

iCONN Learning Activity Afghanistan

Level: Middle School

Task: A middle school social studies class is exploring the impact of various government leadership styles on the daily life of the average citizen in the country. Students work in small groups, each group being assigned a type of government, and identify the impact on citizens in one or more countries have that type of government. One group of students decided to look at Afghanistan and several aspects of daily life (role of women, religion, civil rights, education, economy, etc.) and culture before October 2002 and how people's lives have changed since the war beginning October 2001.

Research Question: Which aspects of life in Afghanistan will remain the same after the ousting of the Taliban and why; what will change dramatically and why?

Content Area(s): Social Studies; Language Arts; Learning Resources and Information Technology

Content Standards:

Social Studies:

7. Students will explain that political systems emanate from the need of humans for order, leading to compromise and the establishment of authority.
9. Students will use spatial perspective to identify and analyze the significance of physical and cultural characteristics of places and world regions.

Language Arts:

2. Students will produce written, oral and visual texts to express, develop and substantiate ideas and experiences.

Learning Resources and Information Technology:

3. Students will demonstrate a command of information skills and strategies to locate and use effectively print, nonprint and/or electronic resources to solve problems, conduct research and pursued personal interests.
4. Students will apply evaluative criteria to the selection, interpretation, analysis, reorganization and synthesis of information from a variety of sources and formats.

iCONN Database: *InfoTrac Junior Edition*

Search Strategy

1. Go to <http://www.iconn.org/>
2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on "Select iCONN resources"
3. Click on *InfoTrac Junior Edition*
4. Choose *Advanced Search*
5. Type ***Afghanistan*** in the search box
6. Click on the box labeled *Search for full text articles only*
7. Click on *Find* (or hit ENTER)
8. Click on the article title or *Check Out* to read articles

Adaptations for Differentiated Learning:

iCONN Database: *InfoTrac Student Edition or Expanded Academic ASAP*

Search Strategy

1. Go to <http://www.iconn.org/>
2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on "Select iCONN resources"
3. Click on *InfoTrac Student Edition* or *Expanded Academic ASAP*
4. Click on *Subject Guide Search*
5. Type ***Afghanistan*** in the search box
6. Limit to documents with full text
7. Limit the search "by date" by clicking on ***before*** and use the pull down menus to select *1 October 2001*
8. Click on *Search*
9. Under the subject ***Afghanistan***, click on *Subdivisions*

10. Choose a subheading that fits the assignment – such as “Civil Rights” and click on the link to get a list of articles
11. Click on titles or *Text* to read articles
12. Click on *Subject Guide Search* to return to your search
13. Under the date limitation, click on **after** and use the pull down menus to change the “by date” to *20 September 2001* and then click on *Search*
14. Select *Subdivisions* and choose the same subheading as in step 6

iCONN Database: *Kids InfoBits*

Search Strategy

1. Go to <http://www.iconn.org/>
2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on “Select iCONN resources”
3. Click on *Kids InfoBits*
4. Type ***Afghanistan*** in the search box and click on *Search*
5. Select one of the subject groups listed (Afghanistan, Afghanistan History, etc.) and click on *View* or *See*
6. Click on any one of the active (highlighted) tabs (*Reference, Magazines, etc.*) to get a list of documents in that category
7. To read an article, click on its title in the citation list

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