

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

STORY

In New Role as Chief Diplomat, Secretary of State Clinton Tours Asia, 02/20/09

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/jan-june09/clinton_02-20.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the significance of Hillary Clinton's trip to Asia?

2. Which countries is Secretary Clinton visiting?

3. Why did Secretary Clinton choose to start the trip in Japan?

4. What did she do in her visit to Indonesia?

5. What is happening in North Korea?

6. How does President Obama hope to differ from the Bush Administration?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. Why did Secretary of State begin her trip in Asia? What message would she be sending if she had started in the Middle East? In Africa? Europe? South America?

2. At the same time, President Obama made his first trip outside the country to Canada. Why do you think he did that?

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/video/blog/2009/02/trade_on_the_agenda_for_obamas.html

3. Which part of the globe do you think is most important? Why?

4. How does the United State classify its "allies"?

5. Pick a country with which American has a very complicated relationship (Russia, Venezuela, Iran, Syria, Pakistan) What approach should the Obama Administration take towards this country?

6. Make a prediction: which part of the world will take up the most of President Obama's time? Why?

Extension Activity

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.