



**Michigan State University  
Fulbright-Hays Group Study Abroad 2009:  
Nepal in the Contemporary World**



Lesson Plan

From:

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**Title:** The Core Democratic Values: A comparison between the United States of America and Nepal.

**Subject Areas:** Applicable to Government, Civics, World History and World Cultures

**Grade Levels:** 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Length of Lesson:** 2-5 days

**Summary/Overview:**

This lesson details the core democratic values; life, liberty, pursuit of happiness, common good, justice, equality, diversity, truth, popular sovereignty, and patriotism. The power point which accompanies this lesson gives a comparison of Nepal with these values, also adding additional interesting information about Nepal. The lesson concludes with either an in-class activity or project depending on your time preferences. The beauty of this lesson is that it can be applied to any country that you have visited or are well informed on or can be assigned to students to conduct a research project.

**Primary Objectives:**

Students will have an understanding of the Core Democratic Values while analyzing a foreign country before applying it to their own country.

**Required Resources/Materials:**

- Projector for Power Point Presentation
- Supplemental Notes on Nepal and the Core Democratic Values
- Assignment (can be adapted for in-class activity or take home project)

**Procedure:**

- Write Warm-up Question on board: What values make up our society as Americans? What values does our democracy depend on?
  - Give students 3-5 minutes to answer question in notebooks.
  - Then 3 minutes to discuss what their answers in groups of three.
  - Call on the class to share and list them out on board.

- Circle Core Democratic Values that the class called out; life, liberty, pursuit of happiness, common good, justice, equality, diversity, truth, popular sovereignty, and patriotism.
- Have students copy values into notebook under heading Core Democratic Values and write a one sentence definition for each value.
  - Call around the class to hear how they defined each value.
  - Briefly discuss each value and write the best, or a hybrid of the best with the actual definition on the board and have students add to their definitions or change them to be equivalent with what is written on the board.
- Present power point presentation on Nepal. Presentation starts with basic information on Nepal then begins correlating Nepal with the core democratic values. This will take at least 45 minutes to present.
  - \*\*\*See notes which give supplemental information for each slide before giving presentation\*\*\*
    - Presentation is formatted so that you can directly follow supplemental information with each slide in the presentation.
  - Before advancing to the new slide and value, read to the class from the Supplemental Notes the brief heading describing how Nepal, in a general sense, has and is interacting with the value. Ask the class what value you described. Then advance to see if the class was right. You can also ask after each slide/value how does Nepal compare to the USA in terms of the value.
- Conclusion: (Last slide of power point) in your opinion what are Nepal's three greatest strengths and three greatest weaknesses in terms of the Core Democratic Values? What is the significance of each strength and weakness?

### **Assessments:**

(In-class activity, or can be assigned as homework) Find evidence of the core democratic values in American society. Use magazines, newspapers, advertisements or personal pictures to demonstrate how the USA demonstrates these democratic values. Write a brief caption for each picture explaining how it demonstrates the value. This can be altered to fit your personal classroom; it can be done on poster board or on PowerPoint. Again it is up to you.

### **Michigan Content Expectations Met:**

- WH 7.3.3 **Asia-** Analyze the political, economic, and social transformations that occurred in this region.
- WH 8.2.2 **Independence, Decolonization, and Democratization Movements-** Compare the independence movements and formation of new nations in the Indian Subcontinent, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Southeast Asia during and after the Cold War.
- Civics 5.4.3 **Responsibilities of Citizenship-** Explain why meeting personal and civic responsibilities is important to the preservation and improvement of American constitutional democracy

- Civics 6.2.5 **Participation in Civic Life-** Describe how citizen movements seek to realize fundamental values and principles of American constitutional democracy

**Bibliography Unique to this lesson:**

- Dixit, Kanak Mani. Ramachandaran, Shastri. State of Nepal. Himal Books. Lalitpur, Nepal. 2002.
- Chadda, Maya. Building Democracy in South Asia: India, Nepal and Pakistan. Lynne Rienner Publishers Inc. New Delhi, India. 2000.