

Diplomacy & Foreign Policy

Time Needed: One Class Period

Materials Needed: Student worksheets and overhead projector with 2 transparencies or projector with Power Point

Copy Instructions:

Anticipation half-sheet (*class set*)

Reading page (*class set, double-sided*)

Activity Manipulative (*class set, double-sided*)

Learning Objectives. Students will be able to:

- Define foreign policy
- Distinguish between isolationism and internationalism
- Explain the relationship between the national interest and U.S. foreign policy
- Explain the role of the three branches of government in foreign policy
- Make judgments about the effectiveness of various diplomatic strategies in a variety of situations
- Distinguish between aid, sanctions, and military force as foreign policy tools

STEP BY STEP

- 1) **ANTICIPATE** by distributing the half-page anticipation activity. Ask students to fill out only Column A—Interpersonal Relations. Call on students to share their answers and discuss how effective these different interpersonal strategies are. Tell students that when countries have problems with each other, they use similar strategies.
- 2) **DISTRIBUTE** one reading page (double-sided) to each student
- 3) **READ** the reading page with the class
- 4) **REVIEW** concepts from the reading by doing the active participation activity with the class
- 5) **DISTRIBUTE** one activity manipulative to each student
- 6) **EXPLAIN** that you will be reading several scenarios together as a class and that you will be asking the students to make decisions about the scenarios. They will use the activity manipulative to show you what decision they make.
- 7) **READ** the words and definitions on each side of the activity tool with the class. Point out that one side is *Diplomatic Strategies* and the other side is *Take Action*.
- 8) **READ** the “Thousands Starving in Isolatia!” scenario with the class using either overhead transparencies you made from the transparency masters or by running the PowerPoint presentation. Read and explain the hypothetical U.S. foreign policies.
- 9) **UNCOVER** the News Flashes one at a time. Read the news flash and ask students to show you their answers (opinions) by holding up their manipulative so the answer they choose is pointing up. Students will probably have a variety of answers. Ask students to explain their choices and use this to discuss the possible effects of the different choices, as well as what the most appropriate actions might be.
- 10) **REPEAT** this activity with the second scenario, “Smalland Under Attack!”
- 11) **DISTRIBUTE** one worksheet to each student.
- 12) **ASSIGN** the worksheet to reinforce the concepts from the lesson.
- 13) **CLOSE** by having students use what they have learned in the lesson to fill out Column B—Foreign Relations on the half-sheet anticipation page.

Foreign Policy & Diplomacy

Name: _____

COLUMN A—Interpersonal Relations

Which of these strategies have you used when you have had a problem with another person?

- Talk it over with the person and try to compromise
- Find someone who can help the two of you solve the problem
- Make a deal or agreement with the person
- Have a fight with the person
- Stop talking to the person

When other people you know are having a problem, do you...

- Get involved and try to help
- Stay out of it and let them work it out on their own

COLUMN B—Foreign Relations

In foreign relations, this strategy is called...

- ⇒ _____
- ⇒ _____
- ⇒ _____
- ⇒ _____
- ⇒ _____

In foreign relations, this policy is called...

- ⇒ _____
- ⇒ _____



Foreign Policy & Diplomacy

Name: _____

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- ⇒ _____
- ⇒ _____





We've Got to Work Together

Did you know there are almost 200 countries in the world? Each one has its own government, its own traditions, its own list of needs and wants. And since we're all here on the same planet, every country has to interact with other countries. There's no getting around it.

A country's strategy for dealing with other countries is called its **foreign policy**. A **policy** is a plan that includes an overall goal and the kinds of actions that are okay to take in order to achieve the goal. A policy is like a guideline. It determines what kinds of decisions will be made and what actions will be taken.

Example: One Goal, Two Policies

Imagine that a country's goal is to have peaceful relationships with other countries. Policy A and Policy B, below, show that there is more than one way to achieve that goal. Both policies aim to gain peace, but the actions the country would take are very different—as are the likely outcomes!



POLICY A
One policy might be to gain peace by talking. Under that policy, the government might decide to send people to negotiate with another country when there is a problem and come up with a compromise.

POLICY B
A different policy might be to gain peace through military force. Under that policy, the government might decide to invade a country when there is a problem, throw out that country's government, and put in a new, friendly government.

Looking Out for Number One

Has anyone ever told you they were doing something for your "best interest?" A country is always trying to act in its own best interest by trying to get other countries to act in ways that are beneficial and not harmful. A country's **national interest** is all the things a country believes would be for its benefit. National interest ties directly to a country's foreign policy.

For example, Country A might make deals with other countries over who can use water from a river so that Country A can have water for fields. Or, Country A might go to war with those countries to try to get all the water for itself. In another example, Country B, a wealthy country, might send money to help a poor country because it benefits Country B to have a world where other countries are stable. Or, Country B might ignore the poor country's problems and use the money to build homeless shelters for Country B's own people.

In the "National Interest"

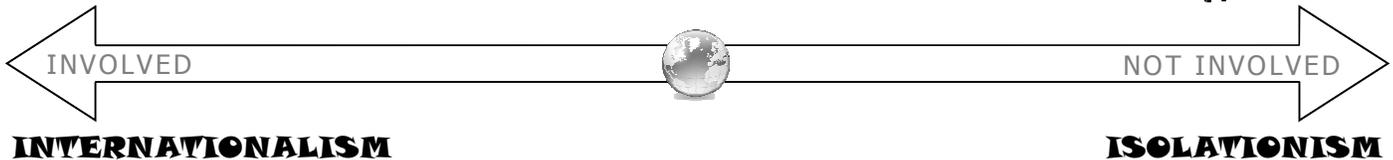
Here's a list of some issues that countries might consider part of their national interest:

- Environment
- Weapons of mass destruction
- Water rights
- Territorial boundaries
- Historical sites
- Hunger
- Spread of disease
- Trade
- Energy or food production

Foreign Policy & Diplomacy

Getting Involved... Or Staying Away?

A country's attitude about foreign policy will lie somewhere on a continuum between isolationism and internationalism. With a policy of **internationalism**, a country chooses to get involved in other countries' problems when there is a great need. With a policy of **isolationism**, a country focuses on its own problems and does not get involved in other countries' issues.



All Alone in the World?



Maybe you've heard the expression, "It's a small world." Advances in technology make countries more connected with each other than ever before. That makes it harder and harder for countries to practice isolationism and ignore what is going on in the world around them. Most countries lean toward internationalism because they recognize that trouble in the world affects everyone. For example, an unstable country that does not enforce its internet laws can be a safe place for people who want to hack into computer systems around the world. To protect their own citizens, other countries might pressure that government to enforce its laws.

Creating Foreign Policy in the United States

Each of the three branches has a role in shaping foreign policy. The executive branch, however, has most of the power to determine what our foreign policy is going to be.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- President decides what the country's foreign policy is going to be on issues of national interest
- President negotiates treaties with other countries; signs treaties after approved by the Senate
- President may order the military to act under some circumstances
- The State Department, part of the executive branch, carries out foreign policies around the world

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

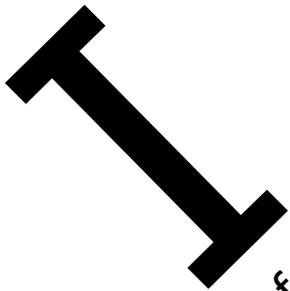
- Only Congress can officially declare war
- Senate must approve treaties
- Congress passes bills related to the President's foreign policy goals
- Congress influences foreign policy by supporting or opposing the President's goals; if opposed, the President might make policy compromises

JUDICIAL BRANCH

- Reviews treaties to see if they are constitutional

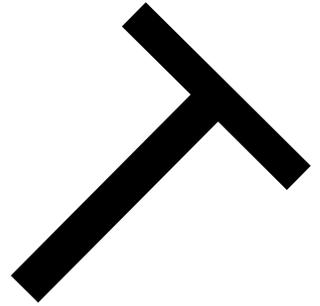
Activity Manipulative—Side 1

Teacher Directions: Copy this page back-to-back with Activity Manipulative Side 2. Cut on the dotted line to make a square with 4 "Diplomatic Strategies" on one side and 3 "Take Action" choices on the other side. Copy one class set.



Move forward
INDEPENDENTLY

A country's leaders make a decision to deal with the problem alone instead of working with other countries.



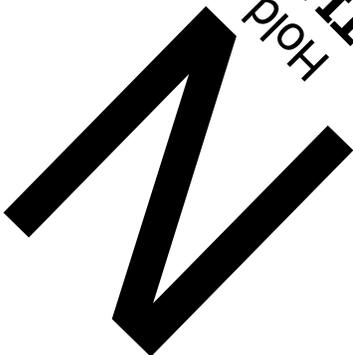
Propose a
TREATY

Two or more countries make a formal agreement to do something (or not do something).



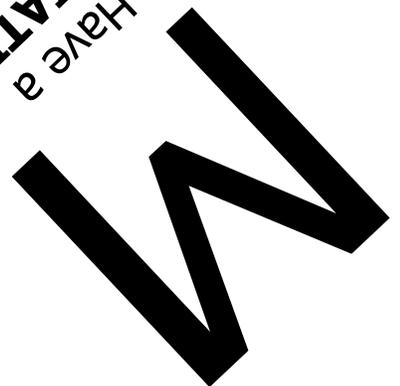
Hold
NEGOTIATIONS

A group of countries dealing with similar problems comes together to figure out possible solutions to the problem. The solutions would involve all the countries.



Have a
MEDIATION

Two countries having a problem ask a third country or some other organization to help them solve the dispute. Often this involves applying international law to the situation.



Activity Manipulative—Side 2

(See directions on Side 1.)



S

Impose **SANCTIONS**

Other countries punish a country by cutting that country off from trade goods and by refusing to negotiate. The country remains isolated until it agrees to make changes.



A
Send
AID
A country sends money, food, or medicine to another country that is having a crisis.

E
Use
MILITARY FORCE
A country sends its military to another country and uses warlike tactics to make that country change.

Thousands Starving in Isolatia!



Isolatia has been ruled by a cruel dictator for decades. Only one country in the world, Popula, has diplomatic relations with Isolatia. The dictator in Isolatia spends all of the country's money on the military while the citizens live in poverty. The world doesn't know much about Isolatia because the dictator won't let reporters into the country. However, a few people have escaped and are telling stories about thousands of people dying of starvation because of a horrible famine inside Isolatia.



United States Foreign Policy:

- Support countries with democracies.
- Cut diplomatic relations with countries that violate human rights.
- Help countries that are having a humanitarian crisis.
- Do not take military action unless it is absolutely necessary.



Isolatia's dictator reaches out to the world to ask for help. However, the U.S. and other countries worry that any food they donate will be given to the military. What diplomatic strategy should the U.S. use to solve this problem?



The world learns that Isolatia's dictator has put 50 people in jail without a trial because they said they didn't think the dictator was doing enough to help the situation. What should the U.S. do now?



Originally, the world thought the number of dead might be close to 20,000. Now the news leaks out that there are closer to 200,000 people dead of starvation in Isolatia. What should the U.S. do?

Smalland Under Threat of Attack!



Smalland is a small, poor country that is friendly to the United States. Smalland is a democracy. Last year, Smalland discovered it is sitting on top of a huge oil reserve. Drilling this oil could raise tons of money for Smalland. But one of Smalland's neighbors, Greedia, is ruled by a dictator who wants Smalland's oil for his own country even though Greedia already has a lot of oil. The United States learns that Greedia is preparing its military to invade Smalland.



United States Foreign Policy:

- Support countries with democracies.
- Support countries using their own natural resources to help themselves.
- Build good relationships with countries that have oil.
- Do not take military action unless it is absolutely necessary.



The U.S. thinks Greedia might be building a biological weapon to use against Smalland, but there's not enough evidence to be sure. What diplomatic strategy should the U.S. use to solve this problem?



The president of Smalland went on television and made a speech that enraged the dictator of Greedia. Greedia has fired a missile across the border into Smalland. What should the U.S. do about this problem?



Opportunia, a huge oil-producing country and a neighbor of both Greedia and Smalland, has announced it will help Greedia if there is a war. What should the U.S. do?



The U.S. elects a new President, who changes American foreign policy. Under the new policy, 1) the U.S. won't talk to dictators, and 2) the U.S. will use any means to stop dictators from increasing their power. Now what might the U.S. do?

Foreign Policy & Diplomacy

Name: _____

Is This in the National Interest? Imagine you are the President. On your desk is a list of 5 actions that might be in our national interest. Choose the top three actions that you think would be in our national interest. Then rank your top three with 1 as your highest priority and 3 as your lowest.

- ___ Stop a dictator from developing nuclear weapons
- ___ Give money to a poor country so it can vaccinate its citizens against deadly diseases
- ___ Spend money to develop a better stealth airplane for our military
- ___ Pressure another country to strengthen its laws against internet hacking
- ___ Run television ads supporting a candidate in another country's presidential election

Circle your #1 priority above. You are about to go on television to explain your choice. Give three reasons why your #1 priority action is in the national interest:

PRESS CONFERENCE NOTES

1. This is in our national interest because _____

2. And because _____

3. And because _____



Vocabulary Synonyms. Below are six vocabulary words. Draw a line to match each word with its pair of synonyms.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Isolationism | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Agreement, Deal |
| Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Separation, Aloneness |
| National interest | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Penalties, Punishment |
| Negotiation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Strategy, Guideline |
| Sanctions | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bargaining, Make a deal |
| Treaty | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Beneficial, Useful |

What could happen that would make you change your third priority to your first? Brainstorm something that would make you feel your third priority is very important to the national interest and write it here:

*** BULLETIN *** BULLETIN *** BULLETIN ***

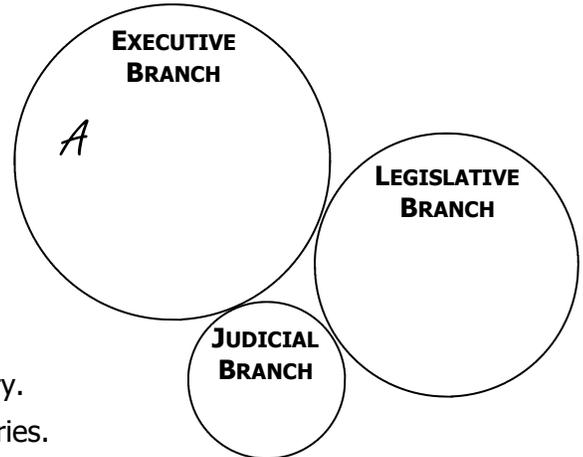
This just in! The world has learned that

Foreign Policy & Diplomacy

Name: _____

Who Gets To Do That? Read each action on the list. Decide which branch of government gets to take that action. Write the letter of the action in the correct circle.

- A. Negotiate a treaty with another country.
- B. Approve the treaty once it has been negotiated.
- C. Decide that the treaty is unconstitutional.
- D. Refuse to pass a bill to send aid to a country in need.
- E. Declare war on a country.
- F. Send someone to a foreign country to talk.
- G. Decide that the U.S. should send aid to a country after an earthquake.
- H. Pass a bill authorizing the money to be sent to that country.
- I. Decide not to participate in a conference with other countries.



Isolationist, Internationalist, or In Between? Below are two situations and three possible ways for a country to react to that situation. Read what happened. Then decide whether each reaction reflects an isolationist policy, internationalist policy, or something in between. Check a box to show what you think.

1. After a huge earthquake, a tsunami hit Country B and killed 200,000 people. Entire towns on the coastline were washed away. Country B is very poor and cannot feed all the people made homeless by the disaster.

A) Country Y sends thousands of military troops to build temporary houses, clear roads, and serve tons of food to homeless citizens in Country B.

← →
Isolationist **Internationalist**

B) Country Y does not send any people, but does send a large amount of money.

← →
Isolationist **Internationalist**

C) Country Y sends a few experts to advise Country B about what to do and begins developing a tsunami warning system to protect Country Y from a similar disaster.

← →
Isolationist **Internationalist**

2. Most of the world's rainforest is located in Countries F, G, and H. Country R has no rainforest, but it believes the rainforest is very important to the world for many reasons. A lot of people in Countries F, G, and H do not have jobs. They are cutting down the rainforest in order to plant crops. Country R is worried that the rainforest will soon disappear forever.

A) Country G works to save its own forest without talking to Countries F and H.

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Isolationist **Internationalist**

B) Countries F, G, and H research new crops that their citizens could grow without cutting down the rainforest.

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Isolationist **Internationalist**

C) Country R sends scientists to collect rare plant species out of the rainforest before it is all gone and bring the plants back to Country R for use in developing new medicines.

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Foreign Policy & Diplomacy

Name: **** Teacher Key ****

COLUMN A—Interpersonal Relations

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COLUMN B—Foreign Relations

In foreign relations, this strategy is called...

- ⇒ *negotiation*
- ⇒ *mediation*
- ⇒ *treaty*
- ⇒ *military force*
- ⇒ *sanctions*

In foreign relations, this policy is called...

- ⇒ *internationalism*
- ⇒ *isolationism*



Foreign Policy & Diplomacy

Name: _____

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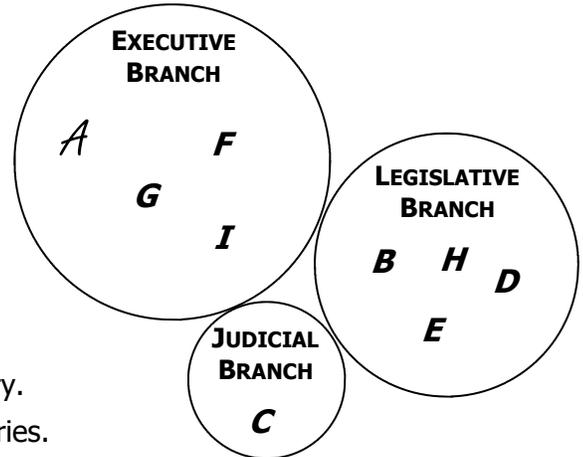
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Foreign Policy & Diplomacy

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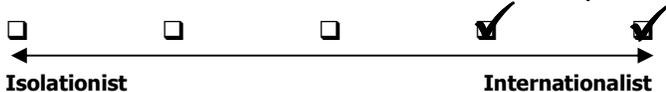


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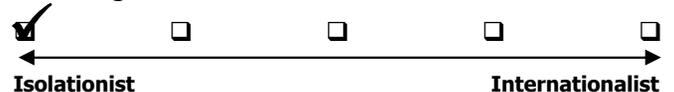
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