



## LESSON PLAN

# Cultural Exploration

Topic: **History, Current Affairs, Culture**  
Subject: **History/Social Studies**

Grade Level: **High School**  
Time: **50 minutes**

### OBJECTIVE(S):

Students will learn that many U.S. service members work in countries around the world. Students will use the *Where Are You Going?* country videos to launch research projects on aspects of the culture, history, or current affairs of the countries that are showcased. This lesson may require multiple sessions to discuss, plan, research, and prepare a final report.

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- *Where Are You Going?* country videos from the MilitaryKidsConnect.org website
- "Student Worksheet"
- Flip chart, markers, pencils, paper
- Go to "Related Materials" in on-line version of this lesson plan to access all required links: [www.militarykidsconnect.org/p/lp/high](http://www.militarykidsconnect.org/p/lp/high)

### OTHER RESOURCES REQUIRED:

- Computer with classroom display and Internet access

**LESSON** (*Note: Lesson can span several class sessions at the discretion of the teacher.*)

### Suggested Activity Set-up and Discussion (30 minutes)

- Explain that culture is made up of the characteristics of everyday life that people from a specific place and time share and discuss the seven elements of culture: social organization, customs and traditions, language, arts and literature, religion, forms of government, and economic systems.
- On a flip chart, record student ideas on how culture is reflected in their lives (food, clothing, music, slang, etc.). Discuss how a country's history, culture, and current affairs are related.

### Small-Group Work (20 minutes)

- Assign students to a small group. Each group will research one country (Afghanistan, Djibouti, Iraq, Panama, Philippines, or South Korea) and develop a 10-minute presentation that answers the question: How are the history, culture, and current affairs of this country related?
- As computer and Internet resources allow, instruct groups to watch all the *Where Are You Going?* videos about their assigned country.
- After watching the *Where Are You Going?* Video for their country, individual group members are to select an aspect of culture, history, or current affairs to more thoroughly explore for the combined-group presentation. As time allows, students may use the available resources (e.g., classroom Internet access, library, documents) to research their specific topics.

### Extended Learning

- Teachers can set aside additional classroom time so group members can continue researching, planning, refining, and rehearsing their group presentation.
- Teachers can request that each group provide an outline of their plan.
- Teachers schedule one or two class sessions for the small-group presentations.

# Student Worksheet

**Cultural Exploration of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge:** How are the history, culture, and current affairs related to each other for this country?

**Assignments:**

TOPIC	INDIVIDUAL	DATE DUE
History		
Current Affairs		
Culture: Arts and Literature <i>(e.g., music, dance)</i>		
Culture: Customs and Traditions <i>(e.g., food, clothing, sports, games)</i>		
Culture: Economy <i>(e.g., monetary structure, industry)</i>		
Culture: Government		
Culture: Language		
Culture: Religion		
Culture: Social Organization		

**Date of Group Presentation:** \_\_\_\_\_