



## TEACHER KEY

### The Role of U.S. Embassies

1. What role do you think U.S. embassies and ambassadors play abroad? What services do you imagine embassies and consulates provide?

*Answers will vary.*

2. Answer the question above again after conducting research using the resources and links provided by your teacher. List roles played and services provided.

*“A U.S. Ambassador serving abroad symbolizes the sovereignty of the United States and serves as the personal representative of the President of the United States.*

*Ambassadorial duties include negotiating agreements, reporting on political, economic, and social conditions, advising on policy options, protecting American interests and coordinating the activities of all US government agencies and personnel in the country.”*

*--from Protocol for the Modern Diplomat*

*Embassies provide services to Americans abroad:*

*Help in emergencies, contact relatives in U.S.*

*Assistance when an American dies or is born abroad*

*Assistance and referrals when an American is arrested*

*Issue passports*

*Help with voting in U.S. elections*

*Help with filing Income taxes & social security*

*Notary services*

*Referrals to legal and medical services*

*Security warnings*

*Embassies provide services to citizens of the host country:*

*Citizenship claims*

*Immigration*

*Visas*

*Information on U.S. policies*

3. Define the following terms.

**post** – *an embassy or consulate in a nation with which the U.S. has diplomatic relations or an international organization; there are over 250 diplomatic posts to which the U.S. sends personnel*

**mission** – *U.S. personnel assigned to a country or international organization and their goals; led by the Chief of Mission or Ambassador*

**consulate** – *a branch of an embassy, usually located in a large commercial center or dependency of the host country*

**Chief of Mission / ambassador** – *the leader of a U.S. mission’s “country team” to a country; considered the personal representative of the President; coordinates U.S. activities and promotes U.S. interests in the host country and reports back to the administration about conditions in the country*

**country team** – *U.S. government personnel assigned to a country; responsible for: consular affairs (protecting Americans and their property); economic, financial, and commercial affairs; agricultural and scientific matters; political, labor, and defense assistance issues; administrative functions; security; public affairs; legal, immigration, and citizenship matters; and humanitarian aid*

**consular officers** – *State Department officials most likely to interact with Americans abroad or foreign nationals; assist Americans abroad*

4. How does the role of an embassy and the U.S. mission abroad vary depending on the type of host country and the U.S. relationship with that country? Be specific. Give examples.

*Answers may vary somewhat. Students should note that in some countries where Americans may be at more risk they are asked to register with the embassy when entering the country. They may also make some of the following points:*

- *the size of U.S. missions / embassies varies*
- *some (usually larger) countries have consulates in addition to the embassy*
- *some offer warnings and notices of security risks and/or have had to close temporarily due to security threats*
- *some (in more stable countries where Americans are likely to travel) focus on consular affairs and offer numerous services to American tourists*
- *some embassies do not have the resources to contact Americans in case of an emergency and rely on a “Warden System” of American volunteers*

5. What surprised you as you learned more about what U.S. embassies and their staffs do? What do you think about the work of embassy staffs? Would you ever like to work at an embassy? Explain.

*Answers will vary. Students may be surprised, for example, by the active promotion of U.S. interests abroad or by the range of services available to Americans abroad.*