

Global Studies Resources from PBS

PreK, K-2

Franny's Feet

http://pbskids.org/frannysfeet/

In each episode, five-and-a-half-year-old Franny explores a new place, new people, and new situations that broaden her – and the viewer's – understanding of the world. The site includes a game called "Grandpa's Globe," which introduces young children to a variety of countries and cultures.

It's a Big Big World

http://pbskids.org/bigbigworld/

Developed to help preschoolers learn about earth and life science, this Web site for the PBS series It's a Big, Big World offers an immersive experience that allows children to "move through the leaves and venture into the World Tree" to meet and play with fun characters. Early childhood educators will find activities for the classroom and engaging online games that explore science, geography, math and music.

Mama Mirabelle's Home Movies

http://pbskids.org/mamamirabelle/

The Mama Mirabelle's Home Movies series uses live-action footage from the National Geographic archives to help preschoolers develop an appreciation and understanding of animal life and to foster their recognition of ways in which animal and human experiences are similar and different. Through the eyes of Mama relaying a message to the children of the African Savanna, each episode showcases a video clip that explains the reasons behind everyday customs and behaviors such as eating, sleeping, grooming, play and friendship. The Website provides activities and interactive experiences to extend the learning.

Sesame Street

http://pbskids.org/sesame/

This beloved series introduces the concept of diversity through its colorful characters. The Web site contains the Global Grover game, which allows users to explore dances and costumes from around the world, and a Spanish word of the day game.

Grades K-2

Arthur's World Neighborhood

http://pbskids.org/arthur/parentsteachers/lesson/world/

This Teacher's Guide helps teachers and students in grades 2-3 explore cultural diversity in their own communities and around the globe.

Postcards from Buster

http://pbskids.org/buster/

This program and site introduce young children to the geography and cultural diversity of North America. Activities and resources are specially designed to meet the needs of elementary English language learners.

Sagwa, the Chinese Siamese Cat

http://pbskids.org/sagwa/

This site and program introduce kids to the culture of ancient China as well as the cultures of children around the world today.

Elementary, Grades 3-5

Africa for Kids

http://pbskids.org/africa/

This site highlights African arts, culture and geography through a series of online activities. A special feature allows students to learn about schools and education in Africa through photographs and first-hand accounts.

Maya & Miguel

http://pbskids.org/mayaandmiquel/

This program encourages children to value, respect and better understand a variety of cultures, perspectives, traditions, languages and experiences. The site features games focused on the Spanish language as well as recipes and music from around the world.

Wonders of the African World

http://www.pbs.org/wonders/Kids/kids.htm

This site introduces students to African culture and geography through an interactive game and several offline art activities.

Secondary, Grades 6-12 FRONTLINE

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/

FRONTLINE/World

http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/

These programs feature documentaries addressing a wide variety of international topics and events. The Web sites include teacher's guides, with discussion questions, lesson plans and activities, as well as streaming video. Teachers can also sign up to receive an e-newsletter from FRONTLINE with information about upcoming on-air and online resources.

Global Connections: The Middle East (Grades 9-12)

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/globalconnections/mideast/index.html

This site features a rich collection of background articles, lesson plans, a timeline, and other resources indexed to help educators quickly find topics and materials relevant for their classroom needs.

Independent Lens

http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/international.html

This series includes a number of documentaries that focus on international issues. The site includes interactive features, lesson plans and other resources to complement the films.

NewsHour Extra

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/world/

This site is designed specifically for teachers and students and provides discussion questions, lesson plans and other resources related to the NewsHour's nightly programming. Teachers can sign up to receive an e-newsletter with information about new additions to the site.

P.O.V.

http://www.pbs.org/pov/

Many of the documentaries in this series focus on international issues, including the Academy Award-nominated "My Country, My Country." The site includes a variety of lesson plans focusing on multiculturalism, health, social studies, history and more; it also features a lending library where teachers can sign up to borrow DVDs and VHS tapes for free.

Wide Angle

http://www.pbs.org/wnet/wideangle/

This program is exclusively dedicated to international current affairs documentaries. The site includes lesson plans, classroom tips, teacher resources and more.

Visit www.pbs.org/teachers for many more on-air and online resources!

Published: February 2009