International Global Studies Curriculum – Eighth Grade Lesson Plan

Globalization: Positive or Negative

Content/Theme: Globalization Concepts
Grade: Eighth Grade
Textbook Connection: American Journey: Glencoe, 2005 Chapter 19, Section 2, pgs 561-566. After discussing how the transcontinental railroad lead to opportunities and communication with the west, discuss how globalization now helps communication, goods, services, and ideas, around the globe.

Primary Benchmarks:

- SS.8.A.4.5 Explain the causes, course, and consequences of the 19th century transportation revolution on the growth of the nation's economy.

Time: 1 class period

Objectives:

- Students will understand the concept of globalization and be able to evaluate its positive and negative qualities.

Teacher Preparations and Materials:

- Reading Passage, Charts, Quiz

Activities:

1. Show students the “Alike? How?” transparency and ask students what could all of these people have in common? Ask students what they do on a daily basis that is the same. This exercise helps prepares students for the concept of globalization and the interconnectedness between people in the world.

2. Check student background knowledge by asking them to name products/things in our country that they know came from another country, or name U.S. products/companies that are in other countries.

3. Distribute the reading passage and read in aloud in large groups or have small groups read together. While reading, have students underline each time the word “Global or Globalization” comes up in the reading.

4. Have students write about three facts and three opinions in the reading. Review definition of fact and opinion. Discuss the reading passage first, and then share the facts and opinions written by the students.

5. From the reading, ask the group to list how globalization could be negative, or name some roadblocks, and how it could be positive, or name some good outcomes (see attached chart).
6. Give quiz and have students refer back to the reading passage for answers. (1. c; 2. a; 3. c)

Review of Lesson/Assessment:
- Passport activity; quiz

ESOL Strategies:
- Read Aloud; small learning groups

References:
- www.walmart.com
- www.mcdonalds.com
ALIKE?  HOW?

In the circle, list five things about these children’s lives that might be similar.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
**GLOBALIZATION**

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GLOBALIZATION

Imagine you are on a trip to another country, like Indonesia, and you see kids on skateboards playing their gameboy while they wait for the bus. Imagine being able to shop at Wal-Mart on your trip to China or Germany. You also might be surprised that you have no problem finding a Vietnamese grocery store right downtown in your own city. The sharing of goods and culture from country to country is called Globalization. Over the last 20 years, more and more of United States goods and culture have made its way around the globe. As well, many of the goods and culture of other countries such as China, Brazil, and England have made their way to the United States. What does it mean? And, is it good or bad? People around the world find positive and negative aspects of this sharing process.

Factors that empower globalization include, television, the Internet, and ease of communicating and shipping goods across the oceans. More and more television channels and Internet sites have included content that is translated in many different languages. Companies that were originally based in one country have spread to different countries, and people in several countries have begun to purchase and try things that they are not used to. Wal-Marts are available in nine different countries; McDonald’s are serving in 100 different countries. Specific products and menu items are carried here to meet the needs of individual countries.

Nineteen countries around the world are producing their own versions of Sesame Street. They use the show to share a popular American teaching tool, but they change it to teach about their own unique culture. Ye Chao, from China says it is working and well-liked, “We just borrowed an American box and put Chinese content into it.” Other television shows have come to the U.S. from other countries like the Netherlands (Big Brother), and U.S. shows have been translated into many languages around the world as well.

But the globalization phenomenon is more than the mere transfer of goods and television shows, it is also the fact that globalization helps people understand that they can reach beyond what is offered in their own country. Globalization helps us realize we are very similar human beings who want and need similar goods and services. Globalization breaks the barriers that may make some people believe that one country is better than another, or one culture is better than another. Globalization helps us to be interconnected with each other, instead of apart.

Some people believe that globalization has a positive impact because it increases trade, enlarges corporations, enables more goods to be purchased, and creates more U.S. jobs. But others believe that globalization has a negative impact because it exploits the developing world, “Americanizes” other countries too much, denigrates the world's environments, and results in U.S. jobs being transferred to other countries. Do some research, take a look around the world, and decide for yourself. What do you think about globalization?
QUIZ - GLOBALIZATION

Name______________________________________________________

Directions: Choose the best answer to the following questions based on the reading passage.

1. Which of the following factors has played a part of increased globalization?
   a. Taking foreign language class in school  
   b. The space programs of different countries
   c. The creation of the Internet  
   d. The games kids play

2. Which is an example of globalization in television and culture?
   a. Sharing shows like “Big Brother” and Sesame Street
   b. McDonalds in 100 countries
   c. Sharing gameboy games through the Internet
   d. Watching old versions of Godzilla

3. Which of the following may be a negative effect of globalization:
   a. More television shows will be offered in different languages.
   b. People will begin to understand that we are more alike than different.
   c. Some products and services shared with other countries may “Americanize” them too much.
   d. People will be able to purchase products they need at Wal-Mart.

4. Using details in the reading, explain how globalization is more than just having a Wal-Mart, or other stores/restaurants in different countries around the world:

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