

Using NewsHour Extra Feature Stories

STORY

Obama's Cairo Speech Calls For 'New Beginning' With Muslim World, 06/04/2009

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/jan-june09/cairo_06-04.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. What are the major world religions?

2. Name some basic tenets of Islam.

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS – [Student Worksheet](#)

1. Where did President Obama travel to this week?

ANSWER

President Obama visited Egypt and Saudi Arabia this week in an effort to reset relations with the Arab and Muslim worlds.

2. What were the 7 points President Obama outlined in his speech?

ANSWER

The president outlined seven issues he considered key to the dialogue between the Muslim world and the West: violent extremism, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, nuclear weapons, democracy, religious freedom, women's rights and economic development.

3. How many people identify as Muslim worldwide?

ANSWER

There are more than 1 billion Muslims around the world.

4. What did President Obama say to Israelis and Palestinians?

ANSWER

He called upon Israelis and Palestinians alike to live up to their international obligations and to work towards a two-state solution.

5. Why does President Obama want to end expansion of Jewish settlements?

ANSWER

President Obama called for an end to all new Jewish settlements saying they violate past agreements and undermine efforts to achieve peace in the region.

6. Which country was the first to recognize U.S. independence?

ANSWER

Morocco was the first country to recognize U.S. independence.

7. Why do some experts believe that President Obama is a threat to Osama bin Laden?

ANSWER

Jean-Francois Seznec of Georgetown University told the NewsHour that Mr. Obama threatens al-Qaida because he "is very much ready to be loved by the people, much more so than Osama bin Laden. Osama bin Laden and the al-Qaida groups appeal to a small minority of people."

8. How did Palestinian leaders react to President Obama's speech?

ANSWER

A spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said the speech was "an important step under new beginnings." However, a representative of the Hamas government, which refuses to recognize Israel, said "called it "no different from the policy of his predecessor, George W Bush."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. How would you rank the seven issues outlined in the president's speech (violent extremism, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, nuclear weapons, democracy, religious freedom, women's rights and economic development)?

2. What do you think is the likely outcome of the speech?

3. Why did reactions to the speech vary widely amongst Palestinian leaders?

4. For homework, watch the entire speech

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/video/share.html?s=news01n290dq9ab>

Write down the parts that resonate with you. Which do you think will resonate most with young men and women in the Middle East? Which parts were confusing?

5. Compare the speech to that given by President George W. Bush:

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/april02/bush_4-4.html

What are the similarities and differences in the two speeches?

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.