger crisis. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1HHInN6M88>

FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Commitments to Advance Food Security in the Western Hemisphere. (2022, June 10). Retrieved from <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/06/09/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-commitments-to-advance-food-security-in-the-western-hemisphere/>

Moloney, A. (2019, October 03). Central America's 'poorest of the poor' hit hard by U.S. aid cuts: Charities. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-central-america-aid-cuts-analysis/central-americas-poorest-of-the-poor-hit-hard-by-u-s-aid-cuts-charities-idUSKBN1WI2HA>