

## Using NewsHour Extra Feature Stories

### STORY

#### **Bush Visits African Nations on Health Tour** 02/21/08

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/jan-june08/africa\\_2-21.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/jan-june08/africa_2-21.html)

Estimated Time: One 45-minute class period with possible extension

[Student Worksheet](#) (reading comprehension and discussion questions without answers)

### PROCEDURE

#### **1. WARM UP**

Use initiating questions to introduce the topic and find out how much your students know.

#### **2. MAIN ACTIVITY**

Have students read NewsHour Extra's feature story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions on the student handout.

#### **3. DISCUSSION**

Use discussion questions to encourage students to think about how the issues outlined in the story affect their lives and express and debate different opinions.

### INITIATING QUESTIONS

**1. When you hear the word Africa, what do you think of?**

**2. Locate Benin, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ghana and Liberia on a map, what does the geography tell you about those countries?**

**3. What are some of the biggest problems facing African nations today?**

**4. What is the relationship between the United States and Africa?**

### READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS – [Student Worksheet](#)

**1. Why did President Bush go to Africa this week?**

#### ANSWER

President Bush visited Africa this week to highlight U.S. relief efforts and urge Congress to reauthorize and increase funding for his AIDS initiative.

**2. Why is he so well liked in many African nations?**

#### ANSWER

Bush's popularity on the continent is due, in large part, to humanitarian and development policies championed by his administration.

**3. What does PEPFAR stand for and what is it?**

#### ANSWER

The best-known of these policies is the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. PEPFAR, launched in 2003, has invested \$15 billion over five years, making it the largest investment to fight a single disease in history.

**4. What is an interesting fact you learned about Benin?**

**ANSWER**

The president first touched down in Benin, a tiny country in Western Africa that has been a stable democracy since 1990 and is one of the continent's largest cotton producers.

Poverty, however, remains a major problem in the country: Almost 38 percent of its population lives below the poverty line.

**5. What is one of the ways the U.S. is helping fight malaria in Tanzania?**

**ANSWER**

The country benefits from PEPFAR and Malaria Initiative money. Vouchers for 2 million mosquito nets have been handed out in the country.

**6. What tragedy happened in Rwanda in 1994?**

**ANSWER**

In 1994, a brutal campaign of genocide left an estimated 800,000 people dead. Rwanda is now trying to promote reconciliation and expand its economy.

**7. Why is the United States supportive of Ghana's education system?**

**ANSWER**

Among other projects, the United States has rewarded Ghana with teacher-training funding to strengthen the country's free and mandatory primary and secondary education system.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

**1. Did this article make you more or less interested in Africa? Why?**

**2. Do you think Americans should care more about what happens in Africa? Why or why not?**

**3. How do Americans get information about Africa? How does that affect our understanding of Africa?**

**4. Do you agree with critics who say President Bush should have visited some of the more troubled countries in Africa? Why or why not?**

**5. How do you think President Bush's work in Africa will contribute to his legacy as a leader after he leaves office?**

**6. Research one African nation that President Bush did not visit. What are the biggest challenges that country is facing? Does it receive aid from the United States? What type of government does it have and what role does it play in regional politics?**

**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](mailto:extra@newshour.org)). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.