

LESSON PLAN: Democracy in the Middle East

Student Handout:

Is Democracy Possible in the Middle East?

Fact Gathering Sheet for _____
(title of article)

Directions: Review your article with your partner and answer the questions from the left hand column in the space provided in the right hand column. Then discuss and review your findings with the other members of your group. After your review, answer the discussion questions on the next page.

Main point of each article (Is Democracy possible/not possible)	
What historical reasoning is presented to support this view?	
What are the examples that support this view?	
Describe the current reasons or conditions that support this view	
What statements in opposition challenge this view?	
Who is responsible if democracy is to succeed in the Middle East?	
What does the U.S. needs to do for democracy to succeed in the Middle East?	

Discussion Questions:

Directions: Based on the articles you read and shared with each member of the group, comment on the following questions in your group and develop some conclusions.

1. What are some of the indications that democracy is emerging in the Middle East?
2. What are some of the indications it is not?
3. In your opinion, which view seems to be more prevalent and why?
4. In what ways do the views of the articles' writers align with President Bush's 2nd Inaugural Address?
5. What policy should the US take regarding the spread of democracy in the Middle East? How would such a policy be in the U.S.'s national interest?
6. What actions should the U.S. take that would promote this policy?
7. What are the pros and cons of taking this policy?
8. Why would the alternative policy not be better?