



Recent World Events and West Virginia

Objective: Students will analyze the economic, social, and political impact of late 20th-century and 21st-century events on West Virginia.

GRADE LEVEL

Eighth Grade

TIME REQUIRED

One week

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What happened on September 11, 2001?
2. What has happened as a result of September 11, 2001?
3. What is the war on terror?
4. Why was America in two separate wars?
5. How have West Virginians been affected by these events?
6. What changes have been made since these recent events took place?

STRATEGIC VOCABULARY

terrorism

war

Persian Gulf War

Iraq War

War in Afghanistan

National Guard

LESSON ACTIVITIES

1. Begin the lesson by posting and reviewing the guiding questions and strategic vocabulary. Each student should have a laptop or be in a computer lab.
2. Allow students to develop an understanding of the vocabulary by finding the definition of the words and how they are to use them.
3. Create a word wall with the strategic vocabulary.
4. Instruct students that they are going to be doing research and conducting an interview to gain an understanding of how recent events in America have affected people in West Virginia.



5. To gain some background knowledge about what they are going to be doing, access the following articles in *e-WV*:
 - Persian Gulf War: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2374>
 - Iraq War: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2376>
 - Jessica Lynch: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1468>
 - Afghan War: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2373>
 - West Virginia National Guard: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1074>
6. Once you have gone over the articles, instruct the students that they are going to conduct an interview with their parent/guardian, asking them the following questions:
 - What is terrorism?
 - What happened on September 11, 2001?
 - Where were you and what were you doing on September 11, 2001?
 - What happened as a result of September 11, 2001?
 - How have you been affected as a result of September 11, 2001?
 - What changes have you seen in America as a result of September 11, 2001?
 - Why are we in Iraq and Afghanistan?
 - Do you know anyone from West Virginia who has served in Iraq or Afghanistan? If so, who and where?
7. Advise the students that answers to these questions will be different for each person and that it is encouraged.
8. Once students complete their interviews, have them type their questions and answers. They can either send them to you through email to print or print them out themselves. (Allow time for revisions of grammar, spelling, word usage, etc.)
9. Have each student present their interview with the rest of the class.
10. After students have presented, hang their presentations for all to see.
11. Optional activity: Students may want to interview older relatives who are veterans of World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, or other military actions to compare their reflections with those of more recent veterans. Articles on these topics can be found at <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/>

WEST VIRGINIA NEXT GENERATION CONTENT STANDARDS AND OBJECTIVES

SOCIAL STUDIES

- SS.8.26: 26 Demonstrate an understanding of West Virginia in the modern era.
- Compile lists of fairs and festivals in West Virginia that can be attributed to the influence of various cultural groups who have settled in the state, explaining the heritage of the fair or festival and its significance to the preservation of West Virginia history.
 - Analyze the economic, social and political impact of the late twentieth century and twenty-first century events on West Virginia (e.g., terrorism, Gulf War, Iraq War and War in Afghanistan).



- SS.8.1: Demonstrate patriotism through the planning, participation and observance of important anniversaries and remembrances (e.g., Pearl Harbor, Veterans' Day, Constitution Day and Patriots Day).
- SS.8.7: Correlate West Virginia economic conditions with the effects on its citizens (e.g., employment, population, migration and health).
- SS.8.16: Illustrate how technological advances have affected the cultural isolation of West Virginia (e.g., worldwide web, satellite communications, electronic devices and social media).
pictures and models.
- SS.8.13 Label the four major physical geographic regions, major rivers, landforms, natural/manmade borders, points of interest and bordering states on selected maps.

Lesson plan created by Chris Lewis, Hamilton Middle School, cmlewis@access.k12.wv.us.





