



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



Lesson Plan
from

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Title: What is a Nation? Comparing Land, People, and Government, Economy and Culture

Subject Areas: Social Studies (Eastern Hemisphere Studies)

Grade Levels: Grade 6 or 7

Length of Lesson:

Research: 1-2 forty-five minute class periods

Practice: 1 forty-five minute class period or two nights of homework

Summary/Overview:

Dear Teacher,

In the summer of 2009, I participated in Michigan State University's Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad in Nepal. For one month, I visited the congested capital city Kathmandu, the trekking destination city of Pokhara, and Hamsapur, a small remote village in the hills.

Travelling with me were fourteen other Michigan educators from different grade levels and certifications from across the state. Our responsibilities included attending daily seminars focusing on different aspects of Nepal's history, its present day, and its future. We also spent time visiting historical and cultural sites to enrich our experience, but more importantly we stayed with Nepali families and worked in Nepali schools. Every aspect of the trip gave the Fulbright teachers an in-depth, hands-on, one-on-one experience with what it's like to live in a developing world. We shared in the successes of Nepal, but we also felt the growing pains as it struggles to overcome circumstances. Our responsibility back in Michigan now has us writing curriculum that all teachers can use to educate their students about Nepal.

Nepal is one of many developing countries on our planet. Its struggle to develop into a society that can provide its people with a stable government and access to quality jobs, education, and health care is changing daily. Understanding these struggles is critical to support Nepal's development.

Nestled between two major countries, India and China, it's easy to disregard the small country of Nepal. Its struggle to overcome obstacles is sometimes overlooked when compared to the African continent or other conflict-ridden nations, but what Nepal offers students and educators is a chance to look at issues of development on a small scale. Nepal has a colorful past, an interesting culture, a good plan for today, and a bright future.

This lesson was conceived at SOS Hermann Gmeiner School Rambazar/Pokhara when I was introducing myself and my country to a sixth grade class. The students were very eager to share information with me about their country Nepal. Topics that generated the most discussion were ethnic groups, religions, constitution, the flag and its symbolism, and patriotic songs. At the time of the lesson, I did not have the words to America the Beautiful, so

instead I used America's *Pledge of Allegiance*. Interestingly enough, the word indivisible also appears both the pledge and Nepal's national anthem.

You will find a blank handout and a handout that has been completed. Sometimes, your students will have a difficult time finding the information. They can use other Internet sources or class books to assist their research. I have listed resources that are good classroom supplements. One reminder: numerical statistics differ from source to source. Please guide your students to compare figures and make a general informative statement when there is a discrepancy.

If you have any questions regarding this lesson, my trip or want information for becoming a Fulbright-Hays teacher, please do not hesitate to contact me. janetjansen@yahoo.com

Primary Objectives:

access cia.gov world fact book to complete the comparison chart of USA and Nepal
research independently five facts under the topics of economic systems and cultural traditions using WWW and classroom resources

Extension:

write a two paragraph essay discussing the similarities (3) and differences (3) of Nepal and US

Required Resources/Materials:

Web access to World Fact Book:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/np.html>

If not through your school's library, non-fiction trade books about Nepal are readily available through the public library systems. The following books might be useful to you in your classroom during the research phase. Warn the students about copyright dates. The older the copyright date, the less reliable the information might be (especially as it relates to Nepal's government).

Bhattacharai, Krishna P. Modern World Nations: Nepal. Chelsea House Publishers, New York, NY. (2008). ISBN: 978-0-7910-9672-7

Burbank, John. Cultures of the World: Nepal. Marshall Cavendish, Tarrytown, NY. (2002). ISBN:0-7614-1476-2

Carpenter, Ann. My World, My View. ASHA Publications, Emberton, UK. (2007). ISBN: 99946-2-433-4

Heinrichs, Ann. Enchantment of the World: Nepal. Children's Press, New York, NY. (1996). ISBN: 0-516-02642-9

Moran, Kelly. Nepal: The Mountain Kingdom. Passport Books, Chicago, IL. (1996). ISBN: 0-8442-9984-7

Roberts-Davis, Tanya. We Need to Go to School: Voices of the Rugmark Children. Groundwood Book, Toronto, ON. (2001). ISBN: 0-88899-425-7

Shrestha, Nandra R. Nepal and Bangladesh: A Global Studies Handbook. ABC-CLIO, inc., Santa Barbara CA, (2002). ISBN: 1-57607-285-1

Zuchora-Walske, Christine. Nepal in Pictures. Lerner Publishing, Minneapolis MN, (2009). ISBN: 978-0-8225-8578-7

Juvenile fiction:

Stewart, Jennifer J. *Close Encounter of a Third-World Kind*. Holiday House, New York, NY. (2004). ISBN: 0-8234-1850-2 (The author gives an accurate picture of everyday life (lots of topics covered: health care, religion, gender inequality, clothing, food, geography, etc.)

Procedure:

Introduction: comparing apples to apples or comparing apples to oranges.

Generate a discussion of comparisons. Example: Michigan vs. Michigan State, Aeropostale vs. American Eagle, Coke vs. Pepsi.

In my hometown of Ann Arbor, it is easy to get the kids talking about college football, so a common comparison we make is Michigan vs. Michigan State. But what would happen if we started comparing football to a running marathon. What started off as an apples to apples comparison turned into comparing apples to oranges.

Comparing the U.S. to Nepal can be both a apples to apples and apples to oranges comparison. Warn your students about that from the start. Essentially they are comparing the wealthiest, most sophisticated country in the world to one of the poorest, least developed countries in the world. The goal is to find similarities and recognize differences. By learning not only about Nepal, but also the United States, students can identify strengths and weaknesses in both countries.

Task: Using <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html> students research the requested information on the handout.

Option One:

Part 1, while one half of the class researches the facts for the United States, the other class researches Nepal.

Part 2, when a student finishes, he/she can get into pair from the other group and share the information.

Questions or misunderstandings should be clarified using the world fact book website.

Option Two:

Part 1, Have kids work in partners and complete the information for the United States. Part 2, using a projector, as a whole class complete the information for Nepal.

Option Three:

Part 1, Using the class projector, complete the handout together for the United States. As a class, clarify any necessary information. Part 2, complete the information for Nepal

Independent Work /Homework:

Option One: Take a class period and have the kids complete the independent work

Option Two: Assign the independent work as homework and allow two nights for completion.

Assessments:

Have students share their research in small groups

Award one point for each fact provided (up to 20 points)

Michigan Content Expectations Met:

G2 (Places and Regions).2 Human Characteristics of Place

Describe the human characteristics of places.

7 – G2.2.1 Describe the human characteristics of the region under study (including languages, religion, economic system, governmental system, cultural traditions).

Bibliography Unique to this lesson:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>

Comparing Nations

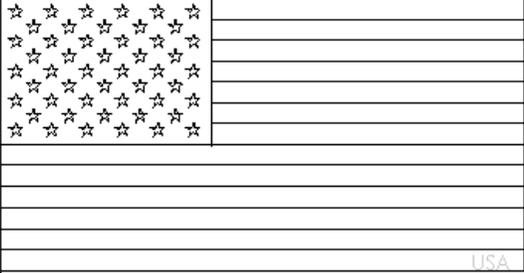
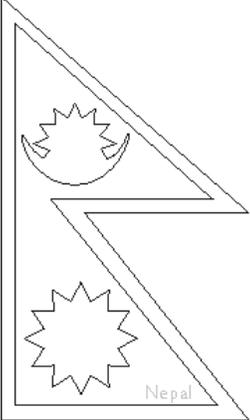
What is a Nation?

1. Its Land/Territory
2. Its People
3. Its Government

Information provided by *cia.gov world factbook* unless otherwise noted

	United States of America	NEPAL
	 <p>©2009 Google Map data ©2009 Europa Technologies</p>	
LAND		
Continent		
Location		
Land border		
Water border		
Area Comparative		
Natural Resources		
Landforms		

	USA	Nepal
PEOPLE		
Population		
Country Comparison in population		
Nationality		
Ethnic groups		
Religions		
Languages		
Literacy: age 15+ read and write		
Government		
Type		
Capital		
Constitution		
Head of Government		
Political Parties		
Political Regions		

Color the Flag	United States of America 	Nepal 
Flag's color and symbolism		
Patriotic Themes		
Patriotic Songs		

Comparing Nations

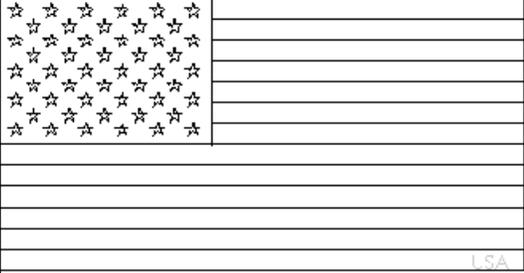
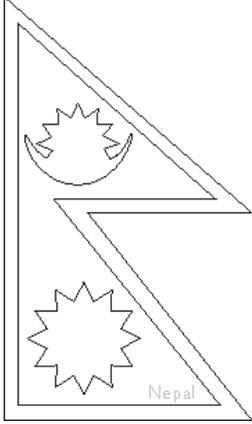
What is a Nation?

4. Its land/Territory
5. Its People
6. Its Government

Information provided by *cia.gov world factbook* unless otherwise noted

	United States of America	NEPAL
	 <p>©2009 Google Map data ©2009 Europa Technologies</p>	
LAND Continent	North America	Asia
Location	38 N, 97W	28 N, 84E
Land border	Mexico and Canada	China and India
Water border	Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, Gulf of Mexico, Great Lakes	None-Landlocked
Area Comparative	Slightly larger than China	Slightly larger than Arkansas
Natural Resources	Coal, Copper, Petroleum, natural gas, timber	Hydropower, water, quartz, timber
Landforms	Vast plains, Mountains, hills	Southern plains, central hills, and Northern Mountains

	USA	Nepal
PEOPLE		
Population	~ 307 million (2009)	~ 29 million (2009)
Country Comparison in population	4 largest country	44
Nationality	American	Nepalese/Nepali
Ethnic groups	White, Black, Asian, Native American, Latino	Over 100 recorded: main ones--Chhettri, Brahmin-hill, Magar, Tharu, Tamand, Newar, Kami, Yadav,
Religions	Protestant, Catholic, Mormon, Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim, agnostic, atheist	Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, Kirant, + others.
Languages	English (82%), Spanish (11%), Indo-European (Europe to central Asia) and Asian	Nepali + local dialects (English is taught in private schools)
Literacy:age15+ read and write	99%	49%
Government Type	Constitution-based Federal Republic w/ strong democratic tradition	Federal Democratic Republic
Capital	Washington DC	Kathmandu
Constitution	Written 17 September 1787 Effective 4 March 1789	Interim 15 January 2007 To be adopted by May 2010
Head of Government	President: Barack Obama	Chief of State: President Ram Baran Yadav Head of Gov: Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal
Political Parties	Democratic, Republican, Libertarian, Green	Over 24 political parties
Political Regions		 <p>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Nepal_development_regions.png</p>

Color the Flag	United States of America 	Nepal 
Flag's Color and Symbolism	Red/valor, White/purity, blue/justice 13 stripes=original colonies 50 stars=50 states http://www.mapsofworld.com/flags/united-states-flag.html	Red center/rhododendron (national flower and Blue border/peace Nepal will last as long as the Sun and the Moon http://www.mapsofworld.com/flags/nepal-flag.html
Patriotic Themes	Home of the Brave, Land of the Free <small>Taken from national anthem</small>	Loyalty, integrity, and Identity <small>Taken from Nepali Social Studies text books</small>
Patriotic Songs	<u>American, the Beautiful</u> By Katherine Lee Bates, 1895 O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain, For purple mountain majesties Above the fruited plain! America! America! God shed His grace on thee, And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea! O beautiful for pilgrim feet, Whose stern impassion'd stress A thoroughfare for freedom beat Across the wilderness! America! America! God mend thane every flaw, Confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law! O beautiful for heroes proved In liberating strife, Who more than self their country loved, And mercy more than life! America! America! May God thy gold refine Till all success be nobleness, And every gain divine!	<u>The Nepali National Anthem</u> By Byakul Maila, 2007 Hundreds of flowers – Us, one garland - Nepali Sovereign, spread out from Mechi to Mahakali. Hundreds of flowers – Us, one garland - Nepali Sovereign, spread out from Mechi to Mahakali. A playground for millions of Nature's gifts By the blood of heroes, independent and immovable. Land of knowledge, land of peace, Terai, hills, mountains Indivisible - our beloved, motherland Nepal. multi-racial, multi-lingual, multi-religious and with a large culture Progressive nation ours, oh hail Nepal!

