

Global Teacher Seminar Lesson Plan Template

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Title: Intro to Ukraine

Theme/Topic: Introduction to Eastern Europe/Ukraine

Introduction (2-3 sentence summary of lesson): Students will conduct research about the physical geography, culture, politics and economy of Ukraine and compile a Google Slides presentation containing their findings. Students can collaborate on the project and share their findings informally.

Subject(s)/Grade level(s): Global Issues/Current Events (9-12 grade)

Suggested Duration of Lesson: 1-2 x 45 minute class periods (see comments below for suggested adjustments for block periods)

Connection to Standards/Common Core (1-2 standards): ODE Contemporary World Issues Content Statement 17. Economic, political, and social differences between global entities can lead to conflict unless mitigated through diplomacy or cooperative efforts. 19. The global economy creates advantages and disadvantages for different segments of the world's population.

Essential Questions (1-2 questions): What are important aspects of Ukraine's geography, culture, politics and economy? How do these aspects contribute to the current geopolitical makeup of Ukraine?

Learning Objectives (2-3 objectives): Students will be able to create a Google Slide presentation about Ukraine's geography, culture, politics and economy. Students will be able to collaborate and share their findings with the class.

Materials Needed: Student Chromebook, Internet Access.

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

1. Students will take the [linked](#) quiz from the Council on Foreign Relations: See How Much You Know About Ukraine. ([Quiz Link](#))
2. Teacher will lead an informal discussion of student results and recognition of Ukraine's place in current events vis-a-vis the 2022 Russian Invasion and ensuing conflict.

Teacher-Student Interaction (5-7 steps):

1. Class will divide into four groups, utilizing whatever method is most developmentally appropriate for the class. Each group will be assigned a segment of the project.
 - a. Physical Geography
 - b. Culture
 - c. Politics
 - d. Economy
2. The class will create a shared Google Slides presentation and collaborate on the document to create an overall presentation about Ukraine.
3. Groups will access the CIA World Factbook ([Ukraine Page](#)) as their starting point for research.

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4. Groups should add information and images to their slides on the shared document, answering the following questions:
 - a. Physical Geography:
 - i. How big is your country?
 - ii. Who are your country's neighbors?
 - iii. Identify 4-7 physical features of your country.
 - iv. Describe the country's climate.
 - v. Identify major natural resources found in your country.
 - b. Culture:
 - i. What is the population of your country?
 - ii. Describe the ethnic composition of your country.
 - iii. What is the official language? What other languages are spoken?
 - iv. Identify the capital city and the three largest cities by population.
 - v. What is the predominant religion in the country? What other religions are practiced?
 - c. Politics:
 - i. When was the country founded?
 - ii. Describe the government.
 - iii. Identify some of the leaders.
 - iv. How is the military organized?
 - v. Who are their allies? Who are their enemies?
 - d. Economy:
 - i. What is the total GDP?
 - ii. What is the currency?
 - iii. Who are the biggest trading partners?
 - iv. Describe the major imports.
 - v. Describe the major exports.
5. Groups should add images when appropriate and include details in answering their assigned questions.
6. As a class, the groups will share out and the teacher will facilitate a discussion about the overall information, redirecting and asking questions when necessary.

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

After sharing the completed Google Slides document, students will share the highlights of their section with the class, pointing out the most important characteristics.

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

Independently, students will respond to the following discussion questions to demonstrate an appropriate grade-level understanding of the topic. Responses will be collected by the teacher and formatively assessed to determine next steps in the instructional cycle. What are important aspects of Ukraine's geography, culture, politics and economy? How do these aspects contribute to the current

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geopolitical makeup of Ukraine?

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

Students are engaging with ideas from another culture by researching the characteristics of Ukraine. Students are considering background information pertaining to physical geography, culture, politics and the economy of Ukraine in order to better understand and evaluate its role in the world.

Resources:

Pre-Assessment Quiz Link (<https://www.cfr.org/quiz/see-how-much-you-know-about-ukraine>)

CIA World Factbook: Ukraine (<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/ukraine/>)

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 could be adjusted to include additional countries in Eastern Europe (or other regions) and split up according to class size.
2. Students could complete this assignment independently and compare their findings with classmates informally.
3. Students could connect to UN SDG 17 in order to evaluate partners and collective actions taken in the region.